



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th December 2017

### Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Not Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Andrew Trump	Councillor	Present
David McMillan	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

Apologies for absence - received and approved.

### Forum for members of the public.

Two residents attended the meeting to raise their concerns about the PCs response to their planning application

#### 1. Declaration of interests

Councillor Ward declared an interest in planning application 17/02027/FUL

#### 2. Broadband – Air Broadband & ‘real’ fibre in the village

Andrew Glover of air Broadband attended the meeting to discuss their plans for the introduction of ‘real’ fibre into the village.

In the last couple of years Air Broadband has built on the work originally undertaken by RaSP to bring broadband to the village improving coverage, speeds to superfast, capacity and resilience.

They are now looking at the next stage to bring “ultrafast” “full fibre” to Reach. This will mean fibre to each premise providing a future proof infrastructure capable of delivering gigabit connectivity. The funding is in place, planning has been completed and they are ready to instruct civils contractors and apply for highways permits. This will by necessity require digging a narrow trench in pavements/verges & roads in certain areas. Work is likely to begin in March. The village will be divided into 4 sections to carry out the work, with each section taking approximately 2 weeks.

This will put Reach in the top 3% of the country to get access to this level of service. Pricing for this service has yet to be confirmed.

#### 3. The New Playground

A site meeting was held with Historic England who confirmed that scheduled monument consent was not required. They requested that the hedgerow be maintained at a height of approximately 4m. But as the playground is not located within the boundaries of the Dyke these are requests not legalities.

The hedgerow should be cut back and down before building works commence. Reducing the height will reduce the shade that falls on the playground. Cutting the hedge back will ensure we can minimise encroachment on to the football field and control the thorny species which might otherwise be a nuisance. **Clerk** to organise.

Final placement of the playground equipment will be agreed at the pre-start meeting with Kompan in early Feb. however this will be in line with the original plan. Future redevelopment of the old playground area must not be rushed and will be put out to the village for consultation.

The process will be - the **Clerk** will send an order to Kompan. There will be a pre-start meeting on site to confirm location, point of contact, start date and location of welfare facilities. Work will begin early Feb and take approx. 3 weeks. After completion there will be a site sign off by ROSPA and the playground will be opened with a Grand Opening - Donors to be invited and acknowledged.

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller to be the PC point of contact for this project

#### **4. Planning**

##### **17/02014/FUL – Side extension Ditchfield.**

No comments to be made.

##### **17/02027/FUL Proposed garage Barston Drove**

Councillor Ward left the room during the discussion of this planning application.

In the previous planning application approved by ECDC, for this site ECDC stated that " Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (or any order amending, revoking or re-enacting that Order), the dwelling shall not be extended in any way, and no structures shall be erected within the curtilage of the dwelling.

14 Reason: To safeguard the character and appearance of the area, in accordance with policy ENV2 of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015."

Although this is now a new application the PC felt that this statement was still relevant to the site.

The PC also felt that the new build is very close to the site boundary, and may result in hedgerow damage. The location on the site is also extremely visually intrusive.

#### **5. County Councillor's Report**

None received.

#### **6. District Councillor's Report**

None received.

#### **7. Minutes of previous Meeting**

Approved as correct.

#### **8 (1) Parish Council Grant Fund**

A request had been received for funding of up to £360 for the two Christmas events. This was agreed, to be paid on the production of receipts. **Clerk** to inform the applicant.

#### **8(2) Financial Reports**

The PC remains in a financially stable situation.

Further to the last meeting Councillor McMillan had investigated the best computer products to buy for the council.

It was agreed that the laptop recommended would be purchased along with Office 365. Further investigation is required into setting up PC email addresses for each councillor. **Clerk** to discuss with CAPALC

#### **8(3) Parish Council Members Meetings**

Councillor Boreham has recently begun asking his contacts at Anglian Water if they might reconsider their decision about The Hythe.

Councillor Boreham also reports “The CPR/Defibrillator training went well on the evening of Monday 27th Nov, with 12 villagers, plus myself in attendance. I am in the process of creating a ‘Phone a Friend for CPR’ list that will be circulated amongst those trained, since it is clear that having two people involved in a resuscitation attempt dramatically improves the chances of success.”

**8(4) Play Spaces**

See above discussion.

**8(5) Rights of Way**

It had been established that the kissing gate at the top of the green was only a permissive right of way. **Clerk** to contact County Farms to request it is cleared and made useable again. If they are unable to do so Clerk to request that the PC are given permission to have the work done.

**8(6) 24Acres Committee Report**

A request had been received to replace a conference pear, in the Orchard, that died over the summer. Rather than get a maiden (small tree) it is proposed that a slight larger, more established tree (a 'half-standard') is purchased. The total cost is £38.45. Agreed. **Clerk** to inform the committee.

**8(7) Friends of Reach Wood**

Nothing to report.

**8(8) Local Plan**

The final draft local plan is now on the ECDC website. The PC had no comment to make.

**9. Precept**

A discussion took place regarding the precept for the next financial year. Concern was shown regarding the mooring income the village receives, as the Lode becomes more and more silted up. The PC are working hard with the EA to solve this issue.

The work load for the Clerk continues to increase, due partly to the PCs need to adhere to the new transparency code and Data protection act coming into force next year. It was agreed to increase the Clerks hours by 3 hours a week. These extra hours will be solely used for analysing and organising the council’s files both paper and digital and ensuring the PC has the correct procedures in place to adhere to the new legislation. The extra hours will be for a one-year fixed term beginning in January.

Even with these additional costs it was still felt the PC was in a financial stable position and could afford not to increase the precept.

*The Precept will remain the same for the financial year 2018/2019*

**10. Fireworks**

The PC had received several complaints regarding fireworks around the village. The laws and regulations regarding fireworks are not the responsibility of the PC. However, The PC will, as it did this year, ask that an email is circulated around the village and an article placed in the village magazine asking villagers who are intending to light fireworks to think of others and inform their neighbours and the whole village if possible. This will allow those people with animals to ensure they are kept safe. **Clerk** to arrange.

**12. Information Items/AOB**

There were none.

**13. Payments –**

E.on – power on the green £8.94

S. Bailey – Stationary and postage £78.20

FCC recycling – New playground match funding £5,375.00

PKF Littlejohn – Audit fees £120.00

J. Mules – Halloween event – grant fund payment - £64.70

Joy of Adventure – Defib. training – grant fund payment - £200

The date of the **next meeting** will be **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm** unless otherwise required. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website ([www.reach-village.co.uk](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

Chairman:

Date: