

REACH

PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th June 2018.

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Andrew Trump	Councillor	Present
David McMillan	Councillor	Present
Nathan Bridgeman	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Present

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Forum for members of the public.

Many members of the public attended the meeting.

One member wanted to put forward the idea of making the old playground area into a car park.

All other members of the public wanted to discuss the Dykes End Pub and hear what the PC is able to do with regard to the ongoing situation.

1. Declaration of Interests

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller declared an interest in the sports day grant fund application.

2. The Dykes End Pub

Councillor Cane started by detailing the history of the lease, and the responsibilities of the leaseholder to the PC. These include, but not exclusively, paying the rates, keeping the building insured, and in good repair, to keep the license going, to be open for reasonable hours as advertised on the website. Councillor Cane also mentioned that the company had gone into insolvency, and that there were issues with the refuse collection. Councillor Cane stated that the PC had taken legal advice, and that a solicitor's letter had been sent which had asked the lessee to complete certain repairs and provide the PC with certain information. The deadline for this is at the end of June. If it becomes necessary, and the village wants the PC to continue with legal action this will be very expensive and money will need to be raised as the PC alone will not be able to afford to continue.

Members of the public complained about the rubbish piling up outside the back of the pub and chemical bottles in the carpark, gas bottles are not kept securely, onsite licencing document are not on display, no price lists, poor health and safety processes within the kitchen area and a lack of hot water. Poor food, lack of choice behind the bar, and the fact the pub is accepting cash only were also discussed.

Councillor Schumann suggested that residents, more importantly than the PC, should report all issues to the specific departments at ECDC. This would allow ECDC to ensure the health and safety of the pub and the surrounding area is kept up. These could also result in the pub being closed immediately upon inspection. Residents and the PC agreed to do so.

3. Planning Applications

18/00655/FUL 9 Burwell Rd, front ground floor extension – No comment to be made.

18/00669/FUL 1 Ditchfield two storey extension, resubmission – No comment to be made.

4. County Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

Councillors Trump and Fielding asked about the lack of repairs to the potholes around the village. **Councillor Fielding** will, again, update Councillor Schumann with the specific details by email.

5. District Councillor Report

At the May Full Council Meeting the title of Honorary Alderman was bestowed on ex councillor Andy Wright in recognition of his 39 years of continuous service up to 2015. He is the first member of East Cambs District Council to have this honour bestowed to him.

At the same council meeting I was also re-elected to the Community Services Committee plus as a substitute to the Resources and Finance Committee, and a board member of the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board. The Drainage Boards main purpose is its management of water levels and flood risk within its drainage area and to seek opportunities to enhance the environment.

Now that EDC is responsible for its waste services we are doing a sweep of the whole district to clear up, and hopefully identify, fly tipping.

During the last month I undertook a visit to Gs Growers at Barway, near Ely. It is very well run and spotlessly clean. Its workers are a mix of local people plus some European workers. It has an environmental policy of planting trees and hedgerows on small areas not suitable for crops.

It was stated that the Gladmans planning appeal, regarding land at Fordham, had been upheld. This was on the basis that not enough homes are being built in the district.

The emerging local plan is with the inspector and his report is expected within a month.

Councillor Schumann stated that the planning department will, now be looking at all new applications, outside of planning envelopes, with a positive view.

Councillor Alderson gave a written response to the financial questions asked at a previous meeting.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

It was noted that the minutes published in the last Within reach magazine did not show as draft minutes. **Clerk** to correct in next magazine. Going forward draft minutes will only be published on the village website, with only approved minutes published in the magazine.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund

An application had been received regarding £190 for Reach Sports Day. Approved, payment with receipts.

An application had also been received from two scouts from the village to help with their fund raising for a trip in 2019. This will be discussed in July.

7.2 Finance

The accounts have been return from the internal auditor and all is in order. The relevant parts will now be sent to the external auditor as required.

The Events Team have transferred £5,233 to the PC grant fund as proceed from this year's Reach Fair.

The PC has now received all grant monies and VAT refunds for the new playground project.

A quote for £260 had been received for the removal of a dead Cherry tree on The Hythe. **Clerk** to give the go ahead. It has also been reported that the Cherry tree on the green, by the swings, has some dead wood which needs to be removed. **Clerk** to arrange.

Councillor Fielding agreed to become Tree Officer.

7.3 Parish Council Members

Councillor Ward confirmed that the garage application at Barston Drove has now gone to appeal.

7.4 Play Spaces

New playground:

Sign is now up. Kompan keep promising to come and fix several small items but still no show – **Councillor de Giorgio-Miller** will keep chasing.

Kompan confirm that they have the completion date as 9th March, so our first inspection should be put in the diary for February 2019 **Clerk** to note.

We've had several incidents of parts going missing in the new playground – some small grills on the roundabout which I have replaced (Kompan sent replacements for free) and now the cover in the centre of the seesaw.

Having contacted the family of Albert whose memorial bench is in the old playground, they are keen for this to be restored and moved into the new playground. **Councillor de Giorgio-Miller** to seek further sponsorship of benches, memorial or otherwise for the areas.

General:

The gate post at the entrance to the field has been fixed. The contractor reported that the gate doesn't sit well on its hinges and quoted to replace. The gate does still close and lock and is used infrequently so the PC decided to leave it, and monitor the situation.

The dog sign has been cleaned but has a spelling mistake on it. This will be replaced at a later date as ECDC are in the process of passing a new by-law.

There has been horse poo found on the playing field. The gate was locked so they must have gone through the pedestrian access.

7.5 Rights of Way

Nothing to report.

7.6 24Acres Committee

A quick survey of the woodland planting by Steve Boreham and Nick Acklam, confirmed that tree survival rates appear reassuringly high. Nick Acklam reports that the new mower shared with the cricket pitch has been a great success for mowing paths around Reach 24.

7.7 Friends of Reach wood

A quick survey of the wood, had been carried out by Steve Boreham and can clearly see the die-back of the Ash trees leaving holes in the canopy. Ian Froggatt from the Woodland Trust isn't concerned too about this. The woodland glades thus created have allowed an interesting mix of flowers to develop.

Reach Wood Meadow - The first cutting of the meadow is due to take place in the next two weeks. If you recall, the Woodland Trust will then arrange to have the ragwort wiped, once it grows up to flower. Steve Boreham has checked, and the ragwort are just starting to grow. There will be a second later cut as usual in the autumn. This double-cut exercise is just for this year, in order to try to control the ragwort.

Nothing to report about The Hythe itself... However, the large amount of filamentous algae growing in the water around The Hythe and in Catchwater Drain this year may reflect the amount of nitrate and phosphate entering the watercourse. Steve Boreham has tested the water quality and can confirm that the values this year are somewhat elevated. This may have allowed large numbers of mosquitos to breed in the Catchwater Drain and Lode.

7.8 GDPR

Two privacy statements have been published, one public and one for employees, Councillors, and volunteers. Consent forms were also sent out which are slowly trickling back to the Clerk. A full data audit has not yet been completed. However, it was proposed that accounting data is retained to 7 years as required, Councillors interest forms are destroyed after 1 year when they leave, but consent forms (**Clerk** to produce) are signed to allow for other details to be retained for historical interest, all plans and deeds to be kept. Approved

8. Proposed Beehives on the 24Acres

Application withdrawn before the meeting.

9. War memorial maintenance

Obtaining quotes for work on the memorial have proved difficult due to the stone used. One quote had been received, and very good reviews of the companies work on memorials had been received. Clerk had contacted the War Memorial Trusts Conservation team regarding grant funding for the work. There is a delay in response of up to 10 weeks, with no work to start prior to this decision. The PC decided to await the response from the grant request.

10. Final approval of plans for the old playground area.

The old equipment is due an inspection in June, therefore the playground may need to be closed prior to its removal. Dates to be confirmed.

Removal of playground equipment, surfacing and fencing and turning to grass. Two quotes had been received, two more had been promised but never received, to carry out this work. A quote from Jon Garner at A Cleaner World was accepted. **Councillor de Giorgio-Miller** to arrange.

New development

The idea of a car park, out forward earlier, was again discussed. This had been discussed previously and it was felt that to encourage cars into the area would be dangerous.

A decision in principle was made to accept the plan of 3 picnic benches and a concrete table tennis table in the area with an area of raised beds, creating a boundary, for a village herb garden. Both Snakehall farm and the Montessori nursey had shown an interest in helping with this project. Sponsorship will again be sought.

Councillor Trump to investigate obtaining some logs to block the area after the removal.

ECDC will replace the old bin for free.

Memorials

Family of Steven Folkes are pleased with the new playground and the idea of a picnic and table tennis area. They would like to leave the memorial bench where it currently is (facing tennis courts).

Family of Albert Johnson would like Albert’s bench to be moved to the new playground.

Other people wanting the equipment

Red Lion, Swaffham Prior (Stephen and Michele King) – no longer interested.

Rebecca Sykes would like the slide and possibly the rest of the unit. Waiting for confirmation as to which pieces exactly she wants. A disclaimer statement will be signed **Councillor de Giorgio-Miller** to arrange.

11. Approve Annual Governance Statement

Approved and signed.

12. Approve the Accountancy statement

Approved and signed

13. Information Items/AOB

14. Payments

Craig Dunnett – Gate post repairs	£194.86
CAPALC Membership	£176.70
CR Contracting – mowing contract	£343.00
British Legion – Remembrance wreath	£17.00
E.On - power on the green	£8.51
D Thomas – Orchard	£42.25
N Bridgeman – PC Grant Fund –	
Events Team Royal Wedding tea party	£210.33

The date of the **next meeting** will be **Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 7.30pm**. 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).

Chairman:

Date: