



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	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	Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

Apologies for absence - received and approved.

Forum for members of the public.

1. Declaration of interests

Councillor Boreham declared an interest in planning application 17/02116/FUL

2. Planning

17/02116/FUL – Conversion of existing outbuilding to form new office - 38 Great Lane

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

No comments to be made.

17/02095/RMA - Reserved matters for single storey detached dwelling - 27 Burwell Road

No comments to be made.

17/02205/FUL development of a 49.9MW battery storage facility, bridge and associated infrastructure. Land North West of electricity substation Weirs Drove, Burwell.

Discussion postponed to allow Councillors time to study the documents and to allow residents to be notified. **Clerk** to arrange a separate planning meeting and inform the village.

3. County Councillor's Report

None received.

4. District Councillor's Report

In 2017 ECDC managed to have a balanced budget without having to increase our council tax, whilst still maintaining our same level of services – the fourth year running.

There has also been an increase in the footfall of our Ely Markets as they have grown in popularity.

Our new Ely six screen cinema is now open, which together with free car parking and various eateries is proving very popular.

I had been kept busy this last year dealing with various inappropriate planning applications because we did not have a local plan.

Last October we ratified the new draft Local Plan which has now gone to the Governments Inspector for his approval.

This next year we need to seek ways to increase housing for our lower earning families and individuals.

One way is by increasing the number of Community Land Trusts - these can provide local housing for local people at a reasonable cost to rent or buy.

2018 will see the completion of our new leisure centre next to the new six screen Ely Cinema, with its five lane 25m swimming pool. I am sure it will prove very popular.

It has been a privilege and an honour to have served the residents of the Swaffhams Ward these last 14 years, and I am looking forward to 2018.

Allen Alderson

Councillor Alderson also attended the December planning committee meeting, which included an application for 19 houses at Mill Hill Swaffham Bulbeck. Councillor Alderson and many residents opposed this application. The planning committee approved the application.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

6 (1) Parish Council Grant Fund

Nothing to report.

6(2) Financial Reports

The PC remains in a financially stable situation.

Payments had been received from the Woodland Trust, for the mowing of Reach wood, and the yearly rural grant payment for the 24Acres.

The collection of the streetlight donations is ongoing, along with the efforts to ensure BB complete the work.

6(3) Parish Council Members Meetings

Councillor McMillan continues to work on obtaining a Microsoft system, domain name and email addresses for the PC. The cost will be approx. £360, therefore £1 per day. Approved.

6(4) Play Spaces

Unfortunately the applications for grants from Mick George and AmeyCespa were unsuccessful. The PC will be required to contribute £440 and arrange the removal of the old playground.

Some concern has been shown regarding the moving of the football pitch closer to the thorny hedge. The PC accepts that this may be a potential problem and will review it if it does prove to be one. The hedge will be trimmed back hard this year to try and help avoid this problem.

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller to keep residents updated with the new playground developments by email, Facebook and in the village magazine.

6(5) Rights of Way

The PC had had a response to its application for LHI funding for a path between Reach and Burwell.

Unfortunately this is not something that can be funded by this scheme.

There has been a large increase in potholes throughout the village. Councillor Fielding has reported these to ECDC. These will be checked on prior to the next PC meeting and if they have not been repaired the PC will contact the County Councillor regarding the issue. The drop off from the bridge across to Blackberry Drove is of great concern. **Councillor Fielding and Boreham** to compose a list of the worst problems and ask CCC for a safety inspection to take place.

Yet again the PC has received dog poo complaints. These are particularly unacceptable as they are on the footpaths directly outside houses. **Councillor de Giorgio-Miller** to write an article for the village magazine, email and Facebook asking dog owners to clear up after their dogs. To also advise dog owners that this is a legal obligation and to inform residents who they should be contacting regarding getting help with this issue.

6(6) 24Acres Committee Report

Nothing to report.

6(7) Friends of Reach Wood

Councillor Boreham has had several conversations with Ian Froggatt from the Woodland Trust about Reach Wood.

He reports that the Woodland Trust is coming under increased pressure from lobby groups to allow horse riding access to their woods. Ian asks for vigilance in preventing horse access to Reach Wood becoming the norm. Councillor Boreham reminded him that the PC had funded 'no horse riding' signs earlier in the year.

Ian also reported that the Woodland Trust took seriously their responsibility to control the spread of ragwort. He accepted that ragwort pulling has not been successful in previous seasons. He now proposes a one-off additional early (May-June) cut of the meadow (done by our contractor but paid for by WT), followed by a weed wiping of the ragwort (done by a WT contractor). The late summer/early autumn cut would happen as usual. Both cuts would be using a bar cutter.

Councillor Boreham said that there would have to be consultation with the PC and the 'Friends of Reach Wood' before this scheme could be put into effect. **Councillor Boreham** to liaise with the Friends of Reach Wood group.

Councillor Boreham also reminded Ian that there should be prior notice of any work by the National Grid to coppice hazel beneath power lines, and that this work should not happen during the growing season.

7. Standing Orders

The PC standing orders require updating. This will include the financial regulations, social media policy and a complaints and grievances policy. The idea of a separate planning committee will be discussed. **Councillor Ward** to update the present August 2012 standing orders and add any appropriate appendix. **Councillor de Giorgio-Miller** to produce a Social media policy.

8. Reach Grant Fund clarification and wording update

Following discussion, **Councillor Cane** to produce an updated document and application form.

9. Reach Lode

The PC had received a letter from the EA regarding our ongoing talks about the desilting of the lode. **Clerk** to contact the EA with details of the landowners adjacent to the lode and to inform them that the PC is willing to make a token contribution to the cost of the work.

10. The old playground development plan

The PC feels strongly that the decision regarding the area of the old playground must not be rushed. Full consultation must be given to residents. Thought must also be given to the advice received regarding keeping access to the playing field limited to deter travellers and other unwanted vehicles.

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller to ask residents for ideas on the development of the area, via email and on Facebook.

11. Information Items/AOB

The PC had received an invitation from Burwell PC to a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to answer questions on the subject of travellers setting up illegal encampments (or others subjects whilst he is there). The PC would like to send two councillor. **Clerk** to arrange and ask whether other landowners in the area are able to be invited.

12. Payments –

E.on – power on the green £9.35
S. Bailey – Clerk salary - £948.56
Cr Contracting – tree cutting - £65
Bryan Pearson – Goal repairs - £142.31

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th February 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).

Chairman:

Date: