



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th September 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	Not Present

Apologies for absence

Received and approved

Forum for members of the public.

A member of the public attended the meeting to submit two grant fund applications and to hear the discussion on The Hythe.

1. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Ward declared an interest in planning application 17/02027/FUL & Councillor Cane declared an interest in planning application 18/01080/FUL. Both left the room during the discussions.

2. Planning Applications

17/02027/FUL – site SW of 48A Great Lane – This application has gone to appeal – additional comments accepted. No additional comments were required, however **Clerk** to write to the planning office to highlight the confusion of the planning process for this site. Different references are being used and consent conditions not being met. This makes it very difficult to understand the applications for the site as a whole.

18/01080/FUL – 30 Swaffham Road – 1.5 storey side & rear extension. No comment to be made.

3. Neighbourhood Plan

A neighbourhood plan can have huge advantages, to find out what villagers want & give added protection. To produce a Neighbourhood plan 2 or 3 enthusiastic people will be required to push forward with the project plus additional help at different times. ACRE provide help with this, **Councillor Cane** to invite them to the November meeting. **Clerk** to add to the November agenda, and to speak to the resident who suggested the plan be revisited.

4. County Councillor Report

None received.

5. District Councillor Report

Fly Tipping - I recently undertook a survey of the fens area between our three ward villages and Upware. I only found one instance of fly tipping, which was a great improvement. Thanks, should go to our

council's clear up team for their work in removing any fly tipping. Please contact either the council or myself if you find any that needs removing.

Refuse Sacks - East Cambridgeshire households will soon receive a roll of 52 refuse sacks which are intended to last until the next distribution in one year's time. No further sacks will be issued until then, but additional refuse will be collected if presented in suitable black refuse sacks provided by householders. Sack distribution dates are as follows:

Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior - Week commencing 17th September

Please contact council if not received by Monday 24th September

Reach - Week commencing 24th September

Please contact council if not received by Monday 1st October

Ely Southern by-pass - All the good weather that we have had means that we are still expecting it to be open during October. It will then hold the traffic bottleneck for those accessing Ely from Stuntney Causeway.

Local Business Site Visits - Since June 2017 East Cambs Councillors have been undertaking various arranged site visits to prominent local businesses. This gives us a better understanding of their needs and how this council can be of help to them. I am particularly interested in creating opportunities for apprenticeships. Our next visit is to Ellgia, the waste management firm on 26th September.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

Alberts bench – Legalities had been confirmed, **Clerk** to arrange for the work to be done. **Councillor Ward** to produce a risk assessment.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund

Two applications were discussed, a Halloween disco and a Remembrance Day event. Applicant to complete the forms and a decision will be made at the October meeting.

It was also noted that the telephone box was no longer working. The Events team would like to make use of the box. **Clerk** to contact BT to discuss their plans, and what the options are. **Clerk** to add to the October agenda.

7.2 Finance

The Pc remains in financial stable position.

The fixed rate plan for the electricity on the Green comes to an end. A new offer from E.on our present supplier, has been received. The standing charge is the same with a slightly higher per unit charge. This year's costs £127.88, estimated next year charge (same usage) £133.39. Approved.

7.3 Parish Council Members

There were none.

7.4 Play Spaces

New playground: Albert's bench has been installed. Restoration, see above.

New memorial/sponsored benches – An additional quote had been received. The total cost per bench with this quote would be £547 rather than the £624 originally calculated. An advert has been placed in Within Reach, on Reach page on Facebook, and through the PC email list. One resident had offered to make a contribution. All advertisers in Within Reach who had email addresses have been contacted. No positive responses have yet been received.

Old playground area development – An application has been made for the Postcode local trust funding. We have made it through to stage 2.

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller to complete an application to Tesco bags of help scheme for £4,000.

Thank you to Councillors Bridgeman & Trump for working on getting logs in to protect the area before development work can take place.

7.5 Rights of Way

Further complaints had been received regarding the Devils Dyke path. A gate is still down, and the steps are very overgrown. **Clerk** to contact CCC & Councillor Schumann, and add to October agenda.

The pathway along the Swaffham Road is again overgrown. **Clerk** to contact the relevant residents to ask for the path to be kept clear.

Road markings around the village are in a poor state, **Clerk** to contact highways.

Councillor Fielding to check with Highways regarding the safety check of Delver bridge.

7.6 24Acres Committee

Nothing to report.

7.7 Friends of Reach wood

The plan to weed-wipe ragwort on Reach Wood Meadow this year didn't work out as planned. We had a late spring and as a consequence, we delayed the first planned cut of the meadow a little. However, the spell of extremely hot weather seems to have stopped everything in its tracks, and the anticipated flush of ragwort didn't appear. There will again be a final cut of the meadow.

Due to these unfortunate circumstances the PC would like the Woodland Trust to repeat the 'early-cut & weed-wipe' plan in 2019.

For information there is an interesting article about ash die-back disease in Reach Wood in Geographical Magazine [<http://geographical.co.uk/places/forests/item/2870-drone-forest>].

7.8 GDPR

Work continues to ensure the PC fully complies with this legislation. **Clerk** to check the Privacy statement is on the website.

8. The Hythe

Residents are keen for The Hythe area to be returned to its former state now only a small section is required by Anglia Water. **Councillors Trump & Ward** to discuss with their contacts at Anglia Water to try to establish whether we can take this project forward. **Clerk** to try and find the original agreement documents, and contact GOBA to establish where they are with regard to future work in this area.

It was noted that the willow tree at the point was very overgrown, and although beautiful it does block the view from the Hythe towards Upware. **Clerk** to take advice.

9. Personnel committee and Clerk holiday pay – This part of the meeting was held in confidential session and the Clerk left the room.

The Chair reported that under employment law all staff, including part-time, are entitled to 4 weeks paid holiday (pro-rated for part-time staff). So we should be paying the Clerk for some holiday time. We have not been doing so.

The Chair had calculated the Clerk's holiday pay due since she started in post in 2013/14 and proposed that we make this back-dated payment. She shared the calculations. The Clerk had provided the Chair with details of hours worked and rates of pay and the Chair used the government's on-line calculator to calculate the holiday hours due for each year.

The Chair had contacted ACAS to see how far back we should take this. Their advice was that the Clerk has been entitled to it since 2014. But if she took us to tribunal they would only allow her to backdate it for 2 years. However, she could also take civil proceedings against us and ACAS could not advise us on that, because they don't advise on civil proceedings.

The Chair proposed that we back date to 2014 at a total cost of £1,357.18. In addition, there would be holiday pay due for the current year, but the total amount due would depend on hours worked and paid holiday taken by the end of the year.

After some discussion of the calculations and the legal position it was unanimously agreed to back date the holiday pay to 2014 and pay the £1,357.18.

Members also decided that there should be a meeting in the autumn to consider future budgets to ensure that the Parish Council maintained sound finances.

10. War memorial cleaning

A date of 30th September was agreed for a working party to clean the memorial.

11. Church Arch

The Church committee was meeting on this evening to discuss the future work. Clerk had requested an update.

12. CAPALC AGM

Councillor Cane to attend.

13. Information Items/AOB

It was noted that there were Travellers at Fordham Road again. Villagers should be vigilant.

A question was asked regarding the streetlights. Clerk confirmed that residents can report faulty lights on the Balfour Beatty website, regardless of whether they are PC or CCC owned.

14. Payments

CR Contracting – mowing contract	£255.50
E. On - power on the green	£9.92
J Garner – old playground expenses -	£250.00
bench moving – (paid to A cleaner world last month, wrong payee cancelled	
C. Dunnett – Bird spikes on new swings	£130.06

The date of the **next meeting** will be **Wednesday 3rd October 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:

