



Reed Parish Council

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Councillors Email:

Cllr. Ken Langley (Chair) - langley@reedparishcouncil.co.uk

Cllr. Caroline d'Ayala (Vice-Chair) - dayala@reedparishcouncil.co.uk

Cllr. Peter Lawrence - lawrence@reedparishcouncil.co.uk

Cllr. Martin Higgs - higgs@reedparishcouncil.co.uk

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018 at 8 PM in Reed Village Hall

Present Cllrs: K Langley (Chairman), C d'Ayala (Vice-Chair), P Lawrence and M Higgs.

In attendance the Clerk Catharine Toms, Dist. Cllr Tony Hunter and County Cllr. Fiona Hill and two members of the public.

- 1.9.18 **To receive apologies for absence.** Dist. Cllr. Gerald Morris and PCSO Chris Brabrook.
- 2.9.18 **To receive Members Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. P. Lawrence as Chairman of Reed Village Hall Committee.
- 3.9.18 **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th July 2018 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.** The minutes were approved. Proposed by Cllr. d'Ayala, seconded by Cllr. Lawrence. All voted in favour. Agreed.
- 4.9.18 **To agree to co-opt a new Parish Councillor.** As there had been no interest in the vacancy this item was deferred until the next meeting.
- 5.9.18 **To invite Members of the Public to address the meeting.** It was agreed to suspend standing orders at various points in the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public present.
- 6.9.18 **Chairman's Report.** Cllr. Langley informed the Council that there was a late addition to the agenda, item 14.9.18, to re-nominate The Cabinet as an Asset of Community Value. There were no other matters to report from the Chairman.
- 7.9.18 **To receive financial report from the clerk and approve accounts for payment.** Copies of the accounts and a list of payments for approval were handed to all Councillors. Accounts showed a bank balance of £11,177.51 of which £8,348 was Push Energy Community Contribution (ring-fenced for special projects), leaving reserves at £2,829.51. It was noted that a Herts County Council Locality Budget grant had been received of £489. This was to pay for the Clerk's new lap top and for a grit bin. Thanks were passed to County Cllr. Fiona Hill for her support with the grant. The second half of the annual Precept payment of £2,090 was expected shortly from NHDC. Accounts for the Clerk's salary and PAYE were agreed. The accounts spreadsheet had now been amended to show the rolling bank balance month on month.

8.9.18 To agree the purchase of a projector to view planning applications at meetings. Cllr. d'Áyala reported that there was a likelihood now that a projector was going to be made available for village use, so there was no need to purchase one. It would need an appropriate adaptor which could be bought once connections had been checked. **Action: CD/Clerk**

9.9.18 To agree location and purchase of grit bin and to agree to apply for free salt supply from HCC. After some discussion where it was concluded that the bin had to be located on either private land or land owned by NHDC and not on land belonging to HCC Highways, it was resolved to acquire a bin, apply for free salt, label it as belonging to Reed Parish Council and delegate the responsibility to purchase and appropriately locate the bin to the Chairman and the Clerk. This was proposed by Cllr. Higgs, seconded by Cllr. Lawrence and agreed by all. **Action: KL/Clerk**

10.9.18 To receive update on Highways issues including drainage from Brickyard Lane site. Cllr. Lawrence queried the quality of the current repairs to potholes. There was a large pothole in Blacksmith's Lane and two more reported in Church Lane. Cllr. Hill explained that HCC Highways contractors had to do temporary repairs if they were unable to fix urgent ones quickly. Reporting potholes to HCC online with photos seemed to be the most effective method of communicating with HCC Highways and getting action. Cllr. Lawrence had written to all Councillors to explain his concerns about the problem of future flooding that was likely to be faced by Gladstone Villa and nearby properties due to a drainage ditch that had been back filled by the developers of the Brickyard Lane site. Cllr. Langley had met with the developers and had been assured that all drainage was compliant both with environmental and building regulations. It was agreed that having contacted the developers to alert them of potential problems, there was not much else the Council could do. It was also reported that after recent flooding of the A10 in Reed, ditches had been dug out by residents to clear blocked pipes but a large pile of soil remained which had prevented Highways from doing a recent job there. Highways would be writing to the resident to request that it be cleared.

11.9.18 Update on arrangement of Neighbourhood Watch presentation for Reed (Info. Only) – The Clerk had made an enquiry with the Neighbourhood Watch (NW) team. They were happy to do a 10 minute session (explaining about NW and encouraging people to sign up for Online Watch Link, OWL) or a longer session (in addition, giving crime prevention advice and updating people on current scams). It was agreed to make enquiries with other nearby villages to see if there might be interest in attending a NW awareness session to be organised in Reed, thereby making best use of Police time. **Action: Clerk/CD**
Dist. Cllr. Hunter mentioned that the Royston District Area Committee had given a £5,000 grant award to the Police to enable them to hand out free crime prevention equipment. Residents had also recently been invited along to sessions where they could bring their tools along to be engraved free of charge.

12.9.18 To consider possible options for informative signage in Reed and usage of Push Energy monies for this purpose. After some discussion it was considered that there was a need to spend the Push Energy money on something of lasting benefit to the village. To spend a lot of money on a detailed village map board was not thought appropriate as Reed did not attract that many visitors. However, at the next Annual Parish Meeting residents could be asked what they considered that the money could be spent on.

13.9.18 Update on Saddlers Mead Planning Application – Case Ref No: 18/01559/FPH. New plans had just been made available online. The pitch of the roof had been lowered. After consideration it was proposed by Cllr. Langley and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence and agreed by all that there was no objection to this application. It was requested that an observation be added that the Council preferred the original plans. Clerk to respond to NHDC. **Action: Clerk**

14.9.18 **To re-nominate The Cabinet as an Asset of Community Value.** It was noted that the previous registration was due to expire in April 2019. It was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence, seconded by Cllr. Higgs and agreed by all to commence the process for re-nomination. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Langley on the matter. **Action: KL/Clerk**

15.9.18 **To receive update on pending appeal and other matters relating to The Cabinet.** Standing Orders were suspended to allow a member of the Save The Cabinet Action Group (SCAG) to update the Council. The appeal was now being dealt with by means of a Public Inquiry in Letchworth on 6-8 Nov. SCAG was a rule 6 party, meaning it had the same status as the principal parties to the case i.e. Mr Newman and NHDC. Written statements of case from all parties were now available to see online. NHDC was asking for the appeal to be dismissed. A member of the Parish Council would be expecting to give evidence at the Inquiry. 9th Oct was an upcoming deadline for all experts to submit their proofs of evidence. It was requested it might be prudent to bring forward the next Parish Council meeting by a week in case there were any final matters to be dealt with regarding The Cabinet Inquiry.

16.9.18 **To receive preview and consider new website design for Reed** – Mr Kilby demonstrated a new website he had designed for Reed. It was considered by the Council to be a great improvement with a fresher, cleaner appearance and being far easier to navigate. Mr Kilby volunteered to manage the website going forward. It was proposed by Cllr. d’Ayala, seconded by Cllr. Higgs and agreed by all to approve the new website. Thanks and appreciation were extended to Mr Kilby for his time and effort on this matter and his offer to be the Webmaster was gratefully accepted. The Clerk to liaise with Mr Kilby to give details of current web hosting and to transfer over the domain names. **Action: Clerk**

17.9.18 **To consider and if appropriate approve Bonfire Night event for Saturday 3rd November** – It was reported that a new group had been formed to manage the event this year. Consultation within the village had indicated a strong desire to hold the event and had brought forward plenty of volunteers to help organise it. Friends of Reed School were keen to do the catering and the Cricket Club would open their bar. A fireworks company would be putting on the display. It was proposed by Cllr. d’Ayala, seconded by Cllr. Lawrence and agreed by all that the Parish Council would sponsor and help organise the bonfire night celebrations, with members of the Parish Council being part of the organising committee. Parish Council insurance would provide insurance cover for the event providing that all guidelines (previously supplied to the committee) were adhered to. Standing Orders were then resumed.

18.9.18 **To receive matters for report and or referral to next agenda. (Information only)** – For referral to next agenda: Pittys pond maintenance work. New brown bin collection issues. Co-option of new Councillor.

19.9.18 **To note correspondence received. (Information only)** The Clerk reported that there was nothing of any significance.

20.9.18 **To agree date of next meeting.** Wednesday 31st October. Agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.35 PM