

REEPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday 25th October 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr D Perkins, who presided. Cllrs B Tebbs, S Crease, A Clay, J Oxby, N Ward and D World with the Clerk, Mr B Wharton.

C/Cllr I Fleetwood, D/Cllr A Welburn and D/Cllr M Palmer also attended.

MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nil

1. Apologies.

Cllrs A Brammer and P Stuffins.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th September 2016.

At the proposal by Cllr J Oxby, seconded by Cllr D World, it was resolved that the minutes be accepted.

3. Clerk's Report

Still no response has been received from Company instigating the development on Fiskerton airfield. Fiskerton Clerk, who is new in post, has been identified and approached for an update.

A letter has been received from Wicksteed confirming that the paints used for the Play Park refurbishment were lead free.

The lighting problem on Fiskerton Road has been corrected. The sign for the level crossing, despite LCC denying ownership, has been allocated to LCC by Network Rail.

WLDC have confirmed that they will be clearing and spraying the old cemetery on Church Lane.

The Ivy on the cemetery wall will be sprayed and cleared by Glendale at a cost of £110. It was resolved that this would be accepted following a proposal from Cllr D World, which was seconded by Cllr A Clay.

The request for advice on Smooting Lane had been sent to WLDC under "Conservation" but they had sent it along to LCC Highways. Their response is awaited.

4. Correspondence

Parish Council's report from D/Cllr A Welburn.

Police Stats for Aug/Sept.

Groundwork - advert.

Noticeboard - advert.

Barclays Bank – Changes and lowering of interest rates.

LCC – sharing Parish Council Communications with Councillors.

WLDC – Agenda and Minutes.

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5. Financial Matters

Presentation of Accounts:

Glendale Countryside	Grass Cutting X 2	£ 527.44
B Wharton – Printing inks		<u>£ 65.57</u>
		£ 593.01

Proposed by Cllr S Crease, seconded by Cllr A Clay it was resolved that the Glendale invoice be paid.

Proposed by Cllr S Crease, seconded by Cllr N Ward it was resolved that the Printing inks invoice be paid.

Precept, Dispensation and Discussion.

4 years ago, it was realised that the Parish Councillors would need special dispensation to discuss the precept because they all lived in the village and were thus affected by the rating levels triggered by the precept. This dispensation now required renewal. Each Councillor, present was asked to fill in a dispensation form, which was signed by the Parish Clerk to extend the dispensation for a further 4 years. The absent Councillors will be asked to complete theirs before the November meeting.

A spreadsheet of this year's receipts and outgoings with a recommendation had been circulated prior to the meeting. Deadlines set by WLDC and the timetable of coming Parish Council meetings, meant that the estimate of the Precept, at least, must be discussed at this meeting.

For the coming year, the following grants are expected to be withdrawn.

1. Parish Paths Partnership (LCC) which grants the monies for 3 cuts of the field footpaths per year (circa £190).
2. Road verges cuts within the village. (LCC) which repays the parish Council for the inclusion of the verges (owned by LCC). (circa £1180).
3. Council Tax Grant (WLDC) (circa £930).

This will mean that there will be approximately £2200 lower receipts for the coming years.

In addition, the maintenance of the area of land around Manor Rise had been paid for from monies from the builders under a 106 Agreement. Apart from residual money held in the Play Park fund, this has now been used up and will require funding from the general Reepham rates (set by this Precept).

Proposed by Cllr A Clay, seconded by Cllr S Crease it was resolved that the level of services be maintained and be covered from the Precept.

Options for the level of the Precept were as follows:

1. Precept level of £7000, as per previous years with the shortfall made up out of Parish Funds with an assessment of the effects over a period of time.
2. Precept level at £9000 with the increase placed onto the Precept and hence the Council Tax.

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3. A hybrid of both at, say, £8000. This would use funds, give an opportunity to assess events and spread the increase over a year or so to lessen the impact on residents.

Proposed by Cllr N Ward, seconded by Cllr D World it was resolved that the option 3 be accepted.

Proposed by Cllr A Clay, seconded by Cllr J Oxby it was resolved that, because there would be no time for further discussion whilst meeting the WLDC timescales, the Clerk should send both the Estimate and the Final Precept immediately.

It was noted that the final payment of the Verges grant from LCC (£1183) had just been made.

6. Planning Matters

There had been a request to fell two trees in the rear garden of a property on the Green. As this would not affect the street scene, no objections had been made.

Further to the work on Good's Farm, contact from Globe Consultants and their contractors is coming to a first conclusion. Proposals for traffic and for drainage are soon to be made known and at that time Globe propose to hold a village meeting to present their ideas to the residents. They expect this to be before Christmas.

7. Roads and Footways

A letter had been received from Highways covering all aspects of the verges spraying, Kennel Lane bridge and the water puddling on Plough Lane.

It was noted that there had been an article in the local press of a resident cleaning the Reepham road sign on Hawthorn Road. Following comments at the last meeting, C/Cllr I Fleetwood made it known the he had cleaned the remainder (all) the road signs within the village boundaries.

A complaint was made about white vans parking adjacent to the ends of Plough Lane blocking visibility for other traffic. Clerk to inform the police.

Cllr S Crease reported bags of dog faeces on the road side along Moor Lane, close to Moor Farm. Clerk to request a dog bin.

8. Field Footpaths and Bridleways

It was noted that the brambles along the railway side to the rear of Manor Rise were beginning to spread through the fence and along the path. Clerk to contact Network rail.

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9. Conservation Areas

Reply from LCC on Smooting Lane awaited.

10. Amenity Areas

The money for R2 Manor Rise buffer has now run out. In order to allocate ringfenced funds for use and for audit, the depreciating amount has been recorded separately in the Cash Book. This will not require so detailed an entry with only R1 and the Play Park now requiring ring fencing. Proposed by Cllr J Oxby, seconded by Cllr B Tebbs it was resolved that the layout of the Cash Book be amended to reflect the changes.

Glendale have recommended that an extra spray be used on the rear of the Manor Rise footpath and railway edging. Proposed by Cllr N Ward, seconded by Cllr A Clay it was resolved that the Glendale be instructed to proceed.

Proposed by Cllr J Oxby, seconded by Cllr A Clay it was resolved that the Glendale be asked to quote for 3 sprays next year.

The old gate on the Play Park had a sign saying, "No Dogs" but this had disappeared when the new gate was installed. A person exercising a dog had been observed in the Play Park. Proposed by Cllr D World, seconded by Cllr A Clay it was resolved that a sign be obtained, similar to the car number plate sign and placed on the gate. Clerk to use petty cash for the purchase.

Cllr Tebbs reported that a notice had been placed in the telephone box on the High Street. WLDC planning are handling any objections and have released a statement, ensuring that any such objections are submitted by 19th December. With only one meeting before then (Nov 29th), notices to inform the residents will be posted on village notice boards, on the bus shelter next to the phone box and in the Post Office.

Some time ago the kissing gate on the footpath between Station Rd and Mellows Close was taken away. Usage was to be watched and an assessment made for the future. One concern made by the residents living on that section of footpath was that cyclists would use the route now that there was no obstacle and this would constitute a hazard when they are reversing their cars in or out. Although there have been no complaints, it is noted that cyclists are using the footpath (tyre marks) and future usage will continue to be assessed.

11. Christmas Tree.

Licence, Carols and Santa:

Western Power confirms the licence for the Christmas tree lights has been granted. Reepham schools confirms that there will be carols around the tree, with refreshments afterwards. Santa is still to be contacted.

12. Business for the Next Agenda

Nil.

Meeting ends....2025.

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