

REEPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday 29th September 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr D Perkins, who presided. Cllrs J Oxby, A Clay, P Stuffins and with the Clerk Mr B Wharton.

C/Cllr I Fleetwood and D/Cllrs A Welburn and A Bridgwood also attended.

MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident, acting in the interests of a wheelchair user, presented a case for the removal of the kissing gate on FP123 between Mellows Close and Station Road. The case was based on the ease of manoeuvring a wheelchair along this route, whereas the alternative would be via the High Street, which would involve multiple road crossings.

PSCO Parker attended and presented comments on Police matters over the past month. Reports were solely on a vehicle fire on Smooting Lane and an unconfirmed "rave".

1. Apologies.

Cllrs S Crease, B Tebbs, N Ward and A Brammer

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th July 2015.

Proposed by Cllr A Clay and seconded by Cllr P Stuffins it was resolved that the Minutes be accepted.

3. Co-Option:

David World had put his name forward to fill the vacancy for a Councillor. It was proposed by Cllr J Oxby, seconded by Cllr P Stuffins and resolved that he be co-opted onto the Parish Council. A Declaration of Interests form was completed, followed by a Declaration of Acceptance whence he took his place on the Parish Council.

4. Clerk's Report

Glendale had been contacted for a revised quote for the cutting back of the hedging on the approaches to the cemetery based on the Glendale cutting it as they were conducting the autumn hedge trim. Proposed by Cllr P Stuffins and seconded by Cllr A Clay, it was resolved that the new quote of £165 + VAT be accepted. A quote on the costs for the proposed joint notice board at the cemetery gates is still awaited.

The seats for the Green have been collected from Agri-Cycle and await installation by the village handyman.

5. Correspondence

LCC – letter to and a response from the Freedom of Information letter re the Big Society Fund meeting.

Report from Cllr A Welburn on WLDC for last month.

Police – Crime statistics for Aug/Sept.

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WLDC – Minutes of meetings and Agendas.

WLDC – Conservation Volunteers are looking for tree planting sites that can accommodate several trees. The Volunteers will manage preparation and planting if a site is decided upon.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – newsletter.

Cruse Bereavement Care – request for grant.

Lincoln & Lindsey Blind Society – request for volunteer befrienders.

LALC – News

Clerks and Councils direct – Sept issue. Info on Freedom of Information.

LCR – Autumn edition.

Whitehill notice boards – advert.

Glasdon and Broxap – street furniture brochures.

6. Financial Matters

Presentation of Accounts:

Glendale – Hedge cut and weed spraying	£ 552.30
Glendale – grass cutting – two cuts	£ 517.09
Glendale – Grass cutting - one cut	<u>£ 258.55</u>
	£1327.94

7. Planning Matters

The reports of the growth of the trees in the buffer zone for Manor Rise had brought response from WLDC but not an answer. It was felt that, whilst the trees under the TPO would be followed, the requirement to maintain and keep the extensive growth of the shrubs around the zone was over-protection and that some thinning would have to be done, despite planning orders. At the proposal by Cllrs J Oxby, seconded by Cllr P Stuffins, it was resolved that the Clerk should write to WLDC to convey this action. It is anticipated that experts will need to be consulted with expenditure required for future work.

An email was received from WLDC which indicated that Parish Councils should access the WLDC website on a weekly basis to discover any tree applications, this putting the onus on the Parish Councils rather than WLDC to initiate the information. The fault had been shown up by the fact that on such application in Reepham had not made the weekly planning sheet anyway. Proposed by Cllr J Oxby, seconded by Cllr A Clay, it was resolved that the Clerk write to complain about the inadequacies of this process: D/Cllr Welburn has asked to be copied into this response.

Decisions for 56 Fiskerton Road, Lodge Farm and Mellows Close were read out

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8. Roads and Footways

Chairman described the amount of work that had been undertaken by the members of the HRAG prior to and during the Public Inquiry. Requested that the clerk send thanks to each for their support. The answer is now in the hands of the Inspector and his decision is awaited. The expectation, but not the guarantee, is that there should be an answer in November.

The disappointment of the Inquiry had been the presentation of the stance of WLDC. Despite letters to define the support for the residents of these villages, the representative of WLDC stated that they were neutral in the matter. Clerk to write letter of complaint on behalf of the Parish Council.

Parking around the Green is raising concern again. Vehicles parked directly opposite the Plough Lane exit, despite breaking the Highway Code, place vehicles exiting Plough Lane in danger of collision. Clerk was asked to write to LCC to request that double yellow line parking restrictions be imposed in this area. Additionally those parked on the 'private' road on the other sides of the Green make the passage of large vehicles extremely difficult, if not impossible. This is particularly important as the bin wagon try to access Church Lane on Friday mornings.

9. Field Footpaths and Bridleways

C/Cllr Fleetwood confirmed that he had had discussions with the hedge owners on the pathway through to Meadow Close. To be monitored through next spring.

10. Conservation Areas

Nil.

11. Amenity Areas

Post Codes in Open spaces. This was resolved at the last meeting but the exact number and position had not been decided. Just one for the play park on Manor Rise appears to be the answer. It is suggested that the Councillors' Initiative Fund be used for this purchase. The kissing gate on FP123 was discussed and ideas put forward. Approval would be needed from LCC footpaths and their advice would be sought before proceeding.

12. Speed Limits.

The meeting between Alan Brown from LCC (Highways) and the Parish Council is still awaited. Cllr Brammer is dealing.

13. Local Boundary Commission

There will be a reduction from 77 councillors to 71 in this region with little or no effect on Reepham.

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14. **Sunday Bus.**

Carried forward to next agenda.

15. **Transparency Fund and Computer Usage**

There will be a trade-off over the next two years between increased transparency into the functioning of Parish Councils and the easing of the auditing requirements. Many smaller councils have no facilities, neither do their clerks have enough experience for the increased on-line requirements for more transparency. Recognising this, WLDC have proposed a fund to financially assist those councils who might need to purchase or train their employees. It is not a major problem in Reepham, but the Clerk's own computer and printing facilities are in constant use – this might be an opportunity for the Parish Council to take ownership of its own IT facilities. The major advantage would be that when the time comes to hand over files, records, etc all that would need to be done would be to hand over the computer complete with files and back-ups.

Clerk to also investigate a hybrid system using a twin external hard drive for retention of all back-ups.

16. **Christmas Tree.**

Proposed by Cllr A Clay and seconded by Cllr J Oxby, it was resolved that a Christmas Tree be purchased this year. It was agreed to await the return of Cllr Crease to discuss the selection of a tree as last year

17. **Business for the Next Agenda**

Nil

Meeting closed at 2107