

REEPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at 7.30pm.

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

C/Cllr I Fleetwood and D/Cllr C Darcel also attended.

MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nil.

1. Apologies.

Cllrs D Perkins, B Tebbs and A Brammer. D/Cllr A Welburn.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February 2016.

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

3. Clerk's Report

It was noted that the cheque for the notice board had been cashed by the Parochial Church Council – this can be added to the village insurance.

The Defibrillator and cabinet are now with the school; awaiting installation. A training session for interested parties is to be set up at, say, the village hall perhaps, jointly with Cherry Willingham. At the proposal of Cllr S Crease, seconded by Cllr D World, it was resolved that the Parish Council pay for the hire of the village hall, if necessary.

LALC reported that the claim for the laptop, etc was delayed as fund had run out; hence the laptop would not be ordered until the funds arrived in the next financial year.

4. Correspondence

Feedback from D/Cllr A Welburn, with information on the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign.
Police – crime statistics.

Play inspection report – see under Finances.

LCC – new street lighting policy.

WLDC – Minutes and Agendas.

Barclays – new terms for the banking.

LALC News – information on the new Audit procedures under Transparency.

Andrew & Co – although the transfer had been signed, there had been some problem and it had been returned for re-signing. Two Cllrs needed to be designated as authorised persons to sign the document. At the proposal of Cllr D World, seconded by Cllr A Clay it was resolved that Cllrs N Ward and S Crease should act in this capacity, Parish Clerk as Proper Officer for the Parish Council would witness the signatures.

LCC. – Highways – Two separate letters were received that informed that the Parish Paths partnership be cancelled this year and that the contribution by LCC towards cutting the village verges should be cancelled at the end of the 2016/17 financial year. Clerk to ascertain whether LCC Highways intend to cut the verges between villages and the field

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footpaths as they do now. If they do, would that be extended to the village verges? The decision for grass cutting to be taken next year for the 2017 season would depend on the answer.

5. Financial Matters

Presentation of Accounts:

The Play Inspection Company – annual inspection	£ 75.00
Eon – electric bill for Christmas tree lights	£ 3.54
Reepham Methodist Church rental for room use	£ 162.00
LALC – Annual subscription	£ 273.51
Physio – Control: Defibrillator	£ 780.00
SADSUK – cabinet for above	£ 335.00
B Wharton for petty cash	<u>£ 100.00</u>
	£1729.05

At the proposal by Cllr A Clay, seconded by Cllr D World is was resolved that these accounts be paid.

Hedge Cutting Contract.

The contract with Glendale for hedge cutting and spray (to rear of Manor Rise) was due for agreement. Advice from an arborculturalist had been obtained and the area around Manor Rise was deemed to require some thinning of shrubs, etc, though there was no major tree work required. The following quote from Glendale was received.

Two hedge cuts at midsummer and end of year	£ 431.62
1 1/2 metre cut back of shrubs to south of Manor Rise	£ 65.00
1 metre cut back of areas of buffer to west of Manor Rise	£ 135.00
Spray pathway and fence line (2 applications per year)	<u>£ 45.00</u>
	£ 676.62

At the proposal of Cllr D World, seconded by Cllr N Ward it was resolved that this contract be accepted.

Annual Audit.

There have been discussions following the cessation of the requirement for Parish Councils with a turnover of <£25,000 (which include Reepham) to be externally audited. These were led by NALC and resulted in the engagement of an auditor to be employed by them to audit individual Parish Councils should they need it. Otherwise placing the information transparently onto the Parish website will be the means used to inform of the financial occurrences in the future. As Parish Councils are not allowed to dispense with an auditor entirely, one would have to be employed (and paid for) by each individual Council. At the proposal of Cllr P Stuffins, seconded by Cllr A Clay it was resolved that Reepham Parish Council would use the option supplied by NALC. No action would be needed as this was the failsafe option.

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Receipts.

WLDC - £750 contribution from the D/Cllrs Bridgwood, Welburn and Darcel from the Councillor's Initiative Fund towards the Defibrillator.

LCC - £250 contribution from the Big Society Fund (C/Cllr Fleetwood) towards the Defibrillator.

6. **Planning Matters**

Consent had been granted for tree work on Manor Rise though permission to cut one tree had been rejected.

Decisions became available for 11 Chapel Close and 32 Church Lane.

7. **Roads and Footways**

Clean for the Queen – litter bin.

This basically was from a comment that litter was accumulating around the Kennel Lane bus shelter. At the proposal of Cllr N Ward, seconded by Cllr S Crease it was resolved that WLDC should be approached to install a litter bin in the proximity of the bus shelter.

Litter in general through the village was discussed, its distribution and how it could be cleared. Cllr N Ward suggested that volunteers might get together for a general walk around to pick up lying litter. WLDC had offered equipment and safety clothing for such a venture. The suggestion of refreshment provision might add to numbers. Clerk to word a section in Reepham News to that effect with a date to be set in the future and approach WLDC for availability of equipment.

There was general concern over the increasing number of potholes becoming evident along the length of Hawthorn Road, sections of Kennel Lane and Cllr N Ward reported that the surface along North Lane was deteriorating again. Clerk to write to Highways and to report the more serious problems. Some side roads within the village confines are also reported with deteriorations.

8. **Field Footpaths and Bridleways**

Noted under correspondence that the Parish Paths Partnership towards grass cutting is to cease.

9. **Conservation Areas**

Nil

10. **Amenity Areas**

Noted under correspondence that the LCC contribution to verge grass cutting is to cease.

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11. **Speed Limits and Road Safety.**

Carried from last month: provision of yellow lines to restrict parking on the school side of High Street received a proposal from Cllr P Stuffins, seconded by Cllr S Crease: it was resolved that a request be made for yellow lines from the school along High Street toward the end of Mellows Close and to the first driveway in the opposite direction.

Noted that the speed limit notifier SID was having replacement batteries fitted.

12. **Business for the Next Agenda**

Cllr N Ward brought the Parish Council's attention to the fact that the Reepham beck was in danger of silting, with possible flood problems that would exacerbated should large areas of its catchment to the west be metalled with the house building expected there. Would Witham 3rd IDB take the responsibility over?

Cllr Ward also mentioned the problem of sewerage overflow from the drains should there be excess water channelled into these drains. Cllr Ward is to discuss this matter with C/Cllr Fleetwood.

Meeting ends....2035.