

## REED PARISH COUNCIL

### **Chairs Report 6th January 2021**

1. Having received notification in December of an appeal by R. Rand against the LPA's refusal last September of the PIP application to build 7 houses on the meadow adjacent to Jackson's Lane, councillors, after consultation, authorised a response. We have duly requested of the Planning Inspectorate that the Parish Council is represented at the appeal hearing when one is scheduled in the new year. We have also informed parishioners of the appeal and submitted comments from Reed Parish Council to the Inspectorate contesting the grounds for appeal and requesting that the appeal be declined. We have received endorsement of our response to the appeal from District Councillor Morris and County Councillor Hill, for which we are grateful.
2. On behalf of the Parish Council I have written to the LPA to inform them of further apparently unauthorised works undertaken recently at The Cabinet, most notably the conversion of the outbuilding in the car park for what appears to be domestic habitation. I conveyed the council's concern about works once again being undertaken before any application for planning or listed building consents; also our concern about the implications of the conversion in seeming to consolidate the use of the bulk of the ground floor of The Cabinet main building for domestic use, contrary to the grounds on which the LPA suspended enforcement action in the summer.
3. Parishioners Mr and Mrs Haydon copied to the council their recent letter to the Countryside Rights of Way section of the County Council. This expressed their concern about the deterioration and damage to footpaths around Reed and Barkway currently being caused by horse riders. The clerk had correspondence with Julia Clarke, the responsible officer at County. This has clarified the status and authorised use of various of the paths. Ms Clarke confirmed the problem and cited the increased use of paths by walkers, as well as riders during the Covid restrictions and that it was a County-wide (indeed a nationwide) issue, intensified by the wet weather. She confirmed that that riders could not be excluded from designated bridleways and BOATs.
4. The clerk has passed on from Barkway some further correspondence with the E.A. relating to the Wisbridge reservoir. Mr Sweetlove of the EA enforcement Team had studied evidence from Barkway that the archeological site in Bush Wood extends more widely than previously understood into the area of the putative reservoir. This has implications for the permissions required for such works, which must "have regard to impacts on the historical environment". However, Mr Sweetlove was perhaps not displeased to add that E.A. do not regulate impacts on the historic environment, which apparently fall within the competence of the County Council and Historic England. Mr Sweetlove's letter included nothing about an outcome of any recent inspections carried out or any progress on securing proposals on water extraction from agents for Duke and Partners about how the 'reservoir' is to be filled with water.