



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd November 2010

### Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Not Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Part-time
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

One member of the public attended but made no comment.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were reviewed and signed.

### 4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

Payments have been made to Snakehall Farm (£500) as a contribution to their new bus shelter and to the Parish Council (£1,000) as a contribution to the tennis court. No further applications for funds have been received.

### 4 (2) County Council Report

October started on County Council duty with a meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel, held at Burwell Village College. The Highways Policy Review Group met twice in October and looked at the winter gritting arrangements and member comments on the policy in general. This will result in a paper going to cabinet shortly.

Full County Council met on 19 October. Various motions were debated including (1) the County Council PR budget which Council felt should be dealt with through the budgetary process, (2) moves to GP consortia and the NHS white paper where Council accepted the need for close scrutiny and (3) schools moving to academy status where Council felt that following recent Government announcements about the Pupil Premium, schools need good information to help them decide whether academy status is right for them.

As reported last month, I have been asked to act as Cabinet Assistant to help and advise the cabinet members looking after issues surrounding children and young people. Much of that work surrounds

budget discussions and I have attended two meetings in October to look at ideas for budget savings. There is still some way to go for that work.

#### **4 (3) District Council Report**

There will be no further moves by the Council, at this time, to seek a single colour for Hackney Carriage vehicles.

At the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting I raised the issue of the state of some of our droves and also the lack of response to our concerns regarding the cuts to our bus services.

There will be a new Sainsbury store in Ely early in 2012.

The government has indicated a 28.4% reduction in grant support over the next four years. The specific impact will not be known until the Council support grant is announced in December but it is clear that significant savings will be needed.

At next week's Strategic Development Committee meeting it will be recommended that Goodwin Farm in Swaffham Prior is not progressed as a gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople option.

#### **4 (4) Financial Report**

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation.

#### **4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report**

No report provided since no meetings have taken place. **The Clerk** will add attendance at the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting to the January 2011 Parish Council meeting agenda.

#### **4 (6) Parish Council Members**

No meetings attended.

#### **4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report**

Based on £5 per metre costs, the **Play Spaces Officer** was asked to acquire and arrange to put in place rubber spikes to deter birds from alighting on the top of swings.

#### **4 (8) Rights of Way Report**

It was agreed that a number of Public Footpath signs will be put in place and the **Rights of Way Officer** will do what is necessary to achieve this. She will also compile a list of landowners who have a responsibility to keep rights of way clear and pass this to **the Clerk** who will send them all a letter, reminding them of this responsibility.

#### **4 (9) Speedwatch**

There was no activity in the preceding month.

#### **4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report**

The fire alarm is now operable but the repairs to the roof remain to be carried out. Lighting in the meeting room has been upgraded.

### **5. Land Availability – 24 acres on the Burwell Road**

At a recent meeting, the three main areas of community involvement (a) orchard, (2) horse ménage and (3) cricket/football pitches were reviewed with the National Trust. The National Trust asked for further specific information and will provide villagers with their thoughts over the next six weeks. In addition, the possibility of horticulture therapy was discussed and this becomes an additional project option.

### **6. Noticeboards on the Bus Shelters**

It was agreed that instead of notices being posted on the exterior of the bus shelters, a board should

be placed at the interior back of the shelters. **Councillor King** will secure the necessary wood and arrange for the boards to be put in place.

#### **7. Precept 2011/2012**

Following a review of forecast finances for the year ending March 2011 and consideration of financial needs for the year ending March 2012, it was agreed that there will be no change in precept level year on year.

It was also agreed that as required by the Parish Council's Standing Orders the mowing of the cemetery will be put out to tender for the period year ending March 2012.

#### **8. Tennis Court Update**

The court is under construction and should be completed by the end of November (but with a black surface and temporary white lines with the court surface being painted and the white lines re-done in March 2011). The Parish Council agreed that the formal opening will take place in 2011 when the court is fully complete. It was also agreed to insure the court on the basis of malicious damage only.

#### **9. Tree on Fair Green Remedial Action**

This work will take place next week.

#### **10. Planning Applications**

There were none.

#### **11. Information Items**

**Councillor Fielding** will investigate the legal situation with regard to residents planting trees on Highway land.

It had been suggested that if guttering was added to the cemetery shelter together with a water butt, this would be helpful to visitors looking after the graves. The cost estimate for materials was approved at approximately £75 and subject to suitable access to the back of the shelter **the Clerk** will carry out this work.

It appears that the government will be encouraging the use by Parish Councils of on-line banking some time in 2011. The Clerk felt that this would be helpful to him and the Parish Council agreed to review the opportunity when it is better defined next year.

It was agreed that the Clerk would be allowed to open a Simple Servicing Authority with Barclays to allow him to enquire about the Parish Council and Amenity Fund accounts but without the ability to transfer funds.

#### **12. Payments**

100937	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing October	£67.00
100939	Rita Dunnett	Playground Expenses	£8.00
100940	Suffolk Acre	Bus Shelter Insurance	£17.45

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday – and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website ([www.reach-village.co.uk](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

**Chairman:**

**Date:**