

REACH

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th December 2011

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Not Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Not Present
David Parr	Clerk	Not Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

£25 was paid out for cups refurbishment for Sports Day – this leaves £4,566.07 available.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

I have been discussing various works with highways on Reach Road, Burwell and Station Road, Swaffham Prior – more news soon.

Discussions continue between the County Council and Governors at Burwell Village College about the number of children who will need places in the coming school year. Hopefully, working together we will come to a solution meeting most needs.

Cabinet met to consider a number of issues including a response to a planning application for a major development at North West Cambridge, developing an engineering centre at the College of West Anglia and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for public health. Cabinet and Senior Management Team met three times during the month to consider evolving ideas for the forthcoming Integrated Plan/Budget.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

On November 8th the Development and Transport Committee agreed a twelve week public consultation on the Council's proposed charging scheme for Ely Car Parks.

Last year the Housing Team at the Council received over 1,700 requests for help, rehoused over 200 families, supported 26 families threatened by domestic violence and delivered 147 new affordable housing units (which is nowhere near enough to meet the current demand).

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that it will break-even this financial year. This will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,600 which is 57% of normal non-tennis court maintenance spend.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

The playground remains in a satisfactory condition. The Clerk has installed goal anchors for the large goals on the playing field and has cut off a tree branch overhanging the playground.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

Karen Whymark from Rights of Way is organising a meeting in January for local landowners and farmers to discuss byways. Councillor Aves commented that the timing would not be suitable for most farmers to attend.

I was agreed that Councillor Clark would write to Karen Whymark expressing the council's displeasure at the poor quality of the byway works.

A letter received from a villager complaining about the quality and necessity of repairs to byways around the village was read out. Councillor Alderson agreed that most of the repairs were of poor quality and would not last and that in some cases the state of the byway had been worsened. The Parish Council felt that the repairs should have been better carried out.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. Two people have resigned and one extra recruited. The Clerk will oversee this activity in the future.

4 (10) Tennis Committee

The sponsor Racquet Master has closed down. **The Clerk** will seek to secure the £250 sponsorship money but the possibility exists that it will not be received.

4 (11) Village Centre Committee Report

The Carol Service will take place in December. Bookings for the Village Centre are good.

4 (12) 24Acres Committee Report

Heads of Terms have been received from the National Trust and the Parish Council 24Acres Committee is working with the NT to turn them into a lease. The Committee has yet to seek legal advice – it will do so once there is a draft lease. The Committee visited an orchard and woodland project at Little Downham to learn from their experience. A visit was received from the Woodland Trust to advise on layout, species, funding etc. Councillors Clark and Thomas visited residents living close to the 24Acres field to discuss their concerns.

5. Bus Subsidy Consultation Review

The proposed changes do not affect Reach residents and therefore the Parish Council made no comment.

6. Fly-tipping Response from James Paice

The response from James Paice was read out. The Parish Council agreed that the letter did not deal with the issue of the authority of the Council to deal with fly-tipping on private property. No further action was suggested at this time.

7. Hythe Mooring Policy

The Clerk, Councillor Clark and Councillor Thomas have cleared the bank to fulfil the agreement with GOBA to keep the bank clear for mooring. The Parish Council discussed whether there should be a charge to moor non-GOBA boats following a request for mooring received from a resident.

The Clerk was asked to try and establish which parts of the bank are owned by the Parish Council. Councillor Thomas suggested that **the Clerk** should also explore whether receiving rent would imply some responsibility and liability.

8. Planning Reforms (proposed by Government)

Councillor Clark noted that it is important for ECDC to keep plans up to date. Councillor Alderson said that ECDC was aware of this and new plans would be ready before the existing ones expire in 2013.

9. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

The dates for the celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June 2012. The Parish Council had previously decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s) subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

As part of this celebration, the Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to plant a new tree which would take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. It was decided to position it on the top green between the current tree and the road that divides the greens. A decision on the choice of tree was deferred until January, but a Sweet or Red Chestnut are currently favoured.

A suggestion from a villager that an avenue of 60 trees should be planted on the Swaffham Prior road on its approach to Reach was supported by the Parish Council and the villager and the Clerk are working together to hopefully make it happen.

10. Village Plan Opportunity

Two possibilities exist for local planning. Firstly a Neighbourhood Plan (costing about £17,000) which results in a statutory document, secondly a Community Led Plan (costing £800 - £3,000) which is advisory. The Parish Council agreed that since Reach is already marked as an in-fill only village, a designation the District Council intends keeping, that neither of these planning documents are needed.

Councillor Clark noted that through the Village Vision process about 10 respondents had requested more land for businesses and employment and that this shouldn't be ignored. DS Smith land on Reach Road in Burwell would be suitable and local companies (Delta-T) are looking for areas for expansion. It was agreed that Councillor Alderson would have a word with relevant officers and companies to look at options.

11. Planning Applications

There were none for consideration.

12. Information Items

It was decided to apply for JFMHI (Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement) grants for restricting access to the Fair Green – Great Lane bend to long vehicles and to providing an additional surface water drain between 25 and 28 Fair Green.

13. Payments

There were none.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th January 2012 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).

Chairman:

Date: