



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th January 2011

### 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	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

### 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

No payments were made and no applications received since the last meeting.

### 4 (2) County Council Report

Budgets and the Government announcement on the comprehensive spending review set the scene for much of my activity at the County Council in December, including two informal meetings of the Cabinet and a Member Briefing on the budget headline figures. The CSR and grant settlement for Cambridgeshire mean that the County Council is faced with making savings of £160 million over the next five years. Because of the Government's front-loading of savings to try to tackle the national debt we are faced with making savings of £50 million in 2011/12. The scale of the required savings is bound to have implications for employment and it is likely that around 450 posts will be lost in the County in the coming year. Further details on proposed savings will be known shortly.

Another "hot" topic, in light of the weather has been gritting. Cllr Mac McGuire, as portfolio holder for highways and access has written to all parishes explaining the latest position regarding salt stocks and gritting schedules. Whilst it has been a difficult start to the winter season, I believe the gritting teams have worked incredibly hard.

The Guided Busway situation continues to cause exasperation in Cabinet. Trials have taken place on the busway and it is looking increasingly likely that Bam Nuttall will fail to remedy the faults in an

acceptable time-frame. If this is the case CCC will have little option but to appoint a different contractor to complete the work and charge Bam Nuttall.

County Council met in December. In addition to the above topics, there was a lengthy debate on a motion claiming that the County Council is not doing enough to combat climate change. Probably unsurprisingly, in view of the subject matter, the debate quickly became polarised and the motion was eventually voted down in favour of an amendment calling on continued action in this area.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee met. The committee held a lengthy discussion regarding Rural Crime. It was agreed to set up a meeting of County and District Councillors and Cambridgeshire constabulary to discuss the best way to scrutinise rural crime. The other major subject discussed was the report of the member-led review into the Integrated Offender Management programme.

On a more social note I also had the pleasure of attending the Cambridgeshire Schools Carol Concert at Kings College.

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

For 2011/12 the Council's RSG is to be set at £5.6M, falling to £4.9M in 2012/13. Work continues to identify every opportunity to save money.

Residents are encouraged to use local shops as much as possible otherwise they may be forced to close.

A recent survey carried out by ECDC has revealed that one in five homes in the district has significant safety problems. There is a Home Safety checklist on the ECDC website which helps residents assess their own properties. For further information, please contact Julia Atkins in the Environmental Services Domestic Team.

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

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and should finish the year with reserves of over £5M, an increase of around £1,800. Our insurance period has been changed to match our financial year, resulting in a rebate for this financial year of over £120.

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

Councillor Clark attended the last meeting which took place in Burwell on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Various items were discussed included that of fly-tipping. A further item was the consultation documentation setting out proposals for Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust to become an NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust wants to adopt a policy of delivering services more locally in future. The public has been invited to take part in a consultation. Further information on this topic can be obtained from their website [www.cambridgecommunityservices.nhs.uk](http://www.cambridgecommunityservices.nhs.uk) – the consultation closes on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

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

No meetings attended.

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

There was nothing to report.

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

A list of Public Footpath signs has been communicated to the County Council for action on their part. A list of landowners has been produced and **the Clerk** was asked to write to each of them, reminding them of their responsibility to keep hedges under control. As regards the repairing of byways, **the Clerk** was asked to remind the County Council of their responsibilities in this area.

The Parish Council also agreed to continue in the P3 scheme for the forthcoming year. **The Clerk** will communicate this to the County Council and complete the necessary forms.

#### 4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month.

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

No report provided since there was no meeting in December 2010.

#### 5. Cemetery Rainwater Collection

The Clerk reported that significant hedge cutting was required to provide access to the shelter for guttering to be put up. **The Clerk** will ask get a quotation for this work to be carried out and report back at the next meeting.

#### 6. Environment Agency Meeting

The Parish Council has been contacted by the Environment Agency who have some tree and bushing works to carry out on the left bank facing away from the village and the sewage works looking down the river. The works are to bring the flood bank back into a condition that will protect the area. **The Clerk** will arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency and councillors to review the proposed work.

#### 7. Land Availability – 24 acres on the Burwell Road

At a recent meeting, the three main areas of community involvement (1) orchard, (2) horse ménage and (3) cricket/football pitches were reviewed with the National Trust. In addition, the possibility of horticulture therapy will be considered. The National Trust continues to seek funding for this venture and expects a response from one possible donor in February.

#### 8. Noticeboards on the Bus Shelters

It had been 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. This work has now been completed. It was decided to refurbish the two bus shelters (hammering in all nails and adding wood preserver). **Councillor Platt** will acquire the necessary wood preserver and together with **Councillor Fielding** be responsible for getting the necessary work carried out on the Ditchfield shelter. The Parish Council will seek volunteers to carry out the work on the Fair Green shelter.

#### 9. Planning Applications

The status of 0/00871/LBC (Manor House) was discussed. Further plans have been submitted and when these are received **the Clerk** will call a special Parish Council meeting to discuss them.

#### 10. Information Items

A letter to a resident regarding their use of land adjacent to their property has been sent – this issue is now closed

Tender documents regarding the future mowing contract for the cemetery have been sent out to five potential suppliers. Responses will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

#### 13. Payments

100947	D M Parr	Clerk's Pay Q4 2010	£589.00
100949	D M Parr	Clerk's Expenses	£66.12

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd February 2011 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:**