



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 11th May 2011

Attendance

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

1. Forum for Members of the Public

Two members of the public attended. The issue of village cleanliness was raised and the suggestion made that the area where the Mayor of Cambridge opens the Fair be better prepared for the event. **The Clerk** will add both items to the agenda for the June meeting.

2. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected;

Chairman	Ross Clark
Vice Chairman	Michael Aves
Play Spaces Officer	Rita Dunnett
Rights of Way Officer	Hilary Fielding
Tree Officer	John Reed
Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Officer	John Robinson
Village Centre Officers	Rita Dunnett and Joyce Harrison

3. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The Amenity Fund Committee rejected an application from a villager for the purchase of a fruit picking ladder on the basis of health and safety concerns and also because it would not benefit a significant proportion of Reach villagers.

5 (2) County Council Report

I represented the County Council at a meeting of the Local Government Association Rural Commission. One of the main topics for discussion was the practicalities of the Government plans to roll-out superfast broadband nationwide. The Greater Cambridgeshire Local Enterprise Partnership has applied to be one of the first areas to take part in the project.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, which I sit on, met to receive various updates on crime and disorder matters. The ECCSP has been given a new duty by Government, which is to undertake a review of any homicide in which domestic violence has played a part. We had a lengthy discussion on how to fulfill that duty (which hopefully will not be needed) and agreed to ask the next meeting to appoint 2 Councillors to a county-wide panel from which an independent Chairman for any review will be selected.

I also attended a number of informal cabinet meetings.

As reported previously, Cllr Jill Tuck has announced that she will not be seeking re-election as Leader of the Council at the Annual Meeting on 17 May. At a Conservative Group meeting we elected Cllr Nick Clarke as Leader (designate) of the Conservative Group. Subject to a formal vote on 17 May Cllr Clarke will be confirmed as the new Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council. I feel greatly honoured that, subject to a formal vote at the same meeting, Cllr Clarke has asked me to join the County Council Cabinet to take responsibility for the Children and Young People's portfolio. Since that news became public, my email in-box has been filling up with meeting requests! I am currently receiving numerous briefings from Directors and other officers and I am really looking forward to the challenge of my new role.

5 (3) District Council Report

The Newmarket Recycling Centre which was due to close on May 9th will now remain open until July 31st whilst discussions continue over its future.

A traveller family has moved onto Forty Acre Drove at Red Tile Farm. Action is to be taken to have them removed.

A considerable amount of fly-tipped debris is on Barston Drove – this will be removed shortly.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation; however non-budgeted costs of £666 for the cost of the Parish Council election and £145 for excess audit charges due to the tennis court construction costs being included in our year ending 2012 accounts means that for the current financial year a loss of £660 is forecast. This would leave the Parish Council with reserves of approximately £4,200 (48% of spend) which is a reasonably healthy situation.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No meetings have taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

5 (6) Parish Council Members

No meetings attended.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

Neville Dunnett will carry out the necessary repairs to the chicken.

5 (8) Rights of Way Report

A villager had complained about accessibility because of overhanging trees within the village. **The Clerk** and **Councillor Fielding** will review the problem and discuss the situation with the landowner, as necessary.

The issue of byways becoming rutted and not repaired was raised. Whilst this is the responsibility of the County Council, Councillor Fielding felt that in the current financial circumstances the villagers should help themselves by asking users of the byways to assist in the repairs. It was agreed that **Councillor Fielding** would take the responsibility for this activity.

5 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month. **The Clerk** was asked to check whether ex-Councillor King and ex-Councillor Platt would be prepared to carry on with their Speedwatch involvement.

5 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

Whilst it was a good Fair, takings and profitability were down on the previous year.

6. Land Availability – 24 acres on the Burwell Road

The National Trust, which hopes to buy this land, has identified, with villagers input, three main areas of community involvement (1) orchard, (2) horse ménage and (3) cricket/football pitches. In addition, the possibility of horticulture therapy will be considered plus the suggestion of some form of community wood to produce sustainable fuel. The National Trust continues to seek funding for purchasing the land – were they to be successful, it is expected that the village would need to seek funding for chosen projects. **The Clerk** was asked to arrange a review meeting with the National Trust on Monday 16th May at 7.30pm in the Village Centre.

7. Reach Village Garden Party

The Clerk confirmed that the total approximate cost of the Garden Party, including the food, drink, music and bunting was £1,025. Income from visitor donations was £395 so there was a net cost of £630. Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities very kindly provided £300 towards the event and the Amenity Fund will provide the remaining £330. The raffle was very successful raising £258 for the Amenity Fund. Grateful thanks go to Mandy and Sean Manchett for their generosity. The mugs have sold reasonable well, there are just 35 left.

8. Street Lighting Maintenance Decision

The County Council are in the process of concluding a street lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) with Balfour Beatty. This will come into operation on 1st July. The Parish Council decided to get Balfour Beatty to maintain the village-owned street lights and chose the more comprehensive option. **The Clerk** will inform the relevant person at the County Council.

9. Tree Pruning on the Playing Field

A villager has requested that a tree situated on the playing field that overhangs their property be cut back. The Clerk will seek three quotations for getting the work done and will also ask about any further work required on the horse chestnut tree on the Green and the work required to keep the byways clear (see item 5(8)).

10. Planning Applications

There were none for consideration.

11. Information Items

It was agreed that plans to refurbish the two village bus shelters be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Councillor Brearley raised the question of whether the use of sodium lights within the village should be resisted. This item will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

The Clerk will write to Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities to thank them for their generous donation to the village Garden Party.

16. Payments

100965	David Parr	Garden Party costs	£678.86
100966	Jo Mules	Garden Party costs	£23.96
100967	Clare Snaith	Garden Party costs	£46.16
100968	Helen Oliver	Garden Party costs	£179.86
100969	Karen Carpenter	Garden Party costs	£30.00
100970	CR Contracting	Mowing April	£173.00
100971	Playsafety	Playground Inspection	£86.40
100972	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing April	£134.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st June 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).

Chairman:

Date: