



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 1st June 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	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Part-time
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

None 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 Councillor's Report

Both before and after the Annual Council meeting where I was officially confirmed as Lead Member for Children and Young People, May has been dominated by meetings to allow me to get to grips with my new role. I have had numerous individual briefings with senior staff on my new responsibilities and I am relishing the challenge.

My first meeting of Cabinet was on May 24th, where I introduced two papers. The first regarded amendments to the current policy for home to school transport for those individuals with statements of Special Educational Needs and the second informed Cabinet of the results of an unannounced visit by OFSTED to the Children's Social Care assessment team.

With the new cabinet settling into our roles there has also been a number of informal cabinet meetings as well as more formal meetings of the cabinet with the senior management team as well as training events.

I also had the privilege of joining the Mayor of Cambridge's procession to distribute coins at Reach Fair.

### 4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Following May's election the Conservatives continue as the controlling group with an increased majority. The new Council Chairman is Tony Parramint from Soham with Richard Hobbs, an Ely member, as Vice

Chairman. The new Council Leader is Peter Moekes, from Sutton.

I have been asked to sit on the following committees - Licencing, Development and Transport and East Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee which also comprises County Councillors.

We shall continue with the weekly black sack collection. We also need to explore further opportunities to build affordable housing.

I will also be continuing as a District Council member of the South Area Neighbourhood Panel.

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

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation; however a non-budgeted cost of £666 for the Parish Council election means that for the current financial year a loss of £500 is forecast. This would leave the Parish Council with reserves of approximately £4,100 (42% of spend) which is a reasonably healthy situation.

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

No meetings have taken place since the last Parish Council meeting. The next meeting will be at the Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 7.00pm. **The Clerk** will try and ensure that Reach Parish Council is represented at the meeting.

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

No meetings attended.

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

No report provided.

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

No report provided. It was agreed that **the Clerk** would ask a resident to cut back hedges within the village.

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

There was no activity in the preceding month.

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

The Fair had produced reasonable profits.

### **5. Bus Shelter Refurbishment**

Previously it was agreed that **Shaun Mayes** and **Councillor Fielding** would refurbish the Ditchfield Bus Shelter. **Councillor Clark** offered to refurbish the Fair Green Bus Shelter and **Councillor Thomas** offered to assist.

### **6. Financial Account Review for Year Ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011**

The YE 2011 accounts were presented together with the Annual Return and these were approved by the Parish Council. Thanks go to Roger Smith who acted as internal auditor at no cost to the community.

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

The National Trust is in the process of buying this land and has identified, with villagers input, five main areas of community involvement (1) orchard, (2) horse ménage (3) coppice (4) horticulture therapy area and (5) Reach village cricket pitch. Further work is required on all the projects and those finally approved will not start until September 2012.

### **8. Localism – Discussions on Potential Village Plan**

A draft questionnaire produced by ECDC was discussed. Some changes were proposed and these will be communicated back to ECDC by **Allen Alderson**. It was agreed that at 7.00pm on the date of the next Parish Council meeting there should be a village meeting with villagers encouraged to come along to discuss the future of Reach. **The Clerk** will advertise this event via the website and on the noticeboards.

In addition, ECDC's Delegated Services Protocol was discussed. This initiative would result in the local community or Parish Council taking over some of the services provided by ECDC. **The Clerk** was asked to produce Expression of Interest forms for the three areas of (1) street lights maintenance, (2) grass verge cutting and (3) road sweeping.

#### **9. Playground Inspection Report**

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **10. Reach Fair Opening Ceremony**

A villager had suggested that the area where the Mayor's party stands during the opening ceremony, be improved so that people can get a better view of the occasion. This proposal had already been put to the Village Centre Committee who organise the event on behalf of the village.

#### **11. Speedwatch Activities Going Forward**

Helen Platt, Angela King and Hilary Fielding have agreed to carry on with this activity. **The Clerk** had identified other volunteers and will make contact with them to confirm that they would be prepared to assist. It was agreed that **the Clerk** would ask Helen Platt to act as Speedwatch Officer and would give her contact details for the new volunteers.

#### **12. Street Lighting – Should we use Sodium Lights?**

Councillor Brearley raised this issue and after some discussion it was agreed that he would act as Street Lights Officer and would make contact with the relevant people at the County Council. **The Clerk** will provide Councillor Brearley with the relevant contact details.

#### **13. Tree Pruning in the Village**

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 willow trees on the Hythe. **The Clerk** was also asked to get emergency work carried out on one of the willow trees on the Hythe.

#### **14. Village Cleanliness**

A villager had suggested that there should be an improvement in the cleanliness of the village. The Parish Council did not share this view and no actions were proposed.

#### **15. Planning Applications**

There were none for consideration.

#### **16. Information Items**

**The Clerk** will remind Veolia of the need to empty the waste bins located in the village. It was also noted that Jon Holmwood had volunteered to refurbish the village signpost and this was gratefully accepted.

#### **17. Payments**

100975	David Parr	Garden Party costs	£23.13
100976	CR Contracting	Mowing May	£131.00
100974	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing May	£67.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 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: