



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th July 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	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

1. Forum for Members of the Public

One member of the public attended and commented on various aspects of cleanliness in the village. It was agreed that some limited remedial action with regard to grass seeding would take place. **Councillor Clark** will monitor the level of mud on the roads within the village and will ask Highways to carry out remedial action as and when it is required.

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

The Amenity Fund has agreed to support the recent Sports Day up to a level of £260. **The Clerk** will raise a cheque for an amount up to this figure based on a receipted claim from the organiser of the event.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

June has largely been taken up with getting to grips with my new Portfolio as Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The wide range of issues and responsibilities has taken up considerable time in formal and informal briefing meetings as well as visits.

June has also seen the start of discussions for the budget proposals for 2012/13. This is in a very early stage and more details will follow as proposals are worked up.

Finally, the County Council has reached agreement over the sale of around 24 acres of County Farms land in Reach to the National Trust. The intention is for this land to be used by the people of Reach for a variety of community activities - the project is being managed by Reach Parish Council and the National Trust.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Following a recent unauthorised traveller's encampment at Forty Acre Drove, I discussed the problem with Jim Paice MP. He told me of future government actions that should be of help.

Firstly - the creation of new incentives for Councils to build authorised sites. Secondly - the establishment of an independent commission to investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act, which travellers have often been able to use in their favour.

After closing on July 31st the Newmarket Recycling Centre will re-open on August 22nd and be run by the local charity Open Door.

Following a review, there will be no change to the three polling stations used in the Swaffhams ward.

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 £300 is forecast although this may rise, dependent upon the amount of tree work the Parish Council undertakes. This would leave the Parish Council with reserves of approximately £4,200 (49% of spend) which is a reasonably healthy situation.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

None of the Parish Council was able to attend the recent meeting at the Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth. **The Clerk** will reply to an email from ECDC, explaining the Parish Council's policy regarding attendance at Neighbourhood Panel meetings.

4 (6) Parish Council Members

No meetings attended.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

The playground inspection report was discussed. It was agreed to focus on the four items where the risk was described as "medium". As regards securing the two 5 a side goals, it was decided that the risk was minimal and that the fact that they are moveable means that securing them would be impractical.

The Clerk will endeavour to secure the two larger goal posts on the playing field. **Councillor Dunnnett** will endeavour to organise remedial action regarding the splintered timber and the excessive corrosion of shackles on the Multiplay Junior.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

It was stated that a local supplier would be prepared to provide materials free of charge to be used to repair damaged rights of way. **Councillor Fielding** will be attending a meeting on July 21st at Wicken Fen designed to provide an opportunity to share information and ideas on how to manage and improve local paths with fellow volunteers and County Council staff.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month. Helen Platt will be contacting the three new volunteers and getting them trained during July so that activities can recommence in August. **The Clerk** will monitor progress and report back at the next meeting.

4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

No report provided.

5. Fly Tipping

Councillor Clark felt strongly about the lack of prosecutions for fly tipping. It was agreed that a letter produced by Councillor Clark, to be sent to Jim Paice MP, will be circulated to all Parish Councillors for consideration at a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

6. Land Availability – 24 acres on the Burwell Road

The National Trust has now completed the purchase of 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. A committee, made up of Councillors Brearley, Clark and Thomas plus Sarah Keutgen and Liz Tabecki was set up under the chairmanship of Councillor Thomas and with the Clerk as secretary. The Clerk stated that Emma Mitchell had volunteered to assist in this project.

7. Localism – Delegated Service

The Parish Council had proposed four items which either ECDC or CCC might delegate to Reach Parish Council. Responses from ECDC and CCC will be monitored by **the Clerk** for discussion at a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

8. Playground Inspection Report

This item was discussed under item 4 (7)

9. Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Events 2012

The dates for the celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June. The Parish Council felt that the occasion should be celebrated and a committee should be set up in due course to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s).

10. Reach Parish Council as an Employer

The government has recently announced that from 1st April 2011 Parish Council Clerks must be employed by the Parish Council as opposed to being self-employed. The Clerk has therefore registered the Parish Council for PAYE (the pay is below the National Insurance threshold). This change is cost neutral. It was agreed that **the Clerk** would produce a draft Contract of Employment for consideration by the Parish Council in due course.

11. Street Lighting

Reach’s street lights will in future be maintained by Balfour Beatty and a project is underway to replace about 80% of the street lighting in Cambridgeshire over the next five years. The Parish Council will be asked to make decisions on various elements of the village lighting when a further letter from CCC arrives with information on costs. **The Clerk** was asked to write to the owner of a tree which is obscuring the street light on the corner of Chapel Lane and Fair Green.

12. Tree Works in the Village

A villager has requested that a tree situated on the playing field that overhangs their property be cut back. The Clerk has sought three quotations for getting the work done and has also asked about any further work required on the horse chestnut tree on the Green and the willow trees on the Hythe. Upon receipt of the three quotations **the Clerk** will circulate the information for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

13. Planning Applications

The Parish Council had no comments to make on planning application 11/00463/FUL for the installation of 16 solar panels at White Roses.

14. Information Items

Councillor Clark stated that a villager had suggested that the cricket net surface should be replaced with concrete covered by matting (the current surface was felt to be uneven and potentially dangerous). It was agreed that this item should be further discussed at a subsequent meeting when **Councillor Clark** has investigated costs.

15. Payments

100977	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing June	£134.00
100978	John Holmwood	Village signpost paint costs	£25.98
100979	ECDC	Election costs	£686.70
100980	Gardenworks	Emergency tree works	£300.00
100981	CR Contracting	Mowing June	£173.00
100982	Hilary Fielding	Preservative for bus shelters	£15.70

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd August 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: