



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd August 2011

### Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Not 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

Chairman Ross Clark was unable to attend the meeting so it was chaired by Vice Chairman Michael Aves.

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

One member of the public attended to assist the Parish Council on its deliberations regarding item 8.

### 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 report provided.

### 4 (2) County Councillor's Report

At the full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July three policy papers, Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, a new Flexible Retirement Policy and moving IT and Facilities Management into LGSS were agreed.

There was a lengthy debate regarding the financial problems surrounding Southern Cross Care Homes and Council is carefully reviewing the position regarding care providers in the County.

At Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> July we agreed to purchase land on the site of the Shirley Primary School in Cambridge and to retain the site of an old school in Cambridge for potential future use as a school. We also agreed to move forward with the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Initiative and agreed to start 3 pathfinder projects to test different models for providing transport in the County.

As Cabinet member I took part in a stakeholder workshop considering how Cambridgeshire should develop a Health and Wellbeing Board in the run up to the County Council taking on responsibility for public health in 2013.

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

[Information provided on the Newmarket Recycling Centre has been updated with the agreement of Councillor Alderson based on current circumstances].

Newmarket Recycling Centre reopens on August 25<sup>th</sup> – run by Newmarket Open Door. It is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm seven days a week. There will be no charge if people bring along recyclable materials such as metal, cardboard, paper, glass etc. Non-recyclable materials and mixed loads will be charged for at £3 to £12, dependent upon the size of the vehicle. Used engine oil will no longer be accepted.

As regards waste, recycling and street cleaning services, the present contract with Veolia is from April 2008 to the end of March 2015. A working party has been set up to look at future options and cost savings.

The County Council has identified the Ely Rail Crossing Project as one of its key transport priorities and is leading the way to developing a funding package

As regards the Village Vision, the timescales for the overall Core Strategy Review are as follows:

June-Sept 2011 Village/Town Vision consultation on the priorities and needs of local communities and potential options for change/growth.

Feb/March 2012 Consultation on strategic district-wide matters, for example overall housing numbers, employment strategy, gypsy matters, strategic infrastructure etc.

April/May 2012 Consultation on draft Core Strategy which will include draft Village/Town visions along with draft strategic and development control policies

July 2012 Submit Core Strategy to Government

Autumn 2012 Examination by independent inspector

Late 2012 Adoption by ECDC

#### **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 and a further extra treeworks spend commitment means that for the current financial year a loss of around £1,100 is forecast. This would leave the Parish Council with reserves of approximately £3,400.

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> at Bottisham Village College, starting at 7.00pm. **The Clerk** will try and get at least one of the Parish Councillors to go along to represent Reach.

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

No meetings attended.

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

The playground remains in a satisfactory condition with some small remedial work still to be completed.

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

The Parish Council was told that an EC grant of £175,000 has been won by CCC, to be used for footpath improvements over the coming 3 years in the Fenland and East Cambs areas. Some of the money will be spent on updating and printing a new leaflet on all the walks available with the aim being to improve the level of tourism income by emphasising the local villages' attractions as well as the walks themselves.

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

There was no activity in the preceding month however training of the two new volunteers did take place successfully.

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

It was reported that at the poorly-attend AGM Jan Tabecki was elected as Chairman with Andrew Towers becoming Vice-Chairman.

## 5. Empowering Local Councils

The Parish Council (and all other UK councils) had been approached by Leighton-cum-Sizewell Town Council. They were asking for support regarding a proposal that would empower local councils by seeking new planning guidance to major developers urging them as a matter of planning procedure to (i) attend a council meeting to answer questions about their planning application if the council wishes and (ii) provide resources (if councils wish) to enable councils to assess their applications – which may be over 1,000 pages long – based on a professional critique of their evidence. The Parish Council agreed with this proposal and **the Clerk** will communicate this to Leighton-cum-Sizewell Town Council.

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

The National Trust now owns this land and has identified, with villagers input, five main areas of community involvement (1) orchard, (2) horse ménage (3) coppice (4) horticulture therapy and (5) Reach village cricket pitch. Further work is required on all the projects and those finally approved will not be in place until September 2012 at the earliest. Councillor Thomas, Chairman of the 24Acres committee, reported on a meeting with the National Trust on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August when a Village Event was planned for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, from midday to 2.00pm on the 24acres. Each of the projects will be visually displayed plus information on access and infrastructure and the opinions of the villagers on each of them will be sought.

## 7. Localism – Delegated Service

The Parish Council had proposed four items which either ECDC or CCC might delegate to Reach Parish Council. Following information received from ECDC it is clear that there would be no savings for the Parish in pursuing any of these any further. **The Clerk** was, however, asked to communicate to ECDC the Parish Council's concerns regarding the excessive cost of the recent Parish Council election.

## 8. Treeworks 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. Three quotations were received and following discussions a preferred supplier was identified. **The Clerk** will work with the preferred supplier to get the work carried out at an acceptable cost.

## 9. Planning Applications

There were none.

## 10. Information Items

The Parish Council confirmed that all requests for the erection of headstones or inscription changes within the cemetery should be referred to Parish Councillors for their approval.

**The Clerk** confirmed that it is still his intention to add a water butt facility within the cemetery.

## 11. Payments

100985	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing July	£67.00
100986	E.ON	Electricity cost YE 2011	£331.28
100987	David Parr	General Expenses	£79.23

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th September 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: