



**Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on;
Wednesday 7th September 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

Grahame Radford attended to deliver the YE 31st May 2011 accounts for the Village Centre. He provided an overview of the numbers and answered questions to the satisfaction of the Parish Council.

2. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Clark declared an interest in item 7.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No applications for funding or payments were made in the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

August has felt to be a really positive month - it started with an early Sunday morning to go to St Ives and catch the first bus to Cambridge. The Guided Bus is up and running and talking to people in Burwell and surrounding villages it is a great asset to the county. There were nearly 56,000 trips in the first week and the bus operators put on extra buses to cope - which is good news. Many local people have used it to visit St Ives and businesses there are reporting an increase in trade.

The Cabinet met to consider an ambitious plan to invest in Superfast Broadband across the County. We agreed that this is one of the keys to enabling businesses to flourish in Cambridgeshire: to attract inward investment, safeguard existing jobs and encourage further employment opportunities. We are now talking with a number of potential providers and have secured over £6 million from Central Government.

Plans for re-shaping family and children's social work have also been coming together in August. Following considerable consultation with families and staff the future shape of the service is being put in place, which will give a better service to those in need, whilst also delivering the best value for taxpayers.

The first meeting of the Burwell Masterplan Working Party, on which I represent the County Council, took place. It was a lively meeting and clearly showed how much people care about the village.

There have also been a number of other issues to address, ranging from the potential impact of any increase of business at Cambridge airport, to timeliness of the awarding of student transport allowances, the conduct of the sale of County Farms land at Reach, the quarterly performance reports for our Children's homes and the ownership position of Burwell Swimming Pool.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

There is a proposal to build 3,000 houses to the north of Ely by 2031.

Grunty Fen waste site is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm seven days a week and using it is free. The new recycling centre at Witchford will open from 4th November.

The tyres fly-tipped at Headlake Drove and the conifers at Barston Drove will be cleared shortly.

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 £1,000 is forecast. This would leave the Parish Council with total reserves, including that set aside for maintenance of the tennis court, of approximately £4,300.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday October 5th at Bottisham Village College, starting at 7.00pm. **The Clerk** was asked to let the organisers know that no Parish Councillor will be able to attend since it clashes with the October Parish Council meeting.

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. **The Clerk** will provide Councillor Dunnnett with the inspection report.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

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 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. Both Reach Parish Council and Burwell Parish Council have been critical over a number of aspects of this project, especially the lack of community involvement. Kate Day of CCC is arranging a meeting between representatives of Burwell, Reach and Swaffham Prior Parish Councils to review the project. **The Clerk** will provide documents to Councillor Aves who hopes to be able to attend and also forward email correspondence to County Councillor Brown.

Councillor Clark pointed out that the recently distributed Definitive Map had an error (all footpaths were missing from it). **Councillor Clark** has a copy of the correct map and will distribute this to Councillors.

4 (9) Speedwatch

One check was made in the village in the previous month. 37 vehicles were checked with just one being excessive at 37mph.

4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

No report provided since no meeting in August.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

Councillor Thomas described the current status of the total project, highlighting the Celebration Picnic.

5. YE 2011 Annual Return External Audit

This item was deferred until the next meeting since the report has not yet been received from the auditors.

6. Clerk's Annual Review

The Parish Council were happy with the performance of the Clerk. As per all public service workers, there would be no pay review this year.

7. Cricket Net Surface Improvement

A villager had suggested that the cricket net surface should be replaced with concrete covered by matting. It was agreed that since a cricket pitch/meadow is one of the proposed projects for the 24Acres, the current cricket net on the playing field should be improved by rolling with the net being transferred to the 24Acres in due course.

8. Fly Tipping

A letter composed by Councillor Clark was discussed and it was agreed that it should be sent by **the Clerk** to James Paice MP. It expresses the Parish Council's concern regarding ECDC's lack of effectiveness in deterring or prosecuting offenders, especially where the offences takes place on private land.

9. Localism

The Parish Council had proposed four items which either ECDC or CCC might delegate to Reach Parish Council. Following information received from ECDC it was clear that there would be no savings for the Parish in pursuing any of these any further. The Parish Council's concerns regarding the excessive cost of the recent Parish Council election were conveyed to ECDC and a response received from John Hill, Chief Executive. Following discussion, **the Clerk** was asked to reply to John Hill and take him up on his offer to review the allocation of fees and charges for elections.

Councillor Clark highlighted the implications of the new Localism Bill and will produce a précis of this at a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

10. Oil Thefts

There have been a number of occurrences recently and Ian Hawkins, our local PCSO, has provided some advice on how to combat such thieves. This information has been put up on the village website and where properties do not have access to the internet, a leaflet has been delivered. A suggestion by a villager that a surveillance camera should be installed in the village was discussed and rejected, following advice from PCSO Hawkins.

11. Power Cuts

These have become more frequent over recent times and the Parish Council considered a response from UK Power Networks regarding this issue. **The Clerk** was asked to respond saying that the Parish Council would continue to monitor the situation and report back to UK Power Networks as necessary.

12. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The dates for the celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June. The Parish Council had previously decided that the occasion should be celebrated and a committee should be set up in early 2012 to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s). As part of this celebration, the opportunity to acquire a new tree to be planted on the Village Green was discussed. The current horse chestnut has a lifetime of some 5 to 15 years and it was felt that the village needs to be prepared for this eventuality. **Councillor Clark** will write a piece on this subject in the October issue of Within Reach and all villagers will be asked to provide their views on the subject.

13. Treeworks in the Village

This has now been completed – other than the aeration of the tree roots of the horse chestnut on the Village Green.

14. Planning Applications

A recent request for a memorial to be erected in the cemetery was retrospectively approved.

15. Information Items

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that a new street lights contract had been signed, as minuted, with Balfour Beattie.

11. Payments

100989	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing Aug	£134.00
100988	CR Contracting	Mowing July/Aug	£282.50
100990	British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£17.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th October 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: