



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th October 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	Not Present

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

One member of the public attended and contributed to discussions on the proposed ménage facility within the 24Acres Project - see item 4 (12).

### 2. Declarations of Interest

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 applications for funding or payments were made in the previous month.

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

The County Council Cabinet met twice in September. At the first meeting, as well as the budget monitoring report which is considered at every cabinet meeting, we took decisions regarding the establishment of the shadow health and well-being Board and also, in light of widespread public opposition, a decision that we would not proceed with any development of windfarms on land owned by the County Council.

At the second meeting, we considered a number of agenda items including a proposed new library service, the road safety strategy, establishing an approved trader scheme through our Trading Standards department, responses to various planning consultation documents and proposals to build a new Pupil Referral Unit in Wisbech.

Following criticism of changes to signage on local rights of way, I attended a meeting involving Burwell, Reach and Swaffham Prior Parish Councils with officers from the County and District Councils.

A meeting is being arranged to consider car parking issues at the playing ground in Swaffham Bulbeck.

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

There has been an increase in fly tipping recently – clearance has been hindered by the non-availability of Veolia's grab vehicle.

Newmarket Recycling Centre is now open – and is accepting fridges and freezers, for which there is a charge.

The new contract for waste collection and cleaning services starting April 2015 was discussed. Of the 325 collection authorities, ECDC sits at number 198 with a recycling rate of 37%.

It is expected to complete 97 social housings in 2011/12 of which 50 will be for rent and 47 shared ownership – plus 20 to 40 units of additional affordable housing under the “Firstbuy” scheme.

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

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation; however a non-budgeted cost of for the Parish Council election and extra treeworks means that for the current financial year a loss of around £850 is forecast. This would leave the Parish Council with total reserves, including that set aside for maintenance of the tennis court, of approximately £4,600.

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

No meetings have taken place during the last month.

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

Councillor Aves, together with representatives of Burwell and Swaffham Prior Parish Councils, attended a meeting with the Rights of Way team to discuss the “Earthworks Way” project and voice the Parish Council’s concerns regarding how this was implemented with no involvement of the local community. The proposed route, which sends walkers down the dangerous Burwell Road will be reviewed and the new leaflet will be circulated to Parish Council’s prior to printing.

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

The playground remains in a satisfactory condition. **The Clerk** was asked to purchase and install goal anchors for the large goals on the playing field.

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

It was noted that trenches have been dug at both ends of Black Drove. **Councillor Fielding** will discuss this action with the Rights of Way team.

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

There was no activity in the previous month.

#### **4 (10) Tennis Committee**

The tennis court continues to be well-used with the coaching being very successful and providing good revenue for the tennis court maintenance fund which, if all goes to plan, will stand at approximately £900 by the end of this financial year. A proposal, recently put to the tennis committee, to extend useage of the court to a restricted number of non-Reach residents was rejected. The tennis championships finals will take place later in October once all finalists have been identified.

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

Preparations continue for Reach Fair 2012.

#### **4 (12) 24Acres Committee Report**

Councillor Thomas described the current status of the total project, highlighting the recent full Project Team meeting. The Parish Council approved the contents of the Working Document V4 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011, including all of the currently identified and proposed projects within it. This document is updated regularly and the latest version can be downloaded from the village website at [www.reach-village.co.uk/24Acres\\_Project.html](http://www.reach-village.co.uk/24Acres_Project.html). **The Clerk** was asked to set up a meeting with the two closest residents to the 24Acres on the Burwell Road in order to allay any fears they might have.

### **5. YE 2011 Annual Return External Audit**

This had been approved by the external auditor – who did, however, raise issues regarding the Parish Council’s lack of specific financial regulations and an asset register. **The Clerk** was asked to produce these items in readiness for the next audit in April 2012.

### **6. Cemetery Terms and Conditions**

It was agreed that **the Clerk** will raise these by 10%, rounded up to the nearest £5. Further increases above inflation are anticipated over future years with a view to significantly narrowing the gap between cemetery income and costs.

## 7. Election Expenses Update

The Parish Council questioned what it believed were exceptionally high election costs and was pleased to hear that a rebate of £40 has been received.

## 8. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The dates for the celebrations are from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The Parish Council had previously decided that the occasion should be celebrated and **the Clerk** was asked to set up a committee to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s) subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

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** wrote a piece on this subject in the October issue of Within Reach and all villagers have been asked to provide their views on the subject.

## 9. Planning Applications

Planning application 11/00887/FUL was approved without a visit by Parish Councillors since it is simply a request to extend the previously approved planning permission. Planning application 11/00818/FUL will be visited by Parish Councillors and **the Clerk** will pass on any comments.

## 10. Information Items

An ancient market sign stone base exists in the hedgerows of the village. The Parish Council felt that it should be rescued from its current position, righted and then located in a position of prominence within the village, together with a notice stating the history of it. Prior to this, **Councillor Brearley** will ensure that such a course of action is permissible.

The Clerk pointed out that a water butt is now available within the cemetery.

The Clerk has spoken to residents neighbouring the cemetery with a view to them repairing their fencing so that their animals cannot easily access the cemetery.

The picnic table on the Hythe has rotted and is now a danger. **The Clerk** was asked to remove it and look at the cost of replacement.

**The Clerk** was asked to look at whether the Parish Council has legal cover which might be used to remove unwanted occupation of our green areas within the village.

## 11. Payments

100993	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing Sept	£67.00
100994	CR Contracting	Mowing Sept	£131.00
100991	Moore Stephens	Annual Audit YE 2011	£379.80
100992	Balfour Beatty	Street Lighting	£312.78
100995	DMParr	Clerk's Pay April-Sept	£1,178.00
100996	DMParr	Clerk's Expenses	£139.30
100997	ACRE	Insurance	£754.23

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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: