



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd November 2011

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Not Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Not Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

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

Full Council met on 18th October, for what turned out to be a long meeting. One of the most contentious issues was a report from the independent remuneration panel which recommended a 25% increase in allowances for councillors, amongst other recommendations. Subsequently, the County Council Standards Committee decided that the process for selection of the independent remuneration panel was fatally flawed and the report has been rejected. At this stage, it is not possible to comment on what would happen next on this issue.

The meeting also received annual reports from the pensions and audit committees. We debated seven motions in total on a diverse range of issues including the guided bus, highways maintenance, libraries and support for the armed forces.

Cabinet and the Senior Management Team met twice, once to prepare for the cabinet meeting and the second in a workshop to develop ideas for the next Integrated Plan.

Following the untimely death of Rod Craig, Executive Director for Community and Adult Service (CAS), we have asked Adrian Loades to oversee CYPS and Adult Social Care, whilst restructuring other parts of CAS. This will mean operating with one less Executive Director for 6 months as a trial to see how the organisation manages.

In conjunction with the District Council the County Council is involved in the Ely Crossing Consultation.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Weekend use of the Newmarket Recycling Centre is good but weekday use is a lot lighter.

CCC is running a pre-planning public consultation on the Ely Crossing Consultation. The Parish Council considered the various identified options and **the Clerk** was asked to input that either of options B or D was preferred.

The results of the Village Vision Consultation have been released with the majority of people preferring small scale growth.

There is an unauthorised Traveller's encampment behind Swann Lake Barns. The Travellers have informed the authorities that they will be moving on in the very near future.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that whilst there will be a loss for this financial year of approximately £200, this will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,400 which is 53% of normal non-tennis court maintenance spend of 53%.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

The playground remains in a satisfactory condition. **The Clerk** has ordered and will install goal anchors for the large goals on the playing field. **The Clerk** will also cut off a tree branch overhanging the playground.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

The Clerk was asked to let the Rights of Way Team know that the Parish Council approves the signage changes proposed as regards the village of Reach.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. **The Clerk** was asked to work with Helen Platt, Speedwatch Leader, to encourage further volunteers so that monthly activities take place and are planned forward for at least the subsequent three months.

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 £850 by the end of the financial year.

4 (11) Village Centre Committee Report

Preparations continue for Reach Fair 2012.

4 (12) 24Acres Committee Report

Councillor Brearley described the current status of the project. Good progress is being made with the focus being on agreeing a lease with the National Trust, getting assistance to establish the layout of the area and fundraising. The NT would like to hold a small celebration in the village with the national charitable trust which gifted the money to purchase the land in celebration of their 50th anniversary of grant giving. **The Clerk** was asked to let the NT know that the Parish Council is very supportive of such an event especially when the layout and lease agreement have been agreed.

5. Cemetery Fencing

The Parish Council had received a number of complaints of flowers laid on graves in the cemetery being damaged. The owners of the property adjoining the cemetery on the right hand side had been approached by the Clerk and agreed that they would do what they could to minimise the intrusion by their wildlife into the cemetery.

6. Planning Reforms (proposed by Government)

This was deferred until a subsequent meeting when the District Councillor is in attendance.

7. Precept YE 2013

The Parish Council agreed a budget for YE 2013 which maintains the precept at the YE 2011 and YE 2012 level of £7,150.

8. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The dates for the celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June 2012. The Parish Council had previously decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place under the leadership of Jo Mules 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. The Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to plant a new tree which would take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. The Parish Council identified two possible locations and **the Clerk** was asked to put two signs in place and seek the villager's opinions. In addition, villagers will be asked for their opinions on which variety of tree should be chosen

A suggestion from a villager that an avenue of 60 trees should be planted on the Swaffham Prior road on its approach to Reach was supported by the Parish Council. **The Clerk** will ask the villager to further investigate the opportunity with Highways to check that it is possible and to report back at a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

9. Village Vision Survey Result

25 people responded to ECDC which was seen to be a good response rate of 18% in terms of dwellings. From these results ECDC concluded that there is little community support for new development and that on this basis there would be no need to identify new development sites or expand the development envelope. **The Clerk** will let ECDC know that the Parish Council is in agreement with this conclusion.

10. Planning Applications

Other than two minor observations, the Parish Council had no comment on planning application 11/00819/LBC for work to be carried out at the Manor House, Chapel Lane.

11. Information Items

The state of the Hythe moorings was briefly discussed and it was agreed to add it to the agenda for the next meeting once **the Clerk** had circulated information on the agreement with GOBA.

The Parish Council discussed the current petition to Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the 25% rise in allowances voted for themselves by County Councillors. It was agreed that **the Chairman** would draft a letter expressing the Parish Council's disapproval of this action.

12. Payments

100998	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing Oct	£67.00
101001	CR Contracting	Mowing Oct	£78.50
100999	Gardenworks	Treeworks	£750.00
101000	CCC	Street Lighting Apr-Jun 2011	£61.49

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th December 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: