



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th March 2012

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Not 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	Part-time
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 payments were made during the previous month however a £500 contribution to a farm vehicle for Snakehall Farm and an up to £1,000 grant for the Diamond Jubilee Garden Party have been agreed.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

The Integrated Plan for the next 4 years was the main item discussed at Full Council in February. Following a 5 hour debate the proposed plan was passed by a majority vote. The plan, including the programme for capital investment will come into effect from April 2012.

For the villages in Burwell Ward this means our council tax for 2012/13 for a Band D property will be:

Burwell	£1,498.35
Reach	£1,501.23
Swaffham Bulbeck	£1,496.28
Swaffham Prior	£1,493.67

The Burwell Masterplan Working Party agreed the latest document for public consultation. After much discussion with public and members five options were put forward for comments in this stage of the project.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

In Cambridgeshire in 2009 there were around 95,500 people aged 65 and over (almost 16% of residents) and this is forecast to rise steadily. Cambridgeshire County Council together with District and City Councils are committed to work together to address issues faced by an ageing society.

East Cambs Local Plan will set out the strategy for the development of the District up to 2031. There will be two key parts - firstly the strategic vision and policies and secondly village and town visions which will set out how each settlement will change/improve over the next 20 years, including the identification of sites for housing, employment and infrastructure.

No agreement was reached on the pay for car parking scheme for Ely. An amendment was carried to further analyse the details and bring the proposal to a future meeting.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that it will break-even this financial year. This will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,600.

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

New springs for the repaired gate have been fitted by Neville Dunnett. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance cover for the Rocking Rooster was insufficient to cover the cost of total replacement. Instead, it was agreed that the item will be repaired – such repair to be organised by **the Clerk**. It was also agreed that **the Clerk** would conduct a review of the level of total insurance per item to check that our cover is optimised.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

It was reported that local droves continue to be rutted. The Parish Council decided to take no action over this at this stage.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. One further volunteer has come forward making a total of four active members (two of who need training) plus one other member (trained) who would be available infrequently. **The Clerk** will organise training and it is hoped to conduct Speedwatch activity later this month.

4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

The committee is very much focused on Reach Fair 2012.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

A draft lease has been received by the Parish Council and following negotiations a further draft will be provided by the NT. All is looking very positive at this time and the acquisition of funding is now underway.

5. Hythe Flooding Issue

Two residents on the Hythe had been having problems related to the Anglian Water Sewage Works. Over recent times work has been taking place to repair the fault and it is expected that this will be completed by the weekend of the 10th/11th March 2012.

6. Hythe Mooring Policy

The Parish Council had agreed that there should be a charge to moor non-GOBA boats and the Clerk had constructed a draft agreement based on a British Waterways template. This was discussed and councillors will continue to consider its contents with a final decision being made at a subsequent meeting.

7. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

The dates for the countrywide celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June 2012. The Parish Council decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place. The planned event will take place on Monday 4th June starting at 2.00pm and finishing at around 7.00pm. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided with the aim being to fund the event by various grants – including one from the Amenity fund.

As part of this celebration, the Parish Council will take the opportunity to plant a new tree on the Fair Green which would take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. It was decided to position it on the top green between the current tree and the road that divides the greens. At January's Parish Council meeting it had been decided to plant a Red Chestnut in October 2012 - however, due to concerns regarding the potential for disease and following advice from Barcham this decision was changed to a Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*). The Clerk was also able to report that Within Reach magazine will be prepared to cover the costs of procuring and planting the new tree.

In addition, an avenue of 60 lime trees will be planted on the Swaffham Prior road on its approach to Reach. Nick Acklam, who suggested this project and **the Clerk** are working together to make it happen. Planting will take place in October 2012.

8. Street Lighting Upgrade Review

The street lighting PFI between the County Council and Balfour Beatty has been in place now for six months. However, whilst entering into the contract to upgrade the old County Council owned street lighting columns, the street lighting budget was reduced resulting in the decision being made that three columns in Reach will not be replaced.

Since the plan states that Reach will not be affected until 2015 it was felt appropriate to wait until closer to the time before making decisions regarding the number and style of our street lights. The Clerk has communicated the Parish Council's concerns to the Head of Transport Asset Management.

9. Vandalism on the Playing Field

As noted in 4 (7) it was agreed that the Rocking Rooster will be repaired rather than replaced.

10. Planning Applications

There were none for consideration.

11. Information Items

The Parish Council had submitted two Local Minor Highway Improvements but due to the large number received, the County Council decided that only one would be considered. The Parish Council decided that the Great Lane – Fair Green bend proposal should take priority.

The Clerk was asked to contact Anglian Water to get further information on the plans for the Reach Sewage Works.

The mowing contract for the village was discussed and CR Contracting was selected from the four tenders responses received.

12. Payments

There were none.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th April 2012 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: