



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4th April 2012

### 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	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

Councillor Dunnett declared an interest in planning application 12/00209/LBC

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

### 4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No payments or applications for funding were made during the previous month however funds of £108.44 were transferred in from the Sport Club which has been wound up.

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

For the first time Cabinet met in Wisbech on 6th March. To make best use of time Cabinet Members had a full day, starting with a breakfast meeting with local business leaders. Following the formal Cabinet meeting, we then met with civic leaders over lunch and that was followed by a number of visits to witness activities including a Children's Centre and the Children's Social Care Team. The experiment was successful and it is intended to hold some future Cabinet meetings outside Cambridge. Cabinet also met with NHS Cambridgeshire Directors to discuss issues of common interest.

Full Council met on 27<sup>th</sup> March. A number of motions were debated and agreed including motions supporting safer cycling across the County and the need for the County Council to work with others to take action regarding the drought conditions. Council also saw a debate on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel into members' allowances, which recommended no increase to current allowances. This was agreed virtually unanimously.

The South Neighbourhood Panel met in Kirtling. Presentations were received regarding East Cambs District Council consultation on a tenancy strategy, the potential role of Community Land Trusts, metal thefts and traffic management issues. The next Neighbourhood Panel will take place in Stetchworth on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

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

Alterations to the reception area at the Grange should be completed by May 18<sup>th</sup>. The facility will be shared with Sanctuary Hereward.

A recent survey has named East Cambs as having the best quality of life of any rural area in the UK.

Cable thefts are becoming an issue. BT are in the process of setting up a system which notifies a central point immediately a cable is cut.

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

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that it will have a small surplus this financial year. This will leave the Parish Council with total reserves of approximately £5,300.

#### **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 Clerk reported that Racquet Master are unable to pay their sponsorship money of £250 for the tennis court since they have gone into liquidation. Councillor Dunnnett stated that a tidy up of the Play Area was needed. **The Clerk** has yet to complete repairs to the rocking rooster.

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

There was nothing to report.

#### **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 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 approved by councillors. **The Clerk** will add this to the village website.

### **6. Parish and Parish Council Meetings in May**

It was agreed that the Parish Council meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> be brought forward to 7.00pm to be followed by the Parish Meeting at 8.00pm.

### **7. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012**

The dates for the countrywide celebrations are from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Parish Council decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place. The planned Garden Party will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*) on the Fair Green which will 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 green. The Clerk confirmed that Within Reach magazine will 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. Railway Bridge on the Swaffham Road**

A villager had reported a sinking of the middle of the bridge and a report from the County Council Structures Engineer gave various remedial options. **The Clerk** was asked to let the County Council know that the Parish Council favoured monitoring the problem over time rather than taking any immediate action.

#### **9. Sewage Works Plans Update**

A new European Directive requires further sewage monitoring and Anglian Water have decided that pumping the wastewater from the current works in Reach to the larger site in Burwell is the most efficient and sustainable way to proceed. Work will start in June 2012 and will be completed in a 5/6 week period. Whilst the sewage works at Reach will be closed Anglian Water still requires the site. **The Clerk** will ask a spokesman for Anglian Water to come along to a subsequent meeting to provide further details of what the site will eventually look like visually and what we can expect during the construction period.

#### **10. Trees on the Burwell Road**

A villager had expressed concerns regarding some trees on the Burwell Road which might prove a danger to houses and residents if they are not pruned. The trees are owned by Hereward Housing and **the Clerk** was asked to get in touch with them expressing the villager's concerns and also asking what intentions they have for the land and asking them to tidy up the verge.

#### **11. Planning Applications**

Planning applications 12/00140/FUL and 12/00209/LBC were discussed and there were no objections.

#### **12. Information Items**

There have been intrusions by geese into the cemetery and **the Clerk** was asked to write to their owners to ask them to take steps to ensure that their animals are contained.

**The Clerk** was also asked to look into the ownership of the landing stage on the eastern side of the Hythe. It is in a state of disrepair and action is needed.

Two representatives of the village plus a third and fourth option were identified to attend Burghley House in June when the Queen will be visiting to commemorate her Diamond Jubilee. **The Clerk** will arrange the necessary paperwork.

#### **12. Payments**

The Active Group	Security Light for Playing Field	£15.00
CAPALC	Subscription for YE 2013	£118.50
CR Contracting	Mowing March 2012	£109.50
Suffolk ACRE	Insurance YE 2013	£754.23
DMParr	Clerk's Pay Q4 YE 2012	£589.00
DMParr	General Expenses	£33.12
D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing March 2012	£67.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd May 2012 at 7.00pm. 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: