



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th June 2012

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	Not Present

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, of a previous request for £2,000 of funding for the 24Acres project, £1,750 has been approved. The Amenity Fund Committee has asked for further information to be provided before making a decision on the remaining £250.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 15 May. This was the annual meeting and Cllr John Powley was re-elected as Chairman of the County Council with Cllr Kevin Reynolds as Vice-Chairman.

Cabinet met on 22 June. Following three petitions the main item for debate was the County Council Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy which received unanimous approval.

Publication of the County Council's adoption performance statistics caused some interest.

Work has started on business planning for 2013/14.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

No report was provided on the day – the following was received subsequently.

Twelve Councillors attended an all day trip to Cambourne, St Neots and Northampton to look at new housing developments. ECDC will soon be undertaking a development of eight hundred houses to the north of Ely – the first phase of a larger development.

The Fair Green sign will be repaired shortly by ECDC.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and expects to increase its reserves during the current financial year.

The YE 2012 accounts and Annual Return were approved by the Parish Council and duly signed by the Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer) and the Chairman.

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 annual external safety check took place and the report discussed. There are no major items of concern. **The Clerk** has yet to complete repairs to the rocking rooster.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

There was no report.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. Four further volunteer have come forward and two have been trained making a total of four active members (with two further to be trained shortly). The Clerk has asked Grahame Radford to become Speedwatch Officer and he has agreed to do so, subject to there being no other volunteers.

4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

No report provided.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

The lease has now been signed and fund-raising activities continue.

5. Peacock Problem

A villager had complained about the destructive, messy and noisy activities of peafowl in the village. The Parish Council asked **the Clerk** to write to the two owners of peafowl reminding them of their responsibilities and offering suggestions whereby the peafowl can be kept under better control.

6. Reach Plantation Support

County Farms requested the Parish Council's support in carrying out woodland improvement works at Reach Plantation. **The Clerk** was asked to find out where Reach Plantation is and if the area is non-controversial, give the Parish Council's support to the work.

7. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

The village Garden Party took place on the 4th and was very well received by Reach villagers and their guests. The Clerk suggested that the Amenity Fund would be initially asked to provide £700 towards the event with sales of further tea towels ultimately reducing this down to £400.

As part of this celebration, the Parish Council will take the opportunity in October/November to plant a Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*) on the Fair Green which will take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. 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 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. 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** has asked 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.

9. Tree Officer Position

It was decided that the village did not need a pro-active Tree Officer but would rely on reactive support from a number of villagers, including previous Tree Officer, John Reed.

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 Sanctuary Housing and **the Clerk** has been 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. **Councillor Alderson** has spoken to Highways regarding their responsibilities and will report back to the Clerk on their response.

Natalie Osborne, Housing Officer at Sanctuary Housing will review the site on the 12th June and respond to the Parish Council after that.

11. Planning Applications

There were none.

12. Information Items

A non-Reach resident had asked to moor their narrow boat (45 feet) on the Hythe. The Parish Council felt that due to the size of the boat and the fact that it was a non-Reach resident, that they could not approve this application.

A resident had complained about the track next to Ditchfield being difficult to navigate due to residents putting obstructions outside their properties. The Parish Council reviewed the situation and felt that the track was properly navigable, with care - and that no action should be taken at this time.

13. Payments

Playsafety	Playground Inspection	£86.40
D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing May 2012	£134.00
C R Contracting	Mowing April 2012	£145.00
C R Contracting	Mowing May 2012	£265.00
Anglia Gifts	Garden Party Tea Towels	£708.00

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