



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 1st August 2012

### Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Not Present
Malcolm Brearley	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Councillor	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Not 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 Meeting

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

### 4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The Amenity Fund has £4,273.61 in its bank account. It had been agreed to support the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Party to a maximum level of £1,000 but in fact only £387.20 will be needed. Now that the 24Acres lease is in place, the Amenity Fund Committee has agreed to funding of £1,750 towards the venture with the possibility of another £250 towards the Observatory, subject to further information being provided. Reach Fair was somewhat disappointing due to the poor weather but did provide income to the fund of £849.10. It is expected that £300 or so will be needed for our Olympic Sports Day. Taking all of the above into account, this leaves the Amenity Fund with approximately £1,600 of available funding.

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

Complaints about works associated with the replacement of streetlights in Burwell have taken up a considerable amount of time in July. Most of these complaints have been associated with the quality of work by the contractors but there have also been complaints about the lack of consultation and about lights taken out where they are still needed. All of these are being followed up.

I also arranged a meeting with Cabinet members, County Council officers and Burwell and District Day Centre to discuss the renewal of the lease.

Cabinet met to discuss a number of issues including changes to the Blue Badge Scheme, a member-led review into domestic abuse and a contract exemption for community volunteers working in child protection.

We arranged a well-attended meeting with the judiciary and the legal system to identify and address delays in the legal procedures for adoption. This was a first of its kind and hopefully will lead to real improvements.

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

ECDC have approved five sites for travellers none of which are in the Swaffham ward.

Paradise pool in Ely is currently being refurbished.

A public consultation on the siting of a new cinema for Ely closes on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and expects to increase its reserves over the course of the financial year. The Clerk produced a set of Financial Regulations which had been reviewed by Councillors prior to the meeting and these were formally adopted. **The Clerk** was asked to amend the Parish Council's Standing Orders where necessary to match the Financial Regulations.

#### **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** will endeavour to complete repairs to the rocking rooster in August. If this is not possible, an alternative solution to the problem will be found.

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

It was noted that a number of the byways within the village are becoming overgrown. It was decided that working with the Rights of Way Officer, Peter Duthie, **the Clerk** would write to landowners in very early September reminding them of their responsibility to keep byways adjoining their land clear.

**Councillor Clark** stated that he will instigate a Freedom of Information request to ascertain how ECDC ensures that its contractors carry out their obligations and what confirmatory information is required prior to payment being authorised.

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

Grahame Radford has agreed to become Speedwatch Officer and it is expected that Speedwatch activities will recommence in August.

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

The AGM was very poorly attended and the committee are looking for new members.

#### **4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report**

Fund-raising activities continue with good success, AmeyCespa have agreed to provide £19,055 towards the cost of the cricket pitch. Councillor Brearley expressed some concern that the undersowing of the 24Acres, as promised by the National Trust, did not take place. **Councillor Thomas** will check on this and take any required action.

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

**The Clerk**, with assistance from a suitably qualified villager, will arrange for the purchase and delivery of a Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*) to be planted on the Fair Green at the end of the year. In addition, an avenue of 60 lime trees will be purchased by **the Clerk** and planted at the end of the year on the Swaffham Road on its approach to Reach with Nick Acklam as Project Leader.

### **6. Reach Wood Annual Meadow Mowing**

The Parish Council, at the request of the Woodland Trust, has taken over the mowing responsibility of the meadow in Reach Wood. This will take place in September/October 2012 and a purchase order from the Woodland Trust has been received by the Parish Council.

## 7. Waste Collection Potential Changes

There are changes proposed for Reach waste collection services with one major change being the possible move from using recycling black boxes and brown sacks to wheeled bins (where possible – otherwise the current services will continue). Councillors had a number of questions and concerns regarding these potential changes and **the Clerk** was asked to invite David White from ECDC to come along and address a village meeting on the consequences of such changes.

## 8. Planning Applications

There were none.

## 9. Information Items

Anglian Water has informed the National Trust of their intentions to install a pipeline across the top half of the 24Acres (this will not cut across the area of the 24Acres leased to the Parish Council from October 1<sup>st</sup>). **The Clerk** was asked to check what impact this activity might have on our leased land.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that he had resigned from the Tennis Committee and that Philip Lewis would be taking over as Chairman.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the new Code of Conduct suggested by ECDC. This will go on the agenda for the next meeting for potential adoption.

The Parish Council felt it appropriate to donate £100 towards a commemorative bench to be situated in Swaffham Prior in memory of John Norris who died recently at the age of 85, having been the Chairman of Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities for over 30 years.

The suggestion of a form of “guerrilla gardening” by a Reach villager was deferred to the following meeting so that the villager in question would be able to come along and explain her suggestion.

## 10. Payments

D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing July 2012	£134.00
C R Contracting	Mowing July 2012	£165.00
SPPC	Donation to Commemorative Bench	£100.00
D M Parr	General Expenses	£88.98

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 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](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

Chairman:

Date: