



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd October 2012

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Councillor	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not 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	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 Meeting

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

4. Election of new Chairman

Following the resignation as Chairman of Councillor Brearley, Councillor Thomas was unanimously elected as the new Chairman.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The Amenity Fund has £1,621 available to it. Two recently received applications were rejected by the Amenity Fund committee.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report

With no Cabinet meeting in August, the meeting on 17th September had a long and varied agenda.

Discussions around a new lease for the Burwell Day Centre have been on-going for some time and included a visit by relevant Cabinet members to see the excellent work that is done. The final outcome has been to offer the Day Centre a 21 year lease at a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum. I firmly believe this is the best possible outcome for all concerned.

Cabinet also had a lengthy debate about the possibilities for a new road crossing at Ely to sort out the traffic bottleneck around the station. After discussion, Cabinet unanimously approved the next steps for a new crossing across the river and railway line. A formal planning application will now be submitted.

Cabinet also agreed changes to procurement rules at the County Council to make it easier for local small and medium sized enterprises to bid for work with the Council.

A meeting of the Burwell Masterplan Working Party approved the latest version of the Masterplan for public consultation. This is now open and runs until 31st October and I urge everybody with an interest in the future of Burwell to contribute to the consultation. Documentation is available on the East Cambs District Council website – www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

Locally I have continued to take up numerous complaints over the new street-lighting in Burwell.

There has been a number of business planning meetings as we seek to draw together the budget proposals. The County Council is currently conducting a consultation called Your Choice to seek the views of local residents. This can be found on the website – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and again I would urge people to get involved. As one of the fastest growing counties we face a number of demographic pressures. High on this list is the funding we receive from Government for education. Changes to how education is funded are currently being brought on and we are in close contact with schools and others about the changes. We also continue to lobby Government for a fairer share for Cambridgeshire – currently we are the 143rd lowest funded authority out of 151.

Child protection arrangements in Cambridgeshire are currently going through an unannounced Ofsted inspection. At the time of writing we do not know the results.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report

Fly-tipped tyres at Headlake Drove have been removed.

After a public consultation showed a preference for the new Ely cinema to be sited at the Downham Road junction on the Ely western bypass, approval has been given for negotiation with interested parties.

There is a possibility that the Ely southern bypass will be completed in 2015. With this in mind the District Council is looking at a long term vision for the station gateway making it more attractive to rail users visiting Ely.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and hopes to break even over the course of the financial year.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

5 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

Councillor Thomas had attended a meeting which provided information on the new ECDC code of conduct. The next local such meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th October, starting at 6.30pm in Mandeville Hall, Burwell.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

The Parish Council approved a plan to get the chicken on the play area repaired.

5 (8) Rights of Way Report

It was agreed that Rights of Way Officer, **Councillor Fielding**, would conduct a review to identify those landowners who had not taken the necessary steps to keep byways adjoining their land clear. The outcome of this review will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Clark stated that a Freedom of Information request showed that the contractor could not confirm that mowing of the Devil's Dyke had taken place as planned in the early part of the year. The Clerk had sent a letter to Highways, highlighting the Parish Council's major concern over the issue of this and potentially other areas of delinquency of the contractor. Highways have sent a holding reply and further information from them is awaited prior to discussion at a subsequent meeting of the Parish Council.

5 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity during the current month. Grahame Radford, Speedwatch Officer, had stated that Speedwatch activities will take place during October.

5 (10) Village Centre Report

No report provided.

5 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

Fund-raising activities continue with good success – the cricket pitch and orchard are now fully funded (as is the avenue of limes to be planted on the Swaffham Road). A funding application for the Woodland has been sent to the Forestry Commission. At this stage it seems unlikely that funding for the Ménage will be in place until 2013.

The Clerk was asked to write to Nick Webb of Delta-T devices thanking the company for their generosity and Nick himself for his endeavours in providing donations of £500 for the orchard and £500 for the tennis court.

The field has been harvested and the sowing of a grass seed has taken place. A timeline plan will be put in place for the implementation of the projects.

6. Annual Audit Review

The external auditors report was reviewed and accepted by the Parish Council.

7. Cemetery Fees from October 2012

New fees for the next twelve months were agreed and will be published on the village website by **the Clerk**.

8. Clerk's Annual Review

The Parish Council were satisfied with the performance of the Clerk over the previous 12 months.

9. Code of Conduct Adoption

The ECDC Code of Conduct was discussed and it was agreed that this would be adopted by the Parish Council. **The Clerk** will add this to the village website.

10. Neighbourhood Panels Questionnaire

The Parish Council reviewed and completed a questionnaire from ECDC regarding the usefulness of Neighbourhood Panels. The overall conclusion was that Neighbourhood Panels are an unnecessary and costly extra layer of local government.

11. Parish Council Casual Vacancy Procedure

The Parish Council approved a document produced by **the Clerk** who will add it to the village website.

12. Village Centre Accounts Review

The Parish Council reviewed and approved the Village Centre accounts.

13. 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; the Clerk has invited David White from ECDC to come along and address a village meeting (or a local villages meeting). **The Clerk** will discuss such a possibility with David White.

14. Planning Applications

There were none.

15. Information Items

The Parish Council discussed an ECDC produced Reach Village Vision document. There were a number of concerns with it which the Clerk was asked to communicate to ECDC.

16. Payments

Moore Stephens	Annual Audit YE March 2012	£178.20
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£17.00
C R Contracting	Mowing September 2012	£145.00
DMParr	Clerk's pay July-September 2012	£589.00
D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing September 2012	£134.00
DMParr	Expenses	£37.96

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th November 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: