



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

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Part Time
Ross Clark	Councillor	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Chairman	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Part Time
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

Councillor Brearley resigned as a councillor since he will shortly be leaving Reach. **The Clerk** will take the necessary steps to appoint a replacement.

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Harrison declared an interest in planning application 12/00857/FUL.

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 received no applications nor granted any funding during the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 17th October and agreed changes to contract regulations to make it easier for local companies to do business with the Council. Council also received reports from the pension fund, police and fire authorities and debated a number of motions including support for widening the A14.

Cabinet met twice in October. The first meeting was held in St Neots and was combined with opportunities to visit various Council projects in the town. At the second meeting items for decision included taking the next steps to commercialise a project called Smartlife and I presented the Ofsted report into arrangements for safeguarding children. The Ofsted report resulted in a number of media briefings and interviews as well as four staff briefings around the county and meetings to agree and implement an improvement plan.

Business planning for the next 5 year plan is well in place and we had a number of meetings to consider the plans.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Geoffrey Van Orden MEP recently spent a day touring the district with ECDC councillors.

At the recent Association of Drainage Authorities Annual Conference Richard Benyon MP discussed government initiatives such as conserving wildlife habitat, working with the RSPB to improve water levels and finding new ways of storing water.

Councillor Alderson also commented on the Waste Collection Potential Changes (see item 9. below).

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and expects to provide a small surplus over the course of the financial year.

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 chicken has been now been satisfactorily repaired.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

It had been 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. It was agreed that Councillor Fielding would provide the Clerk with a map indicating the uncut areas and the Clerk would then make contact with the relevant landowners.

There was concern expressed that dog owners using Reach Wood were not properly disposing of their dog's excrement. It was agreed that **Councillor Fielding** would write a short note for inclusion in the next issue of the village magazine and that **the Clerk** would ask the Woodland Trust if they could provide three notices reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.

Mowing of the Devil's Dyke had not taken place as planned in the early part of the year despite the contractor invoicing the County Council for the work. 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 responded with a letter which said that they were convinced that this was an isolated incident. It was also noted that the promised mowing had now taken place.

There had been complaints regarding the fact that parts of the footpath on the Swaffham Road were difficult to negotiate due to overgrowing foliage. **The Clerk** was asked to identify those homeowners concerned and ask them to remedy the situation.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity during the previous month – it is expected that there will be activity during the current month.

4 (10) Village Centre Report

There was nothing to report.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

The cricket pitch and orchard are now fully funded (as are the non-24Acres projects of the avenue of limes to be planted on the Swaffham Road and the sweet chestnut to be planted on the Green). A funding application for the Woodland has been sent to the Forestry Commission although a decision is likely to be delayed due to the ash tree problems. At this stage it seems unlikely that funding for the Ménage will be in place until 2013.

It is expected that planting of the avenue of limes and the sweet chestnut will take place in December 2012 with the orchard planting date being confirmed as Saturday 12th January 2013. Planting of the Woodland will take place (subject to funding) in Jan/Feb 2013.

5. Garden Waste Dumping in the Village

There were two identified instances where garden waste is being disposed of in the village hedgerows. **The Clerk** was asked to contact the relevant villagers and ask them to cease this activity.

6. GOBA Dredging Proposal

GOBA (Greater Ouse Boating Association) had asked the Parish Council if they had any objection to the dredging of the mooring area on the western side of the Hythe. The Clerk was asked to confirm to GOBA that the Parish Council had no such objections based on there being no cost to the village.

7. Noise Pollution from Village Livestock

A villager had expressed concern over a neighbour's livestock which were felt to be creating a noise pollution problem. The Parish Council felt that this was not an occasion on which they should get involved in a dispute between neighbours.

8. Precept YE 2014 Decision

A budget for YE 2014 was approved which allowed the Parish Council to freeze the precept for the second year running at the level of £7,150.

9. 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). No changes are proposed for the current black sack collections. Any such changes are dependent upon Lottery funding, with a decision expected to be made before the end of the year.

Councillors had a number of questions and concerns regarding these potential changes and Councillor Alderson confirmed that if the bid is approved a team from ECDC would come along to a village or district meeting to answer any questions. Further details on this can be found at:
http://www.reach-village.co.uk/refuse_and_recycling.html.

10. Planning Applications

The Parish Council had no comments to make on planning applications 12/00857/FUL, 12/00862/CAC and 12/00892/FUL.

11. Information Items

The Parish Council discussed a recent ECDC document which shows proposed changes to the Reach Development Envelope. These changes were supposedly due to minor anomalies and errors but they result in two parcels of undeveloped land being brought within the new envelope which goes against the village vision that Reach would continue to be an "infill only" village. **Councillor Clark** was asked to draft a response to the proposal which will confirm the Parish Council's view that the village envelope should not be extended in this way. **The Clerk** will send the response off to the relevant people.

12. Payments

Farm Forestry	Avenue of Limes	£1,140.42
Deacons Nursery	Orchard Trees	£456.20
C R Contracting	Mowing October 2012	£145.00
Balfour Beatty	Street Light Maintenance	£325.26
Peter Bridgeman	Playground Repairs	£200.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th December 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: