



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd January 2013

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Not Present
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	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

There was no activity during the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

The new street lights in Burwell continue to cause complaints, albeit fewer than previously. A paper was intended to go to Cabinet in December to bring more flexibility to the Contract. To enable more work to be done on the fine details this paper was put back to the January meeting, when, hopefully, the outstanding issues can finally be resolved.

Business planning and budget discussions for 2013/14 have been the focus for a number of meetings in December. With our final settlement from Government not received until late on 20th December we are still going through the figures to enable us to fine-tune plans and set a balanced budget.

Cabinet and Full Council both met in December - papers included a member-led review into road safety, proposals for an application to central Government for a "City Deal" for Cambridge and consideration of a number of traffic improvements in Cambridge and surrounding areas to be funded from Section 106 contributions.

At Full Council 3 motions were tabled for debate. The first related to the recent Ofsted inspection for safeguarding children. I tabled an amendment to the motion, which received unanimous cross-party support. The other 2 related to climate change and calls for the Council to pay the national living wage. Both of these were defeated. UKIP also raised a question about policy for fostering children based on political persuasion, which we were happy to say is not a factor in Cambridgeshire.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Incidences of fly-tipping and unauthorised traveller encampments decreased in 2012.

In future the Small Grants monies for villages will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) rather than S106. The availability for small villages will remain the same.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and expects to provide a substantial surplus over the course of the financial year. **The Clerk** mentioned that there appeared to be no final decision on what the Precept for Reach would be, based on recent central government changes. **The Clerk** will forward the relevant email to the Parish Council.

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

There was no activity to report.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

The Clerk confirmed that letters to landowners who had been delinquent in cutting their hedges had been sent. There was only one response, from a landowner denying responsibility for the hedgecutting. The Rights of Way Officer confirmed that none of the paths had been cleared, as the Parish Council had requested. The Parish Council agreed that they had done all that they could and that the matter should be escalated, by **the Clerk**, to the relevant person at the County Council.

4 (9) Speedwatch

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

There was some discussion regarding potential fixed traffic calming measures on the Swaffham Road and **the Clerk** will seek advice from Highways on this possible opportunity.

4 (10) Village Centre Report

There was nothing to report.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

The cricket pitch and orchard are now fully funded and it is planned to plant the orchard trees on January 12th 2013. A funding application for the Woodland had been sent to the Forestry Commission who had raised some potential archaeological issues. A meeting took place to discuss what was needed to be done, the conclusion being that an archaeological dig should take place, one day in April, supervised by Claire Halpin-McDonald. It is planned to involve villagers in this and it is expected that the 2,900 woodland trees will be planted towards the end of 2013.

5. Avenue of Limes Status

The trees were planted on the 22nd December 2012. However, an issue has arisen regarding the close proximity of the Scheduled Monument, on the left hand side of the Swaffham Road as you leave Reach, just before the railway bridge. A meeting will take place between **the Clerk** and English Heritage with Claire Halpin-McDonald also in attendance. Contingency plans will be put in place should any of the trees need to be re-sited.

6. Bus Speeds on the Burwell Road

There had been a number of incidents reported to the Parish Council regarding buses entering and leaving the village at excessive speed. The Clerk wrote to the bus company expressing the Parish Council's concerns and received a comforting reply. **The Clerk** was asked to thank Stagecoach for their response but also to state that the village will continue to monitor the speed of buses through the village.

7. Casual Vacancy Co-Option

The process to replace ex-Councillor Brearley had reached the stage where the District Council has given approval for the Parish Council to co-opt a suitable candidate. The vacancy was advertised and three candidates came forward. They are Karen Carpenter, Hannah Perrett and Diana Ward. **The Clerk** was asked to set up meetings shortly so the candidates and the Parish Council can meet, prior to a decision being made. It is expected that a new councillor will be in place in time for the February meeting.

8. Garden Waste Disposal Issue

There had been an instance of garden waste being dumped outside a villager's residence. The Clerk had written to the villager concerned and received a reply. This was reviewed and it was finally decided that **the Clerk** would write again to the villager saying that the Parish Council felt that the garden waste should be removed.

9. Waste Collection Potential Changes

District Councillor Alderson had previously reported that ECDC had won its £5M bid from central government to fund a new recycling service. The aim is to allow residents to recycle more of their waste and the project will begin either late 2013 or early 2014. The current brown sack and black box collection system will be replaced with (1) a new wheeled bin recycling collection, including paper, glass, metal cans, plastics, cartons and cardboard and (2) a new wheeled bin for organics to include food and garden waste. The wheeled bins will be collected fortnightly. The weekly black sack waste collections will be retained. As part of the implementation there will be a survey of all households to identify properties which will not be suitable for the new service – these homes will retain the current system.

There was a meeting on Thursday 13th December in Swaffham Prior which District Councillor Alderson attended.

10. Planning Applications

There were none.

11. Information Items

It was agreed that the two current mowing contractors would be asked to continue with their duties during the year ending March 2014. **The Clerk** will prepare the necessary contracts and make contact with the Woodland Trust to confirm that they wish to have the Parish Council again take responsibility for the mowing of Reach Wood meadow.

The Clerk was asked to speak to a new family in the village, expressing the Parish Council's concerns regarding the dangers of parking on the road and asking them to park on their driveway, as the previous house owners had.

There was some discussion regarding groundworks being carried out on a villager's land. **The Clerk** was asked to visit the landowner and express the Parish Council's concerns that possibly the right permission procedures had not been followed.

12. Payments

National Trust	24Acres Field Lease	£10.00
David Thomas	Orchard Expenses	£139.63
David Parr	Clerk's Pay Oct-Dec 2012	£589.00
David Parr	Various Expenses	£322.02
Nick Acklam	Avenue of Limes Expenses	£39.83

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th February 2013 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: