



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd April 2013

Attendance

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

In the absence of Chairman Councillor Thomas, Vice Chairman Councillor Aves chaired the meeting.

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Clark declared an interest in item 7.

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. Revenue generated subsequent to the Jubilee Party will be paid back into the Amenity Fund during April.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

We currently have 483 children looked after by the Council. In a further push to recruit foster carers and prospective adoptive parents I was interviewed by BBC Look East to get the message across that Cambridgeshire County Council does not discriminate in who we accept for these positions, provided they are right for the child or young person considered and can offer them a positive upbringing.

A meeting has been held with Sir Graham Bright (Police and Crime Commissioner) to discuss the preventative work undertaken by our Youth Offending Service (YOS). The budget for this work transferred to the PCC and Sir Graham has recognised the value of the work and agreed to continue funding this part of YOS for the coming year.

I attended a meeting of the Joint CCC/ECDC Member Group considering plans for 3,500 houses in North Ely. Cabinet met and considered a Flood Risk Management Strategy amongst other items. I had a full Council meeting on 26 March where we debated motions supporting the upgrade of the A14 and a motion calling for a proportion of meetings to be held in the evening. I also attended both consultation events for the Burwell village vision and an In Your Patch meeting at Ely.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

ECDC has started a scheme to help young people into apprenticeships.

Due to the recession and shortage of suitable housing, homelessness has increased resulting in increased accommodation costs for ECDC. However actions have been taken resulting in a £10,000 budget underspend.

Waste and recycling collections will remain on Thursdays, as normal, on May and August Bank Holidays.

A panel has been set up to review the usefulness of Neighbourhood Panels.

The removal of an ash tree by the owner of a property in the village was discussed. It was noted that the Parish Council (or any other public body) does not possess any powers which could prevent the felling of a tree outside the Conservation Area and without a Tree Protection Order.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially stable situation and expects to provide a surplus of over £1,400 from its core activities (this excludes projects such as the Avenue of Limes and 24Acres which are paid for by grant funding and donations) over the course of the financial year ending March 2014.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

Councillor Fielding reported that there will be a National Trust meeting on the 16th April 2013. The Clerk and local resident Keith Lambert attended a meeting to put the case for the Parish Council's Local Highway Improvements Funding Application - a decision will be made over the coming two months.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

Councillor Dunnett will attend a ROSPA training course on the 22nd April 2013 in Exning and our play spaces will be inspected by ROSPA during April.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

There was no activity to report.

4 (9) Speedwatch

A new Speedwatch Officer is being sought – the Parish Council decided that should no-one come forward by the 1st May Parish Council meeting this activity will be disbanded in Reach.

4 (10) Village Centre Report

The main focus of activity presently is on the forthcoming Fair.

4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report

The ring drain for the cricket pitch has been completed and work will start shortly on the cricket pitch itself. Funding for the Woodland will come from the Forestry Commission but prior to this an archaeological dig will take place on April 21st. It is hoped that the 2,900 woodland trees will be planted towards the end of 2013 and the manege constructed during late summer 2013.

5. Annual Parish Meeting Arrangements

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st May starting at 8.00pm. **The Clerk** will endeavour to get a member of the police to come along to talk about how we can help ourselves in preventing crime in the village.

6. Buildings of Local Interest

ECDC would like to identify such buildings which currently do not have any protection (they are not listed or in a conservation area). The Clerk was asked to let ECDC know that since Reach has a large conservation area it feels that it is currently adequately protected and the Parish Council does not therefore wish to involve itself in this project.

7. Cricket Net Siting and Surface

It was agreed to put in place a concrete surface under the cricket net to be covered by a suitable mat. The cricket net will remain sited on the playing field. The cost of carrying out this work will be met by the cricket club.

8. Deer Nuisance

A number of villagers had complained about the large number of deer which populate Reach and its surrounds – and the damage that they cause. **Councillor Clark** will investigate what might be done about this problem and report back to the Parish Council at a subsequent meeting.

9. Land Registration

It was not felt necessary, at this time, to discuss the registration of land within the village.

10. Trees on the Burwell Road

A villager had complained about the size of trees outside the garages owned by Sanctuary Housing on the Burwell Road. At the request of the Parish Council, Sanctuary Housing did carry out some remedial work but not to the level expected by the Parish Council. Sanctuary Housing's response was that the trees had been inspected by the Tree Officer who stated they were safe and that therefore no further action would be taken at this time. The Parish Council accepted this statement and the Clerk will respond to Sanctuary Housing accordingly.

11. Village Vision Plans

The plan for Reach was agreed to be acceptable – we remain an in-fill only village. With regard to the Burwell plan, the derelict portion of the David Smith site has been retained for employment use – something that the Parish Council has lobbied for. However a further employment site has been allocated further down the Reach road, towards Reach, which is currently an uncultivated field. The Parish Council felt that this new site should not be developed in any way until the David Smith site has been developed and the Clerk, with help from Councillor Clark will write to ECDC accordingly.

12. Planning Applications

There were none.

13. Information Items

It was agreed that the Parish Council should look at the possibility of restricting the usage by motor vehicles of some byways in the village. **The Clerk** will add this to the agenda of a subsequent meeting.

GOBA had proposed an annual payment to the Parish Council of £200. The Parish Council felt a higher figure was more appropriate and asked the Clerk to respond to GOBA along these lines. GOBA agreed to increase this payment to £220.

14. Payments

Prospects Trust	Avenue of Limes work	£172.00
DMParr	General Expenses	£62.85
Bury Turfcare	24Acres Cricket Pitch	£1,090.80
Keepers Nursery (DMParr)	24Acres Orchard	£147.00
DMParr	Clerk's Pay Jan-Mar 2013	£589.00
Amenity Fund	Repayment of funds for Jubilee Party	£114.57
Steven Hawkins	Cricket Roller	£150.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st May 2013 at 7.00pm – to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm.. 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: