



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th August 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	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

1. Forum for Members of the Public

One member of the public attended and spoke regarding item 7.

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

Full Council on 23 July had several motions to consider. It was agreed to reduce the number of signatures on a petition to trigger a debate in Council to 3,000. Unanimous support was given to a call for Government to introduce a fair funding formula for schools to address the current situation whereby Cambridgeshire's schools are funded at the lowest level of all 151 education authorities. Motions calling for: immediate withdrawal from national pay bargaining; referenda to be held before contributing to major infrastructure projects; and announcing a freeze in Council Tax for the next 4 years were all voted down. The dynamics of the new Council, being in no overall control, are interesting. Cabinet also met in July when plans to provide a new primary school in Ely were approved as were plans to increase the size of 2 primary schools, 1 in Littleport and 1 in Wisbech, to meet current demand.

Business planning for the next 5 year plan is also taking place and I had a number of meetings with Directors, both individually and as a group.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

The Neighbourhood Panels Review Group met in July and will do so again in September. "Shape Your Place" has negatively affected the value of the panels, giving as it does, instant access to the Council via the internet.

With the Government proposing to cut local government grants by 10% and changes to other funding such as the New Homes Bonus, ECDC is having to take steps now to ensure a balanced budget for 2014/15. There also will be a "root and branch" review of all the authority's services in order to make savings of £900,000 in 2015/16.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

Whilst no members attended any such meetings during the last month Councillor Fielding commented on a recent meeting where the NT described their actions to evict travellers' horses from their land - and the potential consequences of this. The next NT meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th October with the main topic being car parking issues.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

Remedial actions regarding the play area have started with the entrance gate being repaired, the cutting back of the non-flowering foliage, spraying of the weeds and stabilising the handrail of one item of apparatus. Still to be done is replacing the netting and ladder of a further item and refurbishing the bench. **The Clerk** will also address the issue of the large goals on the playing field.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

Councillor Fielding, Rights of Way Officer, is in contact with Peter Duthie of Cambridgeshire County Council. The Parish Council had alerted him to areas of hedges that need to be cut back – however no action has been taken. **Councillor Fielding** will continue to apply pressure to Mr Duthie to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to get the work done.

Councillor Fielding will also take up the issue of the cutting of the foliage on the Devil's Dyke with Mr Duthie together with issues of rutting of byways by vehicles.

A complaint from walkers regarding the blocking of a byway and the dumping of horse manure was discussed. **The Clerk** was asked to communicate to the landowner that the byways cannot be blocked and that the offending material should be removed.

4 (9) Village Centre Report

The Village Centre AGM was postponed until September 2013.

4 (10) 24Acres Committee Report

A bid made to Sport England for a manège was refused. However, the proposal was viewed favourably, there was simply not enough money to go round. The Parish Council was encouraged to reapply in October. Planning permission for the 24Acres has been applied for. Funding has been granted by the Forestry Commission for the woodland. A lock is to be purchased for the main gated entrance to the site and progress is being made with the orchard noticeboard.

It was also agreed to delay the opening event until May/June 2014 since the cricket pitch will not be ready in time for the proposed 8th September 2013 event. The woodland will also be planted by then - and hopefully the manège will be in place.

5. Byways Restrictions

The possibility of restricting some byways to motorised vehicles was discussed. Ultimately it was decided to take no action at this time.

6. Cambridge Airport Expansion

The Clerk outlined the proposed flight number increases scheduled to start from September 2013. The Parish Council felt that no action was needed at this time.

7. Local Highways Improvement Programme 2013/2014

The Parish Council's suggestion regarding improving the drainage of water from outside the properties 20-28 Fair Green had been accepted by the County Council. The Parish Council agreed to activities taking place and to the investment by the Parish Council of a maximum of £500 which would be 10% of the total spend. **The Clerk** will communicate this to the County Council.

8. Royal Birth Commemoration

The Parish Council approved a proposal from Councillor Harrison for commemorative mugs to be purchased by the Parish Council and given to the children of the village. **The Clerk** will work with **Councillor Harrison** and seek funding from the Amenity Fund for the items.

9. Planning Applications

There were none.

10. Information Items

The situation regarding the RaSP mast was discussed and clarified to the satisfaction of the Parish Council who await sight of the required planning application.

9. Payments

CCC	Salt Bin Costs	£95.00
C R Contracting	Mowing July	£196.50
C R Contracting	Mowing and Watering the Orchard	£150.00
Prospects Trust	Avenue of Limes Watering	£258.00
D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing July	£140.00
Spearhead Turf	24Acres Cricket costs	£3,201.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th September 2013 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

Chairman:

Date: