



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd October 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	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 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

During the previous month £500 was granted to the church for renovation.

### 4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Cabinet in September considered a number of issues including consideration of a planning application for Alconbury Weald and agreement of a local contribution to the costs of upgrading the A14. This is a sign of changing times with the Coalition Government making it quite clear that without a local contribution there will be no upgrade. A decision to bring in a £1 parking charge at Cambridge Park and Ride sites to offset the £1 million running costs was called in and will now be reconsidered at Cabinet in October.

I represented the County Council at a meeting of the Local Government Association Rural Commission, where the Community Infrastructure Levy, Renewable Energy, Fracking and changes to welfare benefits were the main items for discussion.

I helped to sort out the final costs for alterations to the lease for Burwell Day Centre.

### 4 (3) District Councillor's Report

The Service Review Group will be recommending that Neighbourhood Panels cease. The need for an alternative communications route will be investigated.

Swaffham Prior is in the early stages of establishing a CLT (Community Land Trust) site on Rogers Road. This will consist of eight houses under the control of the CLT and twelve houses for general sale.

### 4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation and expects to break even, as a minimum, during the financial year.

#### **4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report**

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

#### **4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings**

Councillor Fielding attended the recent National Trust User Forum. She commented that Chris Soans will be leaving Wicken Fen and that a replacement has yet to be appointed. She also updated the PC on actions being taken by the National Trust regarding the issue of illegal grazing on their land.

#### **4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report**

Remedial actions regarding the play area continue. Still to be done is replacing the netting and possibly the ladder on a further item (a second quotation is awaited) and refurbishing the bench. **The Clerk** will also address the issue of the large goals on the playing field.

Some spikes are missing from the top of the swings on the Green. **Councillor Dunnnett** will check availability of these and arrange replacement of them as necessary.

#### **4 (8) Rights of Way Report**

The Clerk reported that the village's new Rights of Way officer is Karen Champion. **The Clerk** was asked to invite her to a subsequent meeting to discuss issues that exist in Reach.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken at some length to George Hay who is CCC Enforcement Officer. **The Clerk** was asked to invite him to a subsequent Parish Council meeting so that he could inform councillors of his role and the powers at his disposal.

#### **4 (9) Village Centre Report**

The Village Centre AGM will take place on October 9th.

#### **4 (10) 24Acres Committee Report**

All proceeds well with Planning Permission recently granted.

The storage container is in place and items continue to be purchased so that grant claims can be made in November/December 2013 and April 2014.

Councillor Fielding will discuss progress on the manège with the Project Leader, Liz Tabecki. The next Sport England grant window opens on the 21st October and closes on the 16th December 2013.

### **5. Annual Audit Outcome**

The Parish Council's accounts have been properly audited and approved by the external auditor. Grateful thanks go to villager Roger Smith who puts these accounts together for the Parish Council at no charge.

### **6. Bonfires Nuisance**

A complaint had been received by the Parish Council regarding the regular burning of plastic materials on a bonfire within the village. **The Clerk** was asked to write to the resident concerned, explaining that under the Waste Management Regulations 2006, it is an offence to dispose of domestic waste in a way likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health (basically waste that is likely to create excessive smoke or noxious fumes may not be burnt - and that includes plastic).

### **7. CCTV Cameras in Reach**

A number of residents had suggested that the installation of static CCTV cameras on the three roads that serve Reach might act as a deterrent to thieves and also assist the Police in their investigations should a crime occur. In response to a request for views (by email) on the principle of introducing CCTV, 17 respondents replied in favour, 3 against and 1 requested further information. The Parish Council discussed the implications of this at some length, focusing on (i) the legalities, (ii) the cost and (iii) the efficacy of such a system. **The Clerk** will conduct further investigations on this topic.

In addition, **the Clerk** will invite a member of the Police Crime Prevention Unit to come along to a subsequent meeting to discuss ways in which villagers might tackle the recent spate of burglaries. That discussion would include CCTV, both public and private, but would not be limited to it.

### **8. Cemetery Fees October 2013**

It was agreed that these would be increased by 5% - and rounded up to the nearest £.

**9. Clerk's Annual Review**

The Parish Council were happy with the performance of the Clerk over the previous year and approved the National Salary Pay Award of 1%.

**10. Local Highways Improvement Programme**

The Clerk informed councillors that the work will start on 21st October 2013 and last for 4-5 days. **The Clerk** will oversee the work which will take place predominately outside 25 Fair Green, with help from resident Keith Lambert.

**11. Planning Applications**

Two added inscriptions for gravestones were approved as was planning application 13/00662/FUL.

**12. Information Items**

Trimming of the avenue of trees in the Cemetery has taken place. Thanks go to villager Simon Owers who paid for the work to be carried out.

It had been reported that hedges in the cemetery needed trimming - **the Clerk** will investigate this and take appropriate action.

**13. Payments**

Norfolk China	Royal Birth Mugs	£482.11
D M Parr	Clerk's Pay July/Aug/Sept 2013	£589.00
British Legion	Poppy Appeal	£17.00
John Cane	24Acres Signage	£100.00
D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing September	£140.00
C R Contracting	Mowing September	£46.50
C R Contracting	Watering the Orchard	£75.00
Littlejohn	YE2013 Audit Fee	£100.00
National Trust	24Acres Lease Year 2	£10.00
Durrant	24Acres Cricket Boundary Rope	£330.00
Portable Spaces	24Acres Storage Container	£1,995.00
D M Parr	General Expenses	£47.32

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th November 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](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

Chairman:

Date: