



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th February 2014.

Attendance

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

Members of the public – 5 present, to discuss point 3.

The meeting was opened with Councillor Thomas presenting David Parr (outgoing clerk) with a painting as a token of all the councillor's thanks.

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No points were raised.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fielding declared an interest in item 3.

3. Solar farm Planning

The pre-submission screening application for a Solar farm on land close to the village was discussed. The following actions were agreed upon.

- **Councillors Fielding and Thomas** to meet the National Trust to discuss whether this fits with their Wicken Fen vision.
- A meeting to be arranged with John Colville of Swaffham Prior. **Andrew Trump to arrange & include Councillor Thomas.**
- **Councillor Fielding** to contact Wicken Fen users forum to ask for their support and to encourage users to write to ECDC with their opinions.
- Every house in the village should be leafleted and presented with a petition concerning the village's concerns with the Solar Park. **Andrew Trump.**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were reviewed and signed.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

There was no activity during the previous month.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report

There had been two cabinet meetings in January. The first meeting was dominated by discussions on the business plan for 2014/15. The Cabinet meeting agreed to recommend the business plan as presented to full Council in February, including a proposed Council Tax increase of 1.99%. It was agreed to lobby the coalition Government strongly as the capital settlement for 2015/16 which awards Cambridgeshire over £30 million less than expected to fund new school places.

The second Cabinet meeting in January had a number of issues to consider including: contract arrangements for temporary staff, phase 1 of the 20mph limit in Cambridge City, and the provision of housing primarily for rent on County Council land (ie CCC being the developer) including on land off Newmarket Road, Burwell.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report

Neighbourhood Panel Service review meeting was held. Previously a consultation had been held with Parish councils which resulted in 85% of Parish Councils agreeing that a Parish Conference should replace Neighbourhood panels. One Parish Conference will be held each year.

A meeting was held to review the Corporate Priorities for 2013/2014. Some of these were –

- To facilitate the commencement of the southern link road – this will soon be going to planning.
- To bring in a new waste/recycling scheme – happened.
- To plan the new North Ely development – going through its various stages.
- To bring forward two Community land trusts – one in Swaffham Prior, one in Soham.
- Promote the area nationally – A champion has been appointed.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation and expects to provide a surplus during the financial year.

5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

5 (6) Play Spaces Officer Report

Councillor Dunnett will arrange for the new net to be put up.

5 (7) Rights of Way Report

ECDC informed the parish council that the additional steps to Devils Dyke path will no longer be maintained as this is no longer a permissive path. Parish council decided the path should be left alone.

There had been no news about the footpath by Chapel Lane.

A meeting was held between Councillors Thomas, Dunnett, Ward, Fielding, and Clark with Cambs. County Council, and George Gibson, to discuss right of ways issues in the village.

- A procedure was agreed in regard to hedgerow problems.
- Bye-way improvements are to be attempted using soil, (up to 1000 tonnes can provided by land owners). This will also raise the surface to improve drainage run-off into ditches. Priority to be given to the Drove running past the 24 Acres.

5 (8) Village Centre Report

Reach Fair road closures have been applied for.

5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

The National Trust are proposing to improve the access to the 24 acres, the Parish Council reviewed these proposals and are fully supported of the work, **Clerk** to consult neighbours and confirm with the NT.

A mowing contract is need, it was agreed that **Nick Acklam**, should negotiate with the present village contactor as part of the overall mowing contracts which are to be negotiated by **the Clerk**. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would fund the purchase of a culvert for the woodland. **The Clerk** to liaise with Nick Acklam.

6. Parish Clerk – Archives & training

The additional Clerk training was agreed. **Clerk to arrange**.

It was agreed that paper copies of planning applications and agendas do not need to be archived for longer than one year. A discussion on the archiving of the Minutes will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. 24 Acres Opening Event

A date was put forward for this event, however further discussion will continue with **Councillors Thomas & Clark** due to a clash with the school holidays.

8. Local Highways Improvement Programme YE 2015

The outgoing Clerk attended a meeting to outline the Parish Council's request for funding for traffic calming measures on the Swaffham Road. The meeting went well and the Parish council should hear over the coming weeks whether this has been successful.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Household window stickers have been distributed to each household within the village via Within Reach.

It was approved that David Parr should become the new "village coordinator" and Graham Radford "deputy". This will allow information to be distributed around the village quickly by email. **The clerk** to inform the relevant parties, and arrange for new laminated signs to be put on the bus stop notice boards.

10. Mowing contracts

The Parish council were happy with this year's mowing of the village grassland areas, therefore **The Clerk** will negotiate the second year of the contract with this contractor, as per the agreement. The Cemetery mowing contract needs renewing, **The Clerk** will arrange for this to be advertised.

11. Planning Applications

A request of an additional inscription on a memorial in the cemetery was approved and **the Clerk** will inform the relevant parties.

12. Information Items

An invitation to a County Council Civic Reception was declined.

13. Payments

David Thomas	24Acres Orchard expenses	£8.99
Manchetts	24Acres woodland/cricket expenses	£344.22
Gardenworks	Willow tree – The Hythe	£480.00
Susan Bailey	General expenses	£45.91

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th March 2014 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: