



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4th June 2014.

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
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members present

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

There was no activity during the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 13th May for the Annual Meeting. This saw the inauguration of the new Committees. I have been appointed to the Children and Young People Committee, the General Purposes Committee, the Constitution and Ethics Committee and a substitute member on the Health Committee.

Cllr S Count (Conservative) was elected Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, with Cllr Mac McGuire as vice-chairmen. I had the honour of being elected vice-chairmen of the Children and Young People Committee, with Joan Whitehead (Labour) elected as Chairwoman.

The first meeting was of the General Purposes Committee. This meeting primarily considered a number of financial reports. A report from officers seeking delegation to officers to dispose of County Council property at less than best value was deferred for further work.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Because of the European Elections and the Sutton By-Election, East Cambs. District Council has been in a period of Purdah. This leads to a quieter period with regard to information.

East Cambs Local Plan The district Council is preparing a new statutory development plan for the district, which will identify areas for uses such as housing, retail, employment & leisure. The inspector will publish his report in July, and the new Local Plan should be adopted by Full Council in October.

Recyclables When placing items in the blue bin, if tops are removed and items washed, they have a greater monetary value to the council. East Cambs recycling rates have improved significantly, many thanks to everyone.

Meetings During the last month I attended the Personnel Committee, the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board, and also the Community and Environments Committee. I was also at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque to the Woman's Land Army at Swaffham Prior.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation. It was noted that the Parish Council's reserves should be anywhere between 25 & 100% of yearly spend. It was discussed that a number of the Limes will need replacing later this year.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

No meetings were attended the previous month.

4 (6) Play Spaces

The Health & Safety inspection report has been received, giving a medium risk overall. **Councillor Dunnett** to draw up a list of what repair work is required.

4 (7) Rights of Way

Councillor Clark had contacted East Cambs. District Council with regard to clearing the pathway along the Devils Dyke. They are arranging for a contractor to carry out the work required.

Councillor Fielding to contact East Cambs. District Council again, with regard to the kissing gate at the bottom of The Hythe.

4 (8) Village Centre

There had been a break-in but nothing had been taken. The lock & keys had been replaced.

Councillor Dunnett to get a key for The Clerk.

The monthly meeting concentrated on discussing the good and bad points of Reach Fair.

It was pointed out that the Village Centre now has WIFI available.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

The opening event went very well, thanks to fantastic organisation. **The Clerk** to obtain an Income and expenditure report for the event.

The drainage of the access track needs attention. David Parr has been discussing this with the National Trust. It may be possible to dig a larger "grip" to allow water to soak away. The land is owned by County Farms and is ultimately their responsibility. The situation will be monitored.

5. Annual Audit Review

The Parish Council reviewed our Annual Return and approved it. Grateful thanks go to Roger Smith who acts as our Internal Auditor for no fee. **The Clerk** will send the return to the External Auditor.

6. Dog Issues.

Again, there had been a number of complaints about dogs running loose around the village. In future the Parish Council will recommend that complaints are made to the East Cambs. District Council Dog Warden, as the Dog Warden has the authority to deal with these control problems. It was noted that if there is an accident and the dog owner has been warned about their dog, they are liable for any damage. **The Clerk** to contact the Dog Warden to discuss the matter.

7. Planning Applications – Reach Community Solar Farm

This planning application was discussed again following an email from East Cambs. District Council relating to the Parish Council's comments asking for certain planning conditions to be attached to any approval. **Councillor Ward** to draft a response from the Parish Council stating that the original comments 1 & 3 still stand.

8. Information Items

The old Horse Chestnut tree on the green was discussed. It is in a poor state of health. **The Clerk** to contact East Cambs. District Council Tree Officer to arrange a meeting and inspection.

9. Payments

CR Contracting	£ 451.00
Play Safely Ltd	£ 88.80
D. Blocksage	£ 280.00
Latta Hire – 24 Acres opening	£ 154.56
David Parr – 24Acres opening	£ 723.00

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 2nd July 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: