



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd July 2014.

Attendance

Michael Aves	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Not Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not 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	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

No Report given.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

June saw the first round of meetings for the five new service committees. At this stage there is a clear will across the political groupings to make the new system work for the benefit of the people of Cambridgeshire. With the Chairwoman on holiday I chaired the first meeting of the Children and Young People Committee. As well as discussing how the committee should operate in the future we considered a number of policy papers. These included residential services for disabled children and how the early help offer may look in future. All votes were unanimous.

Ofsted inspectors are currently in the County Council for a 4 week inspection.

With the current interest in cycling I have been pushing for work to be carried out to investigate and cost a safe route linking Burwell with Exning.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

Tesco have applied for planning permission to re-locate further up Angel Drove, Ely. This will be the start of the Ely Station Gateway area planning.

There is a proposal to build a new Ely Leisure Village at the junction of the A10 and Downham Road. To include a six screen Cineworld, and several restaurants. A planning application will be submitted in September.

ECDC are also planning to have a swimming pool and multi-use complex built on the same site, at no cost to the council tax payers.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

The Clerk had met with the ECDC Tree Officer to discuss the health of the Jubilee tree on The Green. The Tree Officer concluded that the condition of the tree had not significantly changed since the last inspected in 2010. There has been no further deterioration in the dieback in the tree's canopy. She advised that the visible areas of dead wood should be pruned out, and also that there should be continued monitoring of the tree. **The Clerk** to obtain quotes to have the required work done.

4 (6) Play Spaces

No report provided. **The Clerk** to ask the Play Spaces Officers for a summary report of the inspection and any urgent work requirements.

4 (7) Rights of Way

Councillor Fielding is continuing to have discussions with Karen Champion at Cambridgeshire County Council with regard to the clearing of The Devils Dyke and the removal of the kissing gate at the bottom of The Hythe. The prospective land owner who has requested that the kissing-gate be moved to his land has been asked to contact Councillor Fielding, but he has not yet done so.

There are two kissing gates along the pathway between the village and the 24Acres, these are overgrown with nettles and are also difficult to manoeuvre around for people with buggies etc.

Councillor Fielding to contact Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss whether these could be replaced with something more user friendly.

Motor trial bikes have again been seen using the Lode banks. The banks are controlled by the Environment agency. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation for increased nuisance and signs of damage; and advises anyone with concerns to contact the Environment Agency directly.

4 (8) Village Centre

No report provided.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

The 24Acres opening event earned less income than expected mainly due to less attendance and some unanticipated costs. The event will break even with the sale of all the commemorative bags produced.

It was previously agreed that the PC would contribute £650 towards the event and this will come from the £250 donated by the Amenity Fund for the Orchard and £250 donated by the Amenity Fund for the Woodland and £150 donated to the Woodland from The Forestry Commission.

Councillor Fielding asked about plans to develop amenities for horse riders at the site. It was agreed that **Councillor Fielding** would follow up with those who had been leading on plans for the manege.

It was also agreed that the mowing of the woodland paths will be in line with the mowing of the paths in Reach Wood, **The Clerk** to inform the contractor.

5. Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015

The proposal from last year, to provide speed controls at the entrance to the village from Swaffham Prior will be resubmitted. **The Clerk** to produce and submit the application.

6. Overgrown trees/shrubs on The Hythe and Reach Wood.

The Clerk to confirm ownership of the Hythe, and to ask for the unnecessary sewage works equipment to be removed, and to establish what the future plans are for the area.

It was proposed that a village group be set up to explore the possibilities of restoring and improving the whole area. Clearing brambles and cutting back trees, improving the drainage and an archaeological dig could be included. Residents have already expressed an interest in this project.

7. Bonfires

It was reported that a resident has been having bonfires on the byway behind Ditchfield, these included a variety of plastic items. The resident had been contacted previously by the Parish Council with regard to this matter. **Alan Alderson** to contact the Environmental health officer at ECDC.

8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Information Items

The Village Sign - It was reported that the village sign was in a serious state (rotten) and that repair might not be possible. It was stated that a Village Sign Committee existed, formed in 1992, and that funds remain which will be sufficient to replace the sign. This committee has offered to coordinate the village sign refurbishment and will investigate costs. Jon Holmwood has kindly offered to assist with the carving and painting.

Cemetery – It was reported that the cemetery trees and hedges have become overgrown and that the main pathway needs upgrading. **The Clerk** to obtain quotes for this work.

10. Payments

CR Contracting	£ 94.00
D. Blocksage	£ 140.00
Susan Bailey - Clerk salary	£ 594.86
Susan Bailey – expenses	£ 124.57

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 6th August 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: