



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th August 2014.

Attendance

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

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members present

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ward declared an interest in 4 (7) Rights of way.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

A payment had been made towards Reach Sports Day.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met in July. One of the items for consideration was the County Council submission to the Boundary Commission regarding the future size of the Council. This had been considered by a cross-party working group, which recommended a reduction in size from the current 69 members to 63 members from 2017. A Liberal Democrat amendment to increase the size to 71 was defeated and the submission will go forward for 63. Motions about: retaining health spending; welcoming the success of the Tour de France; further increasing emphasis on areas of deprivation; and calling on Government to reinstate the educational support grant to local authorities were all carried.

I asked the Chairman of the Fire Authority for an update on the new Fire Station being built in Burwell and am pleased to report it is on schedule and on budget, with the official opening set for 15th September.

I also had the privilege of attending a celebration of 50 years of County Council ownership of Burwell House together with children from Burwell Village College, Swaffham Prior Primary School and Houghton Primary School.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

No report given.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

Councillor Fielding had met with Ian Froggatt of The Woodland Trust, and visited Reach Wood, to discuss the cutting back of the trees along the pathways. It was agreed that the Woodland trust would arrange to widen the paths throughout the wood. Hopefully this will take place in the autumn, or at the latest Jan/Feb 2015. Once a start date is known the village residence will be informed, as the work will look extreme at the time.

Ian Froggatt asked why the path around the meadow was not mown, **The Clerk** to get a cost for this additional mowing.

The Woodland Trust will be renewing their signs next year, and have offered to put up signs detailing 'the dog walker's code' at all entrances to Reach Wood. Council approved this. **Councillor Fielding** to inform The Woodland Trust.

4 (6) Play Spaces

After the recent inspection certain repairs are required, **Councillor Dunnett** to arrange.

- The gate into the play area has a broken latch, this will be removed.
- The surface of the playground has several cracks, these will be monitored.
- Overhanging trees and weed growth, **The Clerk** to get a price for this work to be carried out.
- The play area bridge shackles are worn and rusty, these will be replaced.
- The climbing frame ladder needs replacing.
- The bench in the playground needs some care and attention.
- The swings on The Green need new seats.

4 (7) Rights of Way

Councillor Fielding had asked County Council to add 3 areas of byway to next year's cutting schedule. These are the Green byway, behind Ditchfield and turning down towards the grain stores, Blackberry Drove and the byway from the 24Acres towards the village.

Councillor Fielding to compile a list of hedges beside public paths that need cutting.

The kissing gate at the Hythe was briefly discussed and will be added to next month's agenda. **The clerk** to invite the resident concern to the meeting. **Councillor Clark** to obtain boundary details from the Land Registry.

4 (8) Village Centre

No activity. The AGM has been postponed until September.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

No report given.

5. Planning Applications

There were none.

6. Information Items

The Avenue of Limes was discussed. **Councillors Ward, Aves and Fielding** to look at the trees and report back at the next meeting. **The Clerk** to add to September's agenda.

The Solar farm in Burwell was briefly discussed, and this led to a question with regard to the Reach Solar farm planning. **The Clerk** to contact the planning officer, to find out the situation with this planning application.

The damaged to the road surface on Great Lane needs repairing. Highways and the trucking company were informed at the time of the damage. **The Clerk** to write to Highways to ask for the damage to be repaired.

7. Payments

CR Contracting	£ 349.00
D. Blocksage	£ 140.00
Cambridgeshire County Council - street lighting.	£ 234.01
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£ 17.00
David Parr	£ 45.25

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 3rd September 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: