



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4th January 2012

Attendance

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| Michael Aves | Vice Chairman | Present |
| Malcolm Brearley | Councillor | Present |
| Ross Clark | Chairman | Present |
| Rita Dunnett | Councillor | Not Present |
| Hilary Fielding | Councillor | Present |
| Joyce Harrison | Councillor | Present |
| David Thomas | Councillor | Present |
| David Parr | Clerk | Present |
| Allen Alderson | District Councillor | Present |
| David Brown | County Councillor | Part-time |

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No payments were made or applications received during the previous month.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 7th December. Since moving from receiving reports to more debating of issues, Full Council is now lasting longer. Seven motions had been tabled, although one, about holding meetings outside office hours, was withdrawn pending a wider review. The other topics were: community transport, national scheme for allowances, review of spending on communications, quality bus contracts, fairer funding for Cambridgeshire schools and action to combat child poverty.

Cabinet met on 13th December and a number of decisions were taken. These included a decision to start the legal/planning process to build a southern link road to overcome the bottle-neck at Ely railway crossing. It was also agreed to defer any decision on introducing Civil Parking Enforcement in East Cambridgeshire. On future arrangements for Cambridge Park and Ride, we agreed the principle that charges should not be levied on concessionary bus pass holders and that charges for parking at Babraham Road should be introduced for those not using the bus. I also presented the findings of a Local Government Ombudsman maladministration report.

I spent some time with County Highways officers looking at pavements and crossings in need of work locally. We prioritised a number of areas to be addressed and hopefully work will start on those soon. I also visited Burwell and District Day Centre to discuss a number of issues.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

The Ely car parking consultation concludes at the end of January 2012 after which decisions will be made.

The result of the consultation on the Ely southern bypass was 81% in favour of Route B - a new road to bypass the level crossing. The proposed link road will be just over a mile long, diverting the A142 at Angel Drove to just outside Stuntney via two roundabouts.

In the Halifax "Best Place to Live" survey, ECDC came fourth out of all the districts in the country.

ECDC will match fund to a maximum of £500 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that it will break-even this financial year. This will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,600 which is 57% of normal non-tennis court maintenance spend.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

There was no report.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

Councillor Fielding will enquire of Karen Whymark as to whether the meeting with local landowners, scheduled to take place on January 5th 2012, will take place.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the previous month. Two people have resigned and one recruited. **The Clerk** will oversee this activity in the future and it is intended that checks will recommence during January.

4 (10) Tennis Committee

The sponsor Racquet Master has closed down. **The Clerk** will continue to seek to secure the £250 sponsorship money but the possibility exists that it will not be received.

4 (11) Village Centre Committee Report

The Carol Service took place in December and was very successful.

4 (12) 24Acres Committee Report

Heads of Terms have been received from the National Trust and the Parish Council 24Acres Committee is working with the NT to turn them into a lease. The main stumbling block is the term of the lease which the Parish Council believes should be a minimum of 25 years – subject to the lessor and the lessee fulfilling their respective commitments. The Committee has yet to seek legal advice – it will do so once there is a draft lease. In the meantime the search for funding the individual projects continues.

5. Hythe Mooring Policy

The Parish Council discussed whether there should be a charge to moor non-GOBA boats following a request for mooring received from a resident. **The Clerk** will establish which parts of the bank are owned by or leased to the Parish Council and talk to interested parties with a view to further discussion at a subsequent meeting.

6. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

The dates for the countrywide celebrations are from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June 2012. The Parish Council had previously decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place to decide specifically what should take place and when – and to organise the event(s) subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

That committee has now met and the planned event will take place on Monday 4th June starting at 2.00pm and finishing at around 7.00pm. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided with the aim being to fund the event by various grants – including one from the Amenity fund.

As part of this celebration, the Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to plant a new tree which would take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. It was decided to position it on the top green between the current tree and the road that divides the greens. The Parish Council decided that a Red Chestnut would be most appropriate and **the Clerk** will look into securing a suitable grant. It is planned that the tree will be planted in October 2012.

A suggestion from a villager that an avenue of 60 trees should be planted on the Swaffham Prior road on its approach to Reach was supported by the Parish Council and the villager and the Clerk are working together to hopefully make it happen. So far there are no stumbling blocks and **the Clerk** will endeavour to source grant money.

7. Street Lighting Upgrade Review

The street lighting PFI between the County Council and Balfour Beatty has been in place now for six months. However, whilst entering into the contract to upgrade the old County Council owned street lighting columns, the street lighting budget was reduced resulting in 10% of the old street lighting (2 columns in the case of Reach) not being replaced.

The Parish Council felt there were many questions to be answered, especially since the village has a number of its own columns to be considered. One of those questions relates to the style of the new columns which was universally disliked by councillors. **The Clerk** was asked to invite the Head of Transport Asset Management at the County Council to come to a subsequent meeting to answer questions.

It was noted that the plan states that Reach's street lights will not be replaced until early 2015.

11. Planning Applications

There were none for consideration.

12. Information Items

Councillor Thomas commented that money was also available from grants this year to celebrate the Olympics taking place in London.

The Clerk pointed out that in recent years the vast majority of Parish Council information is stored digitally on his PC. **The Clerk** proposed to store this data online so that it is always recoverable in case of a disaster – with the access information to this digital data (including all emails) being stored in a suitably secure place.

13. Payments

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| 101002 | DMParr | Clerk's Pay Oct-Dec 2011 | £589 |
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The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st February 2012 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday – and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

Chairman:

Date: