



Minutes of Annual Reach Parish meeting held on; Wednesday 11th May 2016.

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chairman	Present
Hannah Baldwin	Councillor	Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Not Present
Michael Aves	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Not Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present
John Robinson -	Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities.	

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – Speaker Mark Inskip, Sutton Village

Sutton PC were the first in E. Cambs to start the process of a NP.

The NP cannot be in conflict with ECDC local plan. The NP is an 18 month to 2 year process.

Sutton went into the process with no particular issues to address, they wanted to involve residents. The NP must involve the whole community. The process has allowed them to focus.

The NP is a statutory document, which will help determine how the village will develop. The time frame can be set individually.

The process must demonstrate that people have been consulted and a referendum must be held, to prove that residents accept the NP. Grants are available to cover expenses including publicity/events/consultation fees.

It must be decided what area you wish to cover, the whole or part of the parish or it can include a neighbouring parish. A working part will need to be formed. The minority of which will be from the PC the remainder residents with differing interests. An initial broad survey of what residents want should be carried out. Things to be considered include - building and development, biodiversity and green issues, traffic and transport, business, local services, sport and recreation. Policies must be drafted; it is likely a planning consultant will be required to do this. Policies must be reviewed by residents and up dated following feedback prior to the NP being adopted. If the NP is accepted by ECDC the referendum will be held.

The meeting was generally in favour of exploring the NP for Reach. A survey will be sent around the village to gage a fuller opinion.

Chair's Report

As David Thomas reported last year, we were allocated funding from the County Council's Local Highway Improvement Initiative to install traffic calming measures. Having consulted with the village and the local Highways staff it was decided to put road markings on the Swaffham Road entrance to the village to encourage drivers to slow to 30mph.

As David also reported last year, David Parr has helped secure the necessary finances, which include a contribution from the Parish Council to ensure that the lights around the Green will remain as or be replaced with heritage style lights. Unfortunately, the contractor says they have still not sourced a supplier. The Parish Council and David Parr continue to press the County Council and the contractor to complete this work.

The village 'Events Team' installed electricity on the Green to provide a more effective electricity supply for the Christmas tree, the Fair and other events on the Green. The turning on of the Christmas tree lights was enjoyed by many villagers and looks set to become an annual event. The Events Team also held an event to mark the Queen's birthday by lighting a beacon on the Green and burying a time capsule.

We continue to try to maintain the environment of Reach by:
Encouraging dog owners to keep their pets under control and to clear up any dog mess. To help with this we have installed two new bins near popular walks;

Encouraging the County Council to maintain the byways and droves;

Increasing the cutting regime on the Green;

Supporting the 24Acres Committee and the Friends of Reach Wood; and

Holding a village meeting to discuss our response to the Local Plan consultation, submitting a comprehensive response and investigating developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Reach.

In setting the budget for 2016/17 the Council has raised the precept for the first time since 2010 to £8,150, which is £59.49 for a Band D property. This is an increase of £1,000 or £6.84 per Band D property. The increase reflects: increasing the Clerk's salary to cover the hours worked based on timesheets and benchmarking across parish councils of our size across the UK; increases to the cutting on the Green; a training budget for Councillors and the Clerk; and accumulated general inflation over 6 years.

There have been planning applications which have caused concern in the village. The Parish Council have extended the public forums to allow everyone to make their points and have responded to all the consultations. We have invited an officer from the Planning Department to attend a future Parish Council meeting to explain the Planning Policies and procedures so that the Council and villagers will be well placed to respond to any future applications.

We must say thank you to David Thomas who has stepped down from the Parish Council, but is continuing on the 24Acres Committee. David joined the Parish Council in 2011 and has been a very active Councillor and representative on the 24Acres Committee and the Amenity Fund. He Chaired the Council through successful years in 2013 and 2014 and has been very supportive to me in my first year as Chair. Thank you David

I should also like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their hard work and support throughout the year and the many villagers who have participated in the public forums and/or contacted Councillors individually – it really helps us to know the many views from across the village.

Charlotte Cane, 11 May 2016

Financial Report

Based on unaudited accounts YE 2016

The Parish Council has achieved a good financial result this year and expects to provide a surplus of £900 for the year ending March 2016.

Income from normal business was at £9,700 and expenditure £8,800.

Unrestricted reserves (money not allocated to certain projects) are at £7,300.

County Council Report

In 2015/16 I had the honour of being re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee. I served on the Staffing and Appeals Committee, General Purposes Committee and Constitution and Ethics Committee. I sat on a number of assessment panels to recommend academy sponsors for a number of new schools. I also chaired the Corporate Parenting Board, represented the County Council on the advisory Board of Cambridgeshire Coram Adoption and served on the Next Steps Board for improving Children's Services.

Business planning took up a considerable time during the year, grappling with the need to provide services at a time of continuing budget pressures. This culminated in a 12-hour meeting of Council in February 2016, when we were eventually able to agree a balanced budget, including an additional 2% adult social care precept.

2015 also saw the County Council agree a trial arrangement with Peterborough City Council to share a Chief Executive.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has been considering the future make up of Cambridgeshire County Council, seeking to reduce the number of divisions from 69 to 63. The current proposal would see the Burwell division merge into a 2 member division including part of Soham and the Fordham villages. The final decision is unlikely before September 2016.

Locally I have been involved in a number of issues, including: the proposed expansions of Bottisham and Burwell Village Colleges; Burwell Sports Centre; a variety of highway issues including reporting problems and chasing up items such as a new crossing for Swaffham Bulbeck and parking problems in Swaffham Prior.

It has been a pleasure and honour to represent the people of Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior over the last year and I look forward to continuing to do so in the coming year.

David Brown

District Council

See attached.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities SPPC

SPPC are in a strong financial situation. They are helping Swaffham Prior School with the new roof. The main problem is finding out who is in need of help or about young people who wish to do something different. Please contact John Robinson should you want any further information.

Village Centre Report

The Little Windmills nursery has closed down and has now been replaced by a part of the Burwell Montessori nursery.

Re surfacing of the driveway and back yard has been carried out. Ongoing maintenance is taking place on the side boundary wall.

The VC is now using online banking.

Provisionally Reach fair made £6,000 profit from £15,000 income. Meaning approximately £1,500 to go to the Amenity Fund. There is approximately £8,500 in the current account and £11,000 in deposit account.

Reach fair has been struggling with getting enough volunteers to organise such a large event. Other options must now be looked at to continue the fair in future years.

An increase in advertising is planned to increase the usage of the hall.

Amenity Fund

From January 2015 – January 2016 the Amenity Fund made the following payments:

Item or Event	Sum
Memorial Bench	£788.12
Christmas Tree Event	£500
X2 Curry Nights Match Funding (Ebola Appeal and Unicef)	£1000
24 Acres Hedge	£238.11
Ragwort removal Reach Wood	£200
Avenue of limes – tree replacements	£150
Reach Riders Group	£250
Sports Day	£89.57
Apple Day	£66.90
Joyce's Tea Party	£300
Total	£3582.70

The sum of £3733.39 is left in the account which represents a large sum especially considering that we are on the eve of Reach Fair 2016.

Charity match-funding ceased has now ceased.

The magazine regularly contains Amenity Fund reports and the village web site also has a section on the Fund.

John Holmwood resigned as Chair in December 2016. Claire Halpin was proposed, and accepted, to become the new Chair. Grahame Radford and Andrew Trump, representing the Village Centre, are Committee Members. Diana Ward and David Thomas represent the Parish Council but David Thomas has recently resigned and therefore the PC will need to identify a new committee member

Claire Halpin-McDonald
28th April 2016

24Acres Report

The woodland has established well. Losses in the first year after planting were within the limits of what would be expected for a planting of this type. Most of the losses appear to have been the result of gnawing by voles. However, even trees damaged in this way are showing signs of regrowth. In February, 30 people formed a community work party and replaced the losses incurred so far. Going forward, a management plan has been prepared to guide decision-making on the future replacement of trees, within the guidelines and contract terms with the Forestry Commission.

All the trees in the orchard appear to have survived, although some are growing more slowly than expected – thought to be a result of voles burrowing and eating their roots. However, on the positive side,

there doesn't appear to have been any damage by deer. The regular cycle of pruning and weeding continues. October also saw the inaugural Reach Village Apple and Orchards Day. It was a great success and will be held again in 2016.

A key development at the cricket field has been an agreement with Burwell Cricket Club to allow their third team to play a maximum of 9 games on the site. In return they will take full responsibility for all management and care of the cricket field. A funding application has been submitted to cover the costs of lying on water to the field. If successful there will also be a tap close to the orchard/meadow area – to supply water for future village events. Following a number of successful fundraising events, the horse riding area has been demarcated by posts and tape and is available for riders from Reach to use. Continued fundraising aims to raise sufficient funds to put in place post and rail fencing and gated access. Plans to develop jumps and other obstacles on the site await outcome of discussions with insurers.

Overall access and connectivity of the area has been extended by construction of a culvert at the far North East corner of the 24Acres. This allows walkers to use a permissive path on the northern boundary of the adjacent field and so connect with National Trust land/paths leading to Hurdle Hall and Reach Lode.

David Thomas

Friends Of Reach Wood

Late April 2015 - A list of stakeholders was assembled and consulted about the form that FORW should take.

Late May 2015 - Consultations about management priorities for Reach Wood and meadow were completed - Circulation of the Management Plan.

23rd June 2015 - The inaugural meeting of FORW stakeholders took place at the Dyke's End - Minutes were sent to the PC.

Mid-July 2015 - An application to the Amenity Fund for ragwort pulling on Reach Wood meadow was successful.

Early August 2015 - Two full days of ragwort pulling had been undertaken by The Prospects Trust - The Woodland Trust agrees to fund ragwort pulling in subsequent years.

9th September 2015 - The meadow is cut to a height of 6 inches with a bar-cutter, as prescribed in the Management Plan.

Mid-November 2015 - FORW meeting postponed by mutual agreement until June 2016 - WildReach website launched with details of wildlife in Reach Wood and other local wildlife areas.

26th November 2015 - Reach Wood's 21st 'birthday'.

Mid-April 2016 - Consultation with stakeholders about ragwort pulling in summer 2016. The Prospects Trust agreed to undertake the work.

Steve Boreham.

District Councillor's Annual Report - 2016 ①

The Council's Budget The 16/17 Budget is balanced without a council tax increase. The 17/18 budget will be balanced, and the 18/19 budget is close to being balanced. We are the only Council in Cambridgeshire able to say this.

Ely's new Cineworld Leisure Complex Work has now started on the site of the new six screen cinema on the Ely by-pass by the Downham Road junction. Leases have also been signed for several eateries including McDonalds, KFC, Costa Coffee, and Frankie and Benny's. There will also be a 'Hungry Horse' pub operated by Green King.

When it is eventually joined by the District Council's Sports Centre that will include a six lane swimming pool, learners pool, fitness suite, and an all weather sports pitch, it will provide facilities for most leisure tastes.

It will also include free parking for 380 cars.

Tourism Last year Ely had 230,000 visitors, generating an income of over £4 million. We are hoping for an increase in this figure this year.

Recycling In 2012 before the introduction of our new service we recycled 34.5% of our waste, this last year we recycled 57%.

Also of amount recycled in 2012 we sat at 286th position of local authorities, we are now at 26th position. This is a reflection of the achievement of Dave White, our recycling manager.

Community Land Trust housing CLT's These are first and foremost houses for people local to the area for rent. They are excluded from the Government's 'Right to Buy' legislation so remain in the rental sector. The houses being built at Stretham will be at 60% of market rent. It is our ambition to build 250 CLT affordable homes over the next 5 years.

District Councillors Annual Report 2016 ② (Continued)

£122,000 Rural Grant

East Cambs District Council has been awarded this grant by Central Government. It will be administered by the Councils Commercial Services Committee

Its details are as follows —

It will be divided equally between 42 Parishes, giving each Parish £2904.00. The Rural Services Grant can only be spent on initiatives that benefit the community and each Parish Council will be required to submit an annual report to the District Council to demonstrate how this grant has been spent. If a group of Parish Councils wanted to join together to spend this money on a larger project, it would have the approval of the District Council.

The spending of this grant is not time related. The District Council is still waiting to hear when we will be receiving this grant.

I currently serve on the Commercial Services Committee and sit on the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board.

I have been involved in several local issues, particularly planning issues and count it an honour to work on behalf of the residents of the Swaffham Ward.

Allen Alderson

Report collated by Susan Bailey – Parish Clerk.