



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2009

Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Not Present
Penny Lang	Councillor	Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Not Present

Forum for Members of the Public

There was no input from members of the Public.

Amenity Fund Applications

None

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st December 2008 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

There was nothing to be reported since the last meeting.

District Council Report

The 21.00 and 23.00 10/10A Monday to Saturday service from Cambridge will be served by the number 12 bus that will be re-routed to pass through Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Burwell on its way to Newmarket.

Hastoe Housing Association is to undertake a development of affordable housing at Bell Road in Bottisham. It is being proposed by Bottisham Parish Council that residents of the Swaffham ward will be included in eligibility for these houses.

A draft action plan by ECDC to deal with the effects of the credit crunch was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on December 15th. This is to be followed by a Seminar for Council members on January 8th. The final plan will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee at its February meeting.

We have to examine the impact of the credit crunch on the following aspects;

- The impact on the capacity of the Council to deliver its corporate and operational objectives
- The impact on individuals and families within our local communities, particularly those who are vulnerable
- The impact on businesses and the local economy

The action plan will address what we need and can do to ensure the Council is as effective as possible in meeting its operational and strategic objectives and assist during the downturn.

Financial Report

The Parish Council's bank account is in a satisfactory state. It is forecast that the Parish Council will overspend its income in the year to 2009 by approximately £300.

Police Liaison Committee Report

For local crime information, visit www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood/locate.asp. To look at all aspects of local policing, visit www.cambs.police.uk.

Maria Green is our local Police Liaison Officer and can be contacted on 07710 994972. **The Clerk** will invite Maria to a Parish Council meeting.

Village Hall Committee Report

There was no meeting in December.

Matters Arising

1. Audit Report 2007-2008

Reach Parish Council accounts for the financial year 2007-2008 have been audited both internally and externally and approved. The external auditor commented that any comments provided by either the internal or external auditor should be reviewed by the Parish Council and any actions duly minuted.

In previous accounts the Parish Council has been reminded that there are deadlines to be met for the Parish Council approving the accounts and this comment was re-enforced and confirmed to the Clerk who will ensure that these deadlines are met for the 2008-2009 accounts and beyond.

The role of the Clerk was discussed and it was confirmed that to the knowledge of the Parish Council, H M Revenue and Customs have accepted that the Clerk for Reach Parish Council can be considered as self-employed.

2. Bus Service Quality Update

Ross Clark provided an analysis of information provided by Reach bus users. Overall the service was deemed acceptable over the analysis period.

3. Pollution in Agricultural Land

The Parish Council has been contacted by a Scientific Officer from Environmental Services at ECDC regarding a letter sent to the Parish Council in April 2006 regarding this problem. A site visit by the Scientific Officer took place on Friday 7th November 2008 with Helen Platt in attendance. The Scientific Officer recognized that there was a problem and has had subsequent meetings with the landowner and the person farming the land. The proposed solution is that the worst affected land at the western end will be grassed over and not farmed. Following the Parish Council meeting the Scientific Officer reported that progress was being made and that he continues to monitor the situation closely.

4. Peacocks Nuisance

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. Allen Alderson has discussed the issue with ECDC and action is to be taken by ECDC to overcome the problem. **Allen Alderson** will monitor progress with the ECDC contact concerned and report back to the Parish Council.

5. Salt Bin

The salt bin near Ditchfields has been installed and filled.

6. Speedwatch

Reach has signed up for Speedwatch – an initiative which has residents volunteering to check the speeds of vehicles in other local villages, using equipment supplied by ECDC. Angela King and Helen Platt volunteered from

Reach and there will be a training session for them and other volunteers in January 2009. Volunteers from other local villages will monitor the speed of traffic coming through Reach. Reach Parish Council will contribute £40 to the cost of the equipment required. All Panel areas will have their equipment with trained volunteers by Saturday, 21st February.

7. Telephone Box

The Clerk has contacted BT regarding the dilapidated state of the red phone box in the village. BT have sent out an inspection officer who confirmed that painting is required and that this will take place some time in the next financial year, starting April 2009.

8. Wicksteed Leisure

One of the legs of the swings was, in the view of the Parish Council, not satisfactorily dealt with by the contractor when work was last carried out. The Clerk wrote to the contractor asking them to remedy this particular fault at their cost. As a gesture of goodwill, the contractor has carried out the work at no cost to the Parish Council.

9. Cemetery Fence

Ron Greenhill will carry out the work, based on an estimate of £80.

10. Footpaths

There are a number of footpaths within Reach and **the Clerk** will document these and make contact with the Rights of Way office at the County Council, specifically Simeon Carroll, to establish their responsibilities.

11. Haulage Activities of John Cole

There have been complaints regarding these activities based on the size of the vehicles involved, their leaving and arriving schedules, parking issues and potential pollution problems. One complainant has escalated their complaint to EDCD. The investigation continues and the Parish Council will be informed of progress some time during week beginning 19th of January.

12. Land Registration

The Clerk has arranged to visit the Land Registry in Peterborough to establish ownership of land within Reach so that individual responsibilities can be established, including the car park near to the playground which is considered in need of repair. Areas of common land will be reviewed to see whether the Parish Council should take ownership.

13. Willow Tree on the Hythe

There is concern regarding a willow tree on the Hythe which appears to be in a dangerous state. **The Clerk** will revisit the offending willow tree and endeavour to quantify the work needed, for review by the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Planning Applications

The planning application for 15 Great Lane was discussed and no objections raised.

Any Other Business

- a. The mowing contract for the village, between the Parish Council and C R Contracting, was signed,
- b. Penny Lang resigned from the Parish Council. She was thanked by the Chairman for her tremendous contribution to the Parish Council, initially as Clerk and then as a Councillor. **The Clerk** will follow the official procedure for replacing her.
- c. **The Clerk** was asked to write to a resident to try and establish ownership of garden waste which lies outside the resident's property.
- d. **The Clerk** will arrange for the street light outside 13 Ditchfield to be repaired.
- e. **The Clerk** will report a hollow in the road outside the Snib End property.

Payments

These were made as follows and from the Parish Council's Precept Current Account unless otherwise indicated.

100855	Anglian Water	Cemetery Water	£18.93
100856	D M Parr	Clerk's wages Oct-Dec	£387.60
100857	D M Parr	Clerk's Expenses	£55.57

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th February at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued on Monday 26th January.

Chairman:

Date: