



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2009

Attendance

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

Forum for Members of the Public

Two members of the public attended and contributed to the National Trust Bridge Plans and the Track Encroachment – Green Lane Track discussion points.

Declaration of Interests

None

Community Policing Review with Maria Green

A presentation was made discussing what community policing entailed and what the community could do to help themselves. This was much appreciated by the councillors.

National Trust Bridge Plans Review with Chris Soans

The National Trust is planning to put in a bridge across Reach Lode for the use of walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The intention is that the bridge will link Burwell Fen Farm with Split Drove. Plans were shown to the Parish Council prior to planning permission being sought. No major objections were raised – the Parish Council will have a future opportunity to review the plans.

Amenity Fund Applications

None

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th February 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

The County Council average council tax increase for 2009/2010 for a band D property is 3.9% - £38 a year. The opposition proposed an increase of 2.45% but this was defeated.

The Children's Centre is running from Bottisham with activities across the area, including the Swaffhams, Burwell and Reach, for families with under 5's. Activities include Dads groups, health clinics, young parents support and messy play.

The County Council Research Group has won an award for the best piece of research undertaken by a local authority for its work on the Post Office Network Change Group.

District Council Report

ECDC is using a special windfall payment from central government to reduce its council tax increase for the coming financial year to 4.5%.

The council has also decided to provide an additional £10,000 to Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau over the next two years – which has been matched by Cambridgeshire County Council Forest Heath District Council, making an extra £30,000 in all. ECDC are also giving Ely CAB £20,000 this year and £14,000 the following year.

ECDC are looking to see if improvements can be made in local transport from community dial a rides to local buses. Consultations are underway to explore the possibility of expanding services to include more members of the community over a longer period during the day. It could, for instance, be used by our younger residents in the evening.

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 March 2009 by approximately £1,000 (to include the cost of tree works on the Hythe).

Police Liaison Committee Report

The number of metal thefts in Cambridgeshire has dropped dramatically in the past year.

Police and partner agencies ran numerous days of action across Cambridgeshire based on hundreds of vehicles being stopped and searched.

Anyone with information regarding any criminal activity should contact the police on 0845 456 4564 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Village Hall Committee Report

Preparations for Reach Fair 2009 are making good progress. Further assistance is needed from Reach residents to assist on the day. Efforts are underway to ensure that parking will be more efficient than last year.

Matters Arising

1. Allotments in Reach

There was a request for allotments to be made available in the village. **ROSS CLARK** will look into what allotments there might be currently and as necessary, how the number of these might be increased. **ROSS CLARK** will also include this item in the next issue of Out of Reach Magazine to assess the size of the requirement.

2. Contingency Fund Requirement

Each year a Precept is agreed based on the likely expenditure that the Parish Council will make in the forthcoming financial year. The question of how much emergency reserve should be kept to cover unidentified expenditure was raised. **THE CLERK** will provide financial details for the next meeting in order to facilitate discussion.

3. Councillor Vacancy

Hilary Fielding was co-opted onto the Reach Parish Council.

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 continue to monitor progress and report back to the Parish Council.

5. Track Encroachment

The Parish Council had received a complaint regarding the narrowing of the right of way known as Green Lane (the

track just before Ditchfields as you approach Reach from Swaffham Prior). The Clerk looked into the matter and discussed the issue with the relevant Rights of Way Officer who, following a review of photographs taken, was not uncomfortable with the actions taken by local residents to protect their fencing and verges. **THE CLERK** will write to the complainant outlining the outcome of the complaint.

6. Willow Trees on the Hythe

There was concern regarding three willow trees on the Hythe which are in a dangerous state. Advice had been taken from Cathy White, Tree Officer regarding the work required and following the standard three quotations process, the Parish Council selected a contractor. The Parish Council also negotiated a 50% contribution towards the costs from the County Council. The work will take place on Tuesday 10th March.

7. Cemetery Fence Repair

The Clerk has contacted the proposed contractor to establish timescales for the required repair work to be carried out. **THE CLERK** will report the response at the next meeting.

8. Great Lane Road Erosion

THE CLERK has contacted the Highways Department and is arranging a meeting between them and the relevant occupants. He will also attend this meeting and report back to the Parish Council.

9. Haulage Activities within Reach

There have been complaints regarding the activities of a haulier in Reach, 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 ECDC. ECDC have now ruled on this issue as follows;

"The current assessment is that at this moment in time there has not been a material change in use and planning permission is not required. There is no further action to take and the file will be closed".

10. Land Registration

It has been established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. **THE CLERK** will collect further information to establish the benefits/drawbacks of the Parish Council registering and thereby taking ownership of these areas of land (plus potentially others) and will report back to the Parish Council at a subsequent meeting.

11. 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 a representative of the Parish Council in attendance. The Scientific Officer recognized that there was a problem and in conjunction with the landowner, an action plan has been instigated.

Whilst the Scientific Officer feels that this item can now be removed from subsequent Parish Council agendas, the Parish Council feels that it needs to keep the action plan under scrutiny. **THE CLERK** will write to the Scientific Officer accordingly.

12. RaSP Mast

ECDC has received a complaint regarding the presence of a RaSP mast in the garden of a house in the village. The ECDC has reviewed the mast and concluded that planning permission is required. The Parish Council awaits this application for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Planning Applications

None

Information Items

- a. There has been a complaint that the two bus shelters in the village are looking scruffy due to them also being used as noticeboards. This item will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
- b. It was reported that trees on the left hand side of the Burwell Road as it leaves Reach require trimming. **THE CLERK** will investigate and as necessary, add this to the agenda of the next meeting.

- c. Trees within Reach Wood have been cut down by the Woodland Trust. **THE CLERK** will contact them seeking an explanation of why this is necessary.

Payments

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

100861	ECDC	Street Lighting	£232.05	
100019	Village Hall Committee	Christmas Music	£100.00	Amenity Fund

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued by Wednesday 25th March – and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

Chairman:

Date: