



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 2009

Attendance

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

Forum for Members of the Public

Members of the public attended and contributed to the Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access discussions.

Declaration of Interests

None

Amenity Fund Applications

None

Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

County Council Report

Not presented

District Council Report

The waste and recycling contract with Veolia has been reviewed. There has been mixed feedback and councillors have vowed to do all they can to improve the service.

Staffing changes are being implemented, the most significant of which is the temporary part-time secondment of Alex Colyer, Executive Director Finance to South Cambs District Council for a period of six months.

ECDC has announced that children aged 16 and under and adults aged 60 and over can swim for free at the Paradise Pool in Ely.

There are travellers on Headlake Drove. Should they not have moved on by the end of April the County Council will take legal steps to remove them.

Financial Report

Included within the Contingency Fund requirement/level discussions

Police Liaison Committee Report

None presented

Village Hall Committee Report

Preparations for Reach Fair 2009 continue to make good progress. A grant has been achieved to purchase further chairs.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Report

This was provided by John Robinson. The Charity has made a number of awards through the year and was pleased to be able to provide a sum of £75 to OAP's at Christmas last year.

Matters Arising

1. Allotments in Reach

There has been a request for allotments to be made available in the village. An item regarding the potential need for allotments has been included within Out of Reach Magazine in order to assess the size of the requirement. Once this has been done the Parish Council will review the matter further.

2. Bottisham Bowling Club Request for Funds

The Parish Council has received a letter from Bottisham Bowling Club explaining their planned major expansion. Within the letter it explained that funds were being sought. **The CLERK** was asked to communicate to the Bowling Club that whilst we wish them every success with their venture, the Parish Council would be unable to provide any financial support.

3. Bus Shelters being used as Noticeboards

The two bus shelters in the village are doubling up as noticeboards and a concern was raised that this made them look untidy. It was decided to consider the acquisition of two wooden noticeboards which would be properly and appropriately attached to the two shelters. **The CLERK** will continue to investigate how this might be achieved, with assistance from other councillors.

4. 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 was given guidance that somewhere between 25% and 100% of annual spend was an appropriate level. The plan for the current financial year is a spend of £7,500 which would leave the Parish Council with a reserve of around £2,600 at the end of the financial year – which is 35% of spend. The Parish Council felt that this was sufficient but the situation will continue to be monitored each month.

5. Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access

The residents of the three houses closest to the bend expressed their concerns regarding large vehicles trying to navigate the bend and in the process causing direct damage to their properties by way of collision or weakening the houses due to their weight and vibration. In 2005 Cambridgeshire County Council agreed to erect three bollards to provide some protection but this did not happen despite written commitment. The Parish Council asked **the Clerk** to work with the residents and contact the County Council to discuss the overall issue and seek an acceptable outcome.

6. Parking on the Green

There had been a request from two residents of Reach to park some cars on the village green overnight in early June. Permission was granted and **the Clerk** will inform the residents of this.

7. Peacocks Nuisance

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. The issue has been discussed with ECDC and some action taken to overcome the problem. **The Clerk** will monitor

progress and report back to the Parish Council.

8. Playground Inspection

The annual inspection is due and **the Clerk** will seek at least two estimates before selecting a suitable company to carry out the inspection.

9. Reach Fair Parking and Road Closures

The Parish Council approved the proposed application which the Reach Village Centre Committee will now put to Cambridge County Council for their approval.

10. Track becoming Rutted off Great lane

The track in question has become, in the opinion of the Parish Council, dangerously rutted. **The Clerk** was asked to contact the resident whose vehicles are causing the rutting to see what can be done to alleviate the problem.

11. Trees overhanging Burwell Road

There was concern regarding the trees which overhang the Burwell Road on the left hand side as you leave the village. **The Clerk** was asked to contact the owner of the trees to outline the problem and agree a solution.

12. Tree Cutting in Reach Wood

The Clerk had contacted the Woodland Trust to question the need for the recent tree cutting in the wood. The Woodland Trust had replied with a satisfactory explanation for the activity and confirmed that no further tree cutting was planned for the rest of the year.

13. Cemetery Fence Repair

The contractor who had planned to carry out some repair work was no longer able to do so. It was decided that the need for the remedial work and the scale of it should be re-assessed prior to any further action being taken.

14. Great Lane Road Erosion

THE CLERK is awaiting a response from the concerned residents with regard to a meeting between them and the council highways department. Should no response be forthcoming by the next Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council will remove this item from future agendas.

15. 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.

16. National Trust Bridge Plans

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. A programme of showing the plans to interested groups has been completed. During the middle 3 Saturdays in May there will be a public road show to show these plans and other projects to the community. It is also planned, but not confirmed, that the National Trust will attend Reach Fair. The plans for the bridge will be finalized and ready for planning in late April/early May. The Parish Council will then receive the application for comment from ECDC in the normal fashion.

17. 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.

The situation continues to be closely monitored both by a Parish Councillor and the Scientific Officer, especially regarding the new aspect of rubbish coming out of the old pit and falling down into the wood.

18. 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

A plan for two gravestones to be erected in the cemetery was approved. **The CLERK** will inform J K Memorials.

Information Items

- a. The opportunity exists for Reach to enter the Calor Village of the Year competition (www.calorvillageoftheyear.org/england/index.htm). This will require someone or a small group to organise the activity – anyone interested should contact the CLERK and this item will be added to the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.
- b. The Parish Council continues to try and assist Snakehall Farm in their construction of a bus shelter.
- c. 'Help the Aged Cambridgeshire' has a small grants scheme. One-off grants are available for projects that help to 'improve the quality of life for elderly people in Cambridgeshire', grants must be for specific projects and are between £100 and £1,000 (however the average grant is approx £400). Grants can be for capital items or project revenue costs.

Applications should be sent to: Chris Lakin, 15 Dane Drive, Cambridge, CB3 9LP

- d. "Weather the storm" is an advice website to help residents and businesses in Cambridgeshire through the recession. Their web address is www.weatherthestorm.org.uk.
- e. It was noted that a resident is parking cars wholly on the pavement of the village. This is illegal and also dangerous because of the location. **The CLERK** was asked to write to the residents advising them that this practice must cease.

Payments

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

100863	Gardenworks	Tree works	£1,121.25
100864	David Parr	Clerk's Pay	£387.60
100865	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£65.00
100866	C R Contracting	Mowing	£145.00
100867	David Parr	Clerk's Expenses	£29.88

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm. The Agenda 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: