



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th April 2010

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Not Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	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	Part-time
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

In the absence of Councillor Clark, Vice Chairman Councillor Aves chaired the meeting.

1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

2. Visit by Annie Austin new local PCSO

Annie was unable to attend but has been invited to a subsequent meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Aves had declared at a previous meeting an interest in the Great Lane – Fair Green Large Vehicle Access issue but exercised his right to speak during the discussions.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No report provided – the new Committee has yet to meet.

5 (2) County Council Report

The Adult and Communities Policy Development Group met to consider a number of items. With the demise of the Learning and Skills Council, the County Council has to decide whether to take on the role of lead body. The PDG felt that the County Council should actively seek this role and also considered how informal adult learning should fit into the education landscape. The PDG also received a presentation from Dr Liz Robin on the annual Public Health Report.

Following training, I participated in my first appeal hearings on home to school transport – one in Huntingdon and one in March. These appeals are where parents are disputing the County Council decision to refuse to pay for transport under the funding policy and can be quite involved cases.

A meeting was held with contractors over the access to Burwell Village College playing field for the carnival, with

associated improvements to the Sports Centre car park. The work is scheduled to be completed over the Easter holidays.

A "Giant" sculpture was unveiled at Burwell House as part of a Community Arts project, which was a pleasure to attend.

I attended my first meeting of the Local Government Association Rural Commission in London, with supply of affordable housing and the need to keep local health facilities open, high on the agenda. Economic development and supply of services in rural areas were also discussed.

I have continued to raise a number of areas of complaint with Stagecoach over the revised bus timetable and hope to have more to report next month.

The full County Council met on 30 March, with road maintenance the main agenda item of local interest.

It was decided that the current County Council automatic 50% enhanced redundancy payment will become discretionary.

Councillor Brown was able to announce that from April 6th the 15:17 bus from Newmarket will be amended to operate via Reach and Snakehall Farm, departing from Reach at approximately 15.49.

5 (3) District Council Report

To give Councillors a better understanding of business and organisations in our district, ECDC have been arranging member visits.

The kerbside collection of plastics has now ceased, resulting in a saving of £119,000. The plastic bottle banks will be monitored and collections increased if required.

Andrew Killington has been designated as Deputy Chief Executive of ECDC.

The Licensing and the Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting approved the review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers License. All new applicants will have a joint license and those drivers who presently have a single license will be required to pass a knowledge test before being issued with a joint license.

At the South Area Neighbourhood Panel meeting Nikki King, Cambridge County Council Locality Youth Work Co-ordinator, gave an informative presentation that could be given to individual Parish Councils, should they so wish.

Councillor Alderson agreed to expedite the removal of some fly-tipped waste.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and will finish the year with a positive contribution to reserves of around £1,100.

5 (5) Parish Council Members

Councillor Fielding attended the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting where the main problems were anti-social behaviour in Burwell, the new bus timetable, fly-tipping, dog fouling and the state of rights of way. It was agreed that **the Clerk** will advertise the dates of neighbourhood panel meetings in Within Reach magazine and on the website and encourage villagers to either attend these meetings themselves or brief Councillor Fielding of their concerns if they are unable to attend or wish for support at the meeting.

5 (6) Play Spaces Officer Report

No repair work is currently needed.

5 (7) Police Liaison Committee Report

It was decided that this role would be suspended and the route for information would be via the Clerk. **The Clerk** will ask Annie Austin, our local PCSO to provide a report for presentation at subsequent meetings.

5 (8) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month.

5 (9) Village Centre Committee Report

Good progress is being made with Reach Fair 2010.

Redecoration of the small meeting room has started.

The faulty fire alarm will be fixed shortly.

7 (1) Accounting Year Ending March 2010

It was agreed that **the Clerk**, with assistance from a local retired accountant, will put together the accounts as opposed to using a local accountancy firm, thereby saving around £250. The final internal audit will continue as normal.

7 (2) Annual Parish Meeting Preparations

This will take place on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm in the Village Centre. **The Clerk** will advertise the event together with the agreed agenda on the notice boards and on the website. The May Parish Council meeting will be shortened to half an hour and take place at 7.00pm on the same day.

7 (3) Exclusive Rights of Burial

It appears that some Exclusive Rights of Burial documents may not have been properly issued for the cemetery. **The Clerk** is in the process of generating these and will distribute them appropriately in due course.

7 (4) Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access

The residents of the three houses closest to the bend had 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 their houses due to their weight and vibration.

It had previously been agreed that a Traffic Restriction Order, based on vehicle length or weight and funded by an application to the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement scheme, would be applied for which, if successful, would be implemented during the period 2011-2012.

The Clerk had escalated the problem to a suitably high level within Highways with a view to securing the required funds more certainly and a lot sooner. The response from Highways was not supportive and the Clerk replied expressing the disappointment of the Parish Council with the outcome. It was agreed to proceed with the JFMHI application, as previously agreed.

7 (5) Land Registration

It has been established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. **The Clerk**, working with **Ross Clark**, will endeavour to give them Common Land status when the window of opportunity arrives later this year, to ensure that they are protected from registration by other parties.

7 (6) Parish Paths Partnership Review

The Parish Council has agreed to join this scheme and the required paperwork will be completed shortly. Councillor Fielding will be the Parish Council's contact person for the Rights of Way Officer at the County Council. **Councillor Fielding** will arrange a meeting for herself and the Clerk with the Rights of Way Officer as soon as possible. A plan of action will then be put together by **Councillor Fielding** and volunteers sought to carry it out.

7 (7) Reach Fair Car Park

The Clerk outlined the current status of the land that is used for car parking for Reach Fair. This will be further updated during April.

7 (8) Reach in Winter

The Clerk is in the process of applying for Reach to be included on the primary gritting route.

Three extra salt bins have been acquired and will be positioned within the village, subject to the agreement of Highways and following a response from Highways regarding the addition of Reach onto the gritting route.

The Clerk confirmed that any volunteers within the village who spread the contents of the salt bins will be covered by the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance. **The Clerk** will advertise this fact on the website and in Within Reach magazine in due course.

7 (9) Verge Erosions on Fair green

There is verge erosion outside 28 Fair Green which creates safety and environmental issues due to the mud that is produced during rainfall or discharge of water into the road. Highways recognises the problem and are prepared to provide some limited kerbing to direct the water flow more efficiently. This work will take place at some stage during the current financial year.

7 (10) Village Tidiness

There is an issue with the inappropriate parking of a vehicle in the centre of the village. **The Clerk** will ask for the vehicle to be parked elsewhere in future.

An area of land in the village is being used by a resident for composting and temporary storage of wood for burning. The Parish Council feels that this is inappropriate and could encourage fly tipping of garden waste by others. **The Clerk** was asked to contact the residents concerned and request that they tidy up this area and do not use it for these purposes in future.

7 (11) War Memorial Status

The War Memorial is in need of some level of refurbishment. The Clerk attended a recent War Memorials Trust meeting where he was advised that the work could be safely carried out by villagers. **The Clerk** will get together the necessary supplies and volunteers to carry out the work on this occasion.

8. Planning Applications

None.

9. Information Items

A proposal made by a resident to assist the removal of surface water from the green area outside 28 Fair Green will be put to Highways by **the Clerk**.

The Clerk will investigate the cost of spraying the weeds around the Play Area and the War Memorial.

The Clerk was asked to investigate what value the Parish Council's mower might have and suggest a route for disposal for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the ownership of the mirror positioned on the Great lane – Fair Green bend.

The Clerk was asked to inform the Rights of Way Officer of some Swaffham Road residents concerns regarding work being carried out on the Devil's Dyke.

Councillor Fielding has a meeting scheduled with Martin Lester of the National Trust when they will visit Tubney Fen as a follow up to the recent meeting between Martin and local residents.

10. Payments

100905	Countryside Services	Hythe Tidy-Up	£47.00
100906	David Parr	Clerk's Pay Jan-Mar 2010	£433.50
100907	CPALC	Subscription to March 2011	£103.61
100908	ECDC	Cemetery Rates to March 2011	£26.14

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 7.00pm to be followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Parish Meeting. 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: