



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd September 2009

Attendance

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

Forum for Members of the Public

One members of the public attended but made no comment.

Village Centre Accounts Report

These were presented for year ending 31st May 2009 and questions answered appropriately.

Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Amenity Fund Applications

There are currently 3 applications ongoing;

1. Daffodil planting in Reach

Jo Riches has suggested that Reach is lacking in daffodils and that there should be a "village planting day". A list of proposed planting sites has been added to the village website under "News and Events". The Parish Council agreed to support this application when it is discussed with the Village Hall Committee, subject to the Parish Council approving the planting location plan and the funding requested. It is expected that a proposal on planting areas will be put forward at the October Parish Council meeting.

2. Cricket Net

A request for funding has come from Joe Acklam for a cricket net for the village, to be sited on the playing field. There was general support for this and Ross Clark, working with Joe has produced an estimate of up to £2,500 for a suitable surface and netting. **Ross Clark** is working with **the Clerk** to find funding for this venture from various sporting sources, therefore minimising any request for funds from the Amenity Fund.

3. Tennis Court

A suggestion has been made by a Reach resident that a tennis court, located on the playing field, would be a beneficial amenity for the village. The Clerk has established that a painted porous tarmac court, surrounded by secure fencing would cost up to £30,000. **The Clerk** is seeking funding for this venture from various sporting

sources, therefore minimising any request for funds from the Amenity Fund. He has checked the Playing Field deeds and can confirm that construction of a tennis court is not restricted within them.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5th August 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

August has been a quiet month at the County Council. I attended a briefing on the Minerals and Waste Plan for the County through to 2026.

One issue I have been addressing recently is problems experienced by parents whose children are starting at Bottisham Village College this term. Unfortunately application forms for bus passes were not allocated as efficiently as possible, meaning that some children will not have received their bus pass for the start of term. Bottisham Village College, the County Council and Bus Operators are working together to address this issue. All affected pupils will be issued with a temporary pass to ensure they can get to and from school. Parents of affected pupils are urged to complete and return an application form for a permanent pass as soon as possible. Application forms can be downloaded from the County Council website – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Council Report

The Planning Committee met to decide on the National Trust's application for a bridge over Reach Lode. I attended to speak against the application (the planning officer had recommended approval). The committee deferred a decision pending a site visit.

The metal railings on the bridge over the drainage channel at the junction of Headlake Drove and Split Drove have been stolen. As this created a traffic safety issue, I notified the police. Temporary barriers have been erected until the railings can be replaced.

The new waste and recycling days are waste every Thursday and recycling every other Thursday. These changes will start on the 5th October.

The Council's Economic Development team have launched a new website to encourage new businesses to the area. The web address is www.investeastcambs.co.uk.

There have been a number of instances of fly-tipping – all of which are being dealt with both in clearing up the mess and seeking the culprits. For information on how to react to incidences of fly tipping please visit www.reach-village.co.uk/fly_tipping.html.

Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and is on course to finish the year with a positive contribution to reserves. The year ending 31st March 2009 accounts are with the auditors.

Play Spaces Officer Report

None presented.

Police Liaison Committee Report

The Lodestar Festival in Lode went off without incident.

There have been some reports of hare-coursing taking place in the area. This activity is illegal and if anyone has knowledge of such occurrences either having taken place or to take place, they should phone the police on 0345 456 4564 or 999 if it is urgent.

The Parish Council is part of Speedwatch – where volunteer residents measure the speed of vehicles in the village and offenders are reminded of the speed limits. The Parish Council is totally supportive of these activities and would ask residents and visitors to Reach to respect the speed limits at all times. For further information on Speedwatch go to www.cambs.police.uk/roadsafety/speedwatch/index.asp. **The Clerk** has been asked to include Speedwatch information in the next issue of Out of Reach magazine and will also add it to the website.

Village Centre Committee Report

None presented.

Matters Arising

1. Amenity Fund Committee

It was felt that the current arrangement whereby two organisations, who have no regular meetings together, have to jointly approve Amenity Fund applications, should be reviewed. It was agreed that **Ross Clark** would take up this issue with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee with a view to implementing a more satisfactory and efficient arrangement.

2. Bonfires Legalities

Concern has been expressed regarding bonfires being lit in the Ditchfield area of the village. The Clerk looked into the legalities and environmental implications and provided the Parish Council with a leaflet which outlines what is permitted and what is not. In summary, infrequent bonfires of dry garden waste where some thought has been given to the prevailing wind direction should not cause problems. However, household waste including rubber and plastic components should never be burnt. **The Clerk** has been asked to see if sufficient leaflets are available so that one can be delivered to each property in Reach.

3. Fly Tipping

As contained within the District Councillor's report, there have been a number of instances of fly-tipping – all of which are being dealt with both in clearing up the mess and seeking the culprits. For information on how to react to incidences of fly tipping please visit www.reach-village.co.uk/fly_tipping.html.

4. Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements Applications

The Parish Council agreed that two applications (the maximum permitted) should be made for monies from this scheme. These projects are to combat verge erosion on Great Lane and on Fair Green. The objective is to improve safety and the environment by stopping the roads becoming muddy during rainfall. These projects will be considered over the coming months and if the Parish Council is successful, the work will take place in the next financial year.

5. Reach Fair Car Parking

The field which is used for Reach Fair car parking is owned by Cambridgeshire County Farms and leased to a Reach resident. This lease is scheduled to end in October 2010 and the Parish Council has asked the Clerk to try and ensure that the field can be used for Reach Fair car parking in years to come. Cambridgeshire County Farms are aware of the concerns of the Parish Council in this matter and logged this in the relevant file. **The Clerk** will recontact CCF in April 2010 for a further update.

6. Standing Orders

These provide procedures and controls for the management of the Parish Council business and are an aid to proper and effective governance. A draft set of Standing Orders, produced by the Clerk with help from other local Parish Clerks, was provided to Parish Councillors and will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. War Memorial Status

The War Memorial is in need of some level of refurbishment. **The Clerk** will seek three quotations for the potential work for review at the next meeting.

8. Allotments in Reach

There had been a request for allotments to be made available in the village. **Ross Clark** continues to seek a suitable area for villagers to use.

9. Fair Green Verge Erosion

There is verge erosion outside the properties 21 to 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. Funding from the JFMHI scheme has been applied for to kerb the road and contain the soil, preventing any further erosion.

10. Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access

The residents of the three houses closest to the bend have 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 or walls due to their weight and vibration. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to work with the residents and a meeting took place with the residents and the Highways Department on the 29th April. Following this the residents had written to the Parish Council with their proposals and the Parish Council wrote to the Highways Department in support of these proposals. One issue revolves around two bollards to be erected outside 2 Great Lane which Highways suggest need to be plastic whereas the residents, the Parish Council and the local Conservation Officer feel should be made of wood. **The Clerk** has sent the response from the Highways Department to the residents and will ascertain how they might now want to proceed, for discussion at the next meeting.

11. Great Lane Verge Erosion

In the winter, Great Lane gets very muddy due to vehicles cutting into the grass bank outside 17 and 19 Great Lane. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to work with the residents and a meeting took place with the Highways Department. The residents are considering the response of the council with the help of the Clerk. Funding from the JFMHI scheme has been applied for to kerb the road and contain the soil, preventing any further erosion.

12. 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 Village Green status (as Fair Green has) or Common Land status if this is not possible, to ensure that they are protected from registration by other parties.

13. Pollution in Agricultural Land

The Parish Council had 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 in 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, especially regarding the new aspect of rubbish coming out of the old pit and falling down into the wood. The Environmental Officer concerned is to visit the site in September and his findings will be reported at the next meeting.

14. Track becoming Rutted off Great lane

The track in question had become, in the opinion of the Parish Council, dangerously rutted. The Clerk has contacted the resident whose vehicles are causing the rutting and the resident has carried out remedial work.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council was satisfied with Planning Application 09/00578/FUL and had no comment to make. Similarly a memorial stone for Graham Chambers in the cemetery.

Information Items

There continues to be a minor problem with the cemetery gate that will be looked into by **the Clerk**.

Local by-ways are becoming impassable in places – **the Clerk** will discuss this with the relevant people at ECDC in order to remedy the problem.

The tree branch which is partially blocking the drain behind 46 Great Lane will be dealt with by the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards, probably in November of this year when routine work is carried out.

Payments

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

100889	Wicksteed Leisure	Playground Parts	£40.83
100891	D Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00
100890	C R Contracting	Mowing	£270.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm. 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: