

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2008

Present

Chairman Cllr Aves, Cllr Harrison, Platt, Clark, Dunnett and Lang

Apologies

Cllr Wood,

Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 06 February 2008 were confirmed with one amendment and signed.

Reports

District Council Report

Weekly Refuse Collections

The liberal leader on East Cambs Council recently called for fortnightly refuse collections. This was widely reported in the local papers and has alarmed many of the Swaffhams ward residents. I can confirm that there are no proposals to change from the weekly collection of refuse.

Recyclable Collection

As from April, plastics will be collected on the fortnightly round.

The Wicken Fen Vision

The National Trust are holding a series of presentations to update residents on the Wicken Vision,

Dates in the area are as follows:- 5th March, Swaffham Prior Village Hall 7pm, 7th March, Wicken Fen Village Hall 7pm, March 17th Lode Social Club 7pm, 18th March Gardiner Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.

Environmental Services Contact

Martin Stacey, the East Cambs Council contact at environment services for such things as refuse collection, and fly tipping will be leaving at the end of March. The contact person will then be Ian Thompson, until a replacement is appointed.

Oliver Cromwells House

Oliver Cromwell's House will be closed for refurbishment for 2 weeks from Sunday 2nd March.

Reports

Village Hall

The carparking for Reach Fair was going to be handled by the Army cadets. This has fallen through and a team from Swaffham Prior school will do this to help raise money for the swimming pool. Burwell Cricket club will run a burger bar.

Items Discussed:

Horses In Reach Wood

Horses are still being ridden through Reach Wood early in the mornings. Jonathan Plough of The Woodland Trust suggested putting fencing up to prevent this, but it was felt that this would spoil the wood. The Parish Council agreed to monitor the situation. It was suggested that the entrance could be made narrow by planting, posts or style? A notice will be put in Reach reminding horse owners that they should not be riding in the wood.

Prospects Trust

The Prospects Trust had spoken with Cllr Dunnett asking for further clarification of 'exactly what type' of bus shelter the parish council would be happy with. It was agreed that it should be wooden like the ones in Reach in order for it to be in keeping with the surrounding countryside.

Audit of Parish Council Accounts

The completed Audit of Accounts for the Year ending March 2007 were inspected and approved.

Playground

A playground inspection will be booked with Wicksteed for sometime in March.

EDF Energy

In response to the complaints regarding electricity supply on Burwell Road, Reach, these are the comments received from EDF Energy.

"We are sorry to learn of the recent short power cuts last year affecting residents on this road. They have been due to the operation of an automatic switch on our overhead network.

These devices form part of our protection equipment, and automatically cut off the power if a transient fault is detected.

Wind-borne debris, trees or birds coming into contact with the lines can cause this to happen. They can also operate due to the effects of lightning storms. Once the fault has cleared, the power is automatically reconnected. This operation usually lasts a few seconds.

We do understand the inconvenience these cause, but we believe that these devices offer better customer service as there is no need for an engineer to attend site to restore power. Without them, should a fault occur, it would inevitably result in a much longer power cut.

To keep these power cuts to a minimum, we have a rolling programme of tree trimming to maintain an adequate clearance from the overhead lines. We also undertake regular patrols to identify and remove any potential problems on the network.

We are not aware of any inherent problems on this part of the network and if residents are still experiencing a problem with their power supply please ask them to contact our fault department directly on 0800 7 838 838 and we will investigate their specific problem."

Cemetery Grass cutting

Quotes will be requested for the new season of grass cutting.

Rubbish Bags

There have been complaints that some residents in Burwell Road are leaving their rubbish bags out on a Sunday night, ready for the Thursday collection, Residents should be reminded that there can be a £75 fine for doing this! A notice will be put in OOR.

Out of Reach Magazine.

Parish Council Meeting minutes were not published in the last issue of OOR, despite the clerk having forwarded the minutes before the deadline date for printing to the editor.

National Trust

A proposal to erect a bridge over the Reach Lode (Hurdle Hall area) has been put forward. This could either be an arch (high level) or a swing bridge so that boats can let themselves through. The clerk will ask John Megginson of the National Trust to come to a public meeting and update local residents on National Trust proposals. It is hoped that this could be on 9th April.

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 April 2008 at 7.30pm.