



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Attendance

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

1. Forum for Members of the Public

Members of the public attended and joined in the discussions regarding the National Trust's animal grazing policy.

2. Review of the National Trust's Animal Grazing Policy on Tubney Fen

Martin Lester, Countryside and Community Manager at Wicken Fen came along to discuss the issue. A good debate took place with the outcome being that the National Trust will try to find a way of providing a "safe" route for those visitors who are uncomfortable being so close to these animals. In addition, Martin suggested that an organised group could visit Wicken Fen and speak with the grazing warden regarding how to act when in close proximity to these animals.

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. Amenity Fund Applications

1. Cricket Net

Ross Clark is seeking funding for this venture from various sporting sources, therefore minimising any request for funds from the Amenity Fund. It is expected that some £200 will be raised by the cricket club itself.

2. Tennis Court

It had previously been agreed that the Amenity Fund would provide £1,000 for this venture. A further £10,000 has been raised to date. **The Clerk** is seeking to achieve further grant funding and fundraising activities will take place to raise the targeted £30,000.

3. Snakehall Farm Bus Shelter

The Parish Council had agreed to support a grant from the Amenity Fund of up to £500, subject to the farm providing three quotations for the work. Due to bus timetable changes, the viability of the bus shelter is under threat. David Brown, will talk to Snakehall Farm management with a view to getting Stagecoach to restore one particular departure time.

4. **War Memorial**

The Parish Council asked **the Clerk** to seek external funding for the remedial work for the War Memorial prior to any request for a contribution from the Amenity Fund. **The Clerk** will attend a War Memorials Trust meeting in Cambridge on the 4th March and report back at the next meeting.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

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

6 (1) **County Council Report**

I attended February meetings at the County Council which have largely centred around the budget process and agreeing the integrated plan for the coming three years. I attended a number of scrutiny committees which challenged cabinet members and senior officers on spending plans. This culminated in a meeting of the full County Council on 16 February when the plan was approved. Unsurprisingly then was a long and heated debate on the proposals before the budget was finally agreed.

Following decisions at East Cambs District Council, Council Tax rates for Reach in 2010/11 will be Band A £974, Band B £1,136, Band C £1,298, Band D £1,461, Band E £1,785, Band F £2,110, Band G £2,435 and Band H £2,922.

I took the opportunity of the full County Council meeting to ask a question expressing my disappointment and dismay at the revised bus timetable imposed by Stagecoach. In answering, Cllr Mac McGuire, Cabinet member responsible, shared my disappointment and said that he would ask the Passenger Services team to discuss the changes with Stagecoach to see whether at least some of the evening and Sunday services can be reinstated. Cllr McGuire also offered to arrange a meeting with Andy Campbell, Managing Director of Stagecoach in Cambridge. This meeting should have taken place on 1st March, but unfortunately had to be postponed because of illness. I will report further when the meeting has been re-arranged.

I have reported a number of potholes following complaints from residents. Those I have reported seem to have been dealt with as have a number of problem drop kerbs.

6 (2) **District Council Report**

The Ely Masterplan was approved at the full Council meeting on the 23rd February.

Mark Mehaffey, Enforcement Officer Environmental Services at EDCDC, would be happy to come along to a Reach Parish Council meeting to discuss fly-tipping. **The Clerk** will invite him along to a future meeting.

One cost saving measure is the removal of plastic bottle collections from 26th March 2010. Plastic bottle banks will, however, remain.

The EDCDC budget for 2010/2011 has been set – with an increase of 2.95% for a Band D property.

6 (3) **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 of around £800.

6 (4) **Parish Council Members**

Councillor Aves went to a National Trust annual meeting. The contents of that meeting were covered in item 2 of these Minutes.

6 (5) **Play Spaces Officer Report**

No repair work is currently needed.

6 (6) **Police Liaison Committee Report**

No report provided. **The Clerk** had met with new Community Police Officer, Annie Austin and will invite her to come along to a future meeting.

6 (7) Speedwatch

There was no activity in January.

6 (8) Village Centre Committee Report

Good progress is being made with Reach Fair 2010.

It is expected to carry out redecoration of the small meeting room and refurbishment of the damaged roof shortly.

New gates have been fitted to both sides of the Village Centre.

7 (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 changed by the setting up of an Amenity Fund Committee. This would be made up of two members of the Village Centre Committee and two members of the Parish Council plus one member who is not on either of these bodies. The new committee will be placing an advert in Out of Reach magazine and on the website for the fifth member and will agree a constitution.

7 (2) Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that this will take place on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm in the Village Centre. **The Clerk** will advertise the event on the website and in Out of Reach magazine. 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** will reply, expressing the disappointment of the Parish Council with the outcome.

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) Overgrown Hedges in the Village

The Parish Council wishes to remind villagers of their responsibilities in keeping their hedges and boundaries under control. This information has been added to the village website but did not get included in the current issue of Out of Reach magazine. It will be included in the next issue of the magazine and the Parish Council will review the situation at the April Parish Council meeting.

7 (7) RaSP Mast

The granted retrospective planning permission required that work be undertaken to improve the aesthetic appearance of the mast and this has now been carried out.

7 (8) 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 in April.

7 (9) Verge Erosions on Great Lane and Fair green

There is verge erosion outside the properties 21 to 28 Fair Green and 17 and 19 Great Lane 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 was unsuccessfully applied for to kerb the roads and contain the soil. The Clerk emailed Highways to see what the remaining options were. The response was that remedial action for the Great Lane erosion would not qualify for funding. On Fair Green, the area outside 28 Fair Green may qualify, we wait to hear further information after a site visit. **The Clerk** has let Highways know that we would wish to pursue remedial action outside 28 Fair Green.

7 (10) War Memorial Status

The War Memorial is in need of some level of refurbishment. **The Clerk** has received three quotations and will seek grant money from the War Memorials Trust and also ask for a contribution from the Amenity Fund following a visit to a War Memorials Trust meeting in Cambridge on the 4th of March.

8. Planning Applications

None.

9. Information Items

Printed copies of our Standing Orders were issued to Councillors.

The Clerk will arrange a meeting of Councillors who are interested in volunteering for the Parish Paths Partnership.

10. Payments

100903	Cambridgeshire CC	Street Light Maintenance	£242.45
100904	Countryside Services	Playing field hedge cutting	£646.25

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th April 2010 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: