



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th January 2010

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

1. Forum for Members of the Public

Members of the public attended and commented on the Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access issue.

2. Declaration of Interests

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

3. 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 or walls due to their weight and vibration. An email had been received from Kevin Hall, who is in charge of new highway structures for Cambridgeshire County Council. The council rejected the offer by residents to contribute to two wooden bollards on the pavement outside 2 Great Lane. Moreover, it has withdrawn the offer to erect plastic bollards at the site, on the grounds that a technical analysis of road layout has indicated they would inevitably be crushed by long vehicles. The council had also been swayed by a letter from a farmer on Great Lane objecting to the erection of bollards. Mr Hall attended the meeting to outline the options available.

It was finally agreed that a Traffic Restriction Order, based on vehicle length 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.

It was also agreed that **Allen Alderson** would discuss with Veolia the possibility of restricting the size of their vehicles which endeavour to negotiate the bend.

4. Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement (JFMHI) Scheme

The Parish Council made two applications for funds to overcome issues 5 and 6 below. These were both unsuccessful and Mr Hall was able to explain why and suggested that an approach to Highways maintenance would be the next step. **The Clerk** will take the necessary actions.

5. 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 was unsuccessfully applied for to kerb the road and contain the soil. **The Clerk** will now approach Highways maintenance as agreed in item 4.

6. 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. Funding

from the JFMHI scheme was unsuccessfully applied for to kerb the road and contain the soil. **The Clerk** will now approach Highways maintenance as agreed in item 4.

7. Amenity Fund Applications

There are currently 2 applications ongoing;

1. 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 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

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 (which could also be used for other sports, subject to there being sufficient interest). The Clerk has established that a painted porous tarmac court, surrounded by secure fencing would cost up to £30,000. The Parish Council approved the use of Section 106 monies for funding this venture and the Clerk has delivered the necessary application which will be considered on the 18th January (a meeting scheduled for 3rd December was cancelled). Since this source of funding has a limit of £20,000, **the Clerk** is seeking further funding from various sources (the Amenity Fund has agreed to contribute £1,000) including fund-raising and a small team of five people has been set up for this purpose. Up to date information can be found at www.reach-village.co.uk/tennis.html.

8. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd December 2009 were reviewed and signed.

9 (1) County Council Report

December has been a relatively quiet month, meeting-wise at the County Council, although I have also been dealing with a number of queries relating to highways issues, including pavements, gritting schedules and safety concerns regarding the old railway bridge between Swaffham Prior and Reach.

Discussions on the forthcoming budget and Council Tax setting have also continued apace, set in the context of the derisory 2.2% grant offered by Central Government. These discussions have included meetings with Service Directors to consider spending plans for the coming years.

The full County Council met on 8 December. Amongst announcements made were that Cambridgeshire is one of the top Waste Disposal Authorities in terms of re-use, recycling and composting at 52% and also that the County Council had been named Transport Authority of the Year at the prestigious UK Bus Awards – this was tempered by the on-going delays and discussions with contractors over the Cambridge Guided Bus.

We had a lengthy debate on changes to the constitution following the decision by the Leader of the Council to cancel briefing meetings involving opposition spokesmen, a decision brought about by the leaking of sensitive information. We also had a debate regarding the forthcoming work programme for Scrutiny Committees. A number of questions were also dealt with, including the recent High Court Case surrounding the disagreement between CCC and Orkney's Council over the costs of care for a child in care in Cambridgeshire.

9 (2) District Council Report

The Christmas Eve refuse collection did not take place due to weather conditions and a request for an interim collection was rejected. The District Councillor asked the waste management team to look at ways of improving the system over subsequent Christmas/New Year periods.

The Parish Council asked **the Clerk** to write to ECDC expressing their concerns regarding the lack of refuse collection on Christmas Eve.

The District Councillor checked salt bins in the ward and on his instructions, all were topped up on Christmas Eve. ECDC relies upon the public informing them of the need to top up the bins by phoning 0345 045 5212.

The plastic bottle banks are normally emptied during the recycling round but this has not been happening. The District Councillor has asked Veolia to improve their procedures.

There continues to be incidences of fly tipping. The District Councillor has once again asked for these to be attended to. **The Clerk** was asked to enquire about a previous specific incidence of fly tipping where incriminating evidence was found at the scene.

The District Councillor will be attending a number of meetings in January.

9 (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. **The Clerk** will circulate his report via email prior to subsequent meetings.

9 (4) Parish Council Members

No reports provided.

9 (5) Play Spaces Officer Report

No report provided.

9 (6) Police Liaison Committee Report

There was a report by one of our villagers of a red Ford Fiesta reg. P865 PLE being driven erratically around the village by youngsters on 26th November. The police were informed and will have a word with the driver.

There has been a huge increase in thefts from vehicles in this area. The item most at risk is your Sat Nav - do not leave any items of value on view in your car.

Illegal hare coursing is more prevalent at this time of year. If you suspect anyone of hare coursing, dial 999.

The new "Off Road" police motorcycle team has now completed its training and will be routinely deployed in dealing with rural crime such as hare coursing, farm thefts and the misuse of motorcycles in the countryside.

In an attempt to deter burglars this Christmas, Police Force Christmas cards were hand delivered to known suspects. These were worded as follows:

"Just to remind you that if you offend this Christmas, you may well miss out on all the festivities. Cambridgeshire Police would like to warn you to keep out of trouble. The Burglary Squad are working over the Christmas period. Have a merry Christmas! From your Burglary Squad Team".

Cannabis resin and herbal cannabis to the estimated street value of £196,000 was seized from a property in Burwell. £15,000 cash was also seized from the occupant. A local man has been charged with possession of drugs with intent to supply.

9 (7) Speedwatch

There was no activity in December.

9 (8) Village Centre Committee Report

The Christmas Carol Evening was a great success.

For discussion

10 (1) National Trust

The Parish Council had received a complaint regarding the National Trust's large grazing animal policy which appears to deter people using Tubney Fen when the animals are there. **The Clerk** was asked to invite a representative from the National Trust to attend a subsequent Parish Council meeting so that a mutually acceptable solution to this problem might be found.

10 (2) Playing Field Hedges

These need to be reduced in height and trimmed. **The Clerk** will get 3 quotations for consideration and will place the order appropriately.

10 (3) Reach in Winter

December was snowy and cold and highlighted a number of areas where the Parish Council felt improvements could be made.

The Clerk was asked to acquire three extra salt bins with at least one being located in Great Lane. **The Clerk** will also remind villagers via the website and Out of Reach magazine how they should make best use of this facility.

The Clerk will endeavour to get Reach on the County Council's gritting route.

10 (4) Rights of Way

These have become overgrown and arrangements were made for a number of people on probation to come along on a regular (Thursday) basis to carry out the necessary work. The first visit took place on Thursday 29th October and they have continued each week since then with good progress being made. The opportunity exists for Reach to join the Parish Paths partnership and **the Clerk** was asked to invite Karen Whymark, Rights of Way and P3 Officer, to come along to the February meeting to discuss this.

10 (5) War Memorial Status

The War Memorial is in need of some level of refurbishment. **The Clerk** has received three quotations and has been asked to enter into negotiations with the chosen supplier to get the work carried out. **The Clerk** will seek grant money from the War Memorials Trust and also ask for a contribution from the Amenity Fund.

10 (6) 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. Ross Clark has taken up this issue with the Chairman of the Village Centre Committee with a view to implementing a more satisfactory and efficient arrangement. A draft constitution has been compiled and the Parish Council awaits the outcome of this discussion at the next Village Centre meeting after which Ross Clark will conclude discussions on this with the Chairman of the Village Centre Committee. **The Clerk** will ask that this item be added to the agenda for the next Village Centre meeting.

10 (7) Cemetery Trees Pruning

This has been started and will be concluded during the month of January.

10 (8) 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.

10 (9) 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.

10 (10) RaSP Mast

The granted retrospective planning permission required that work be undertaken to improve the aesthetic appearance of the mast. This has not happened within the time allowed but discretion has been granted based on the very cold weather we have been facing. An enforcement officer is working with the resident to ensure that the work is carried out as soon as is practicable.

11. Planning Applications

There were none.

12. Information Items

The Clerk confirmed that a summary of resident's responsibilities in keeping their hedges and boundaries under control has been added to the village website and will be included in the next issue of Out of Reach magazine. The Parish Council will review the situation at the next Parish Council meeting.

13. Payments

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

100899	Burwell Parish Council	Training	£120.00
100900	D M Parr	Clerk's pay Oct/Nov/Dec	£433.50
100901	D M Parr	Clerk's expenses (6 months)	£79.40
100902	H M Customs & Excise	VAT repayment	£124.26

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd February 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: