



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

### Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Part-time
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Part-time

### Forum for Members of the Public

A complaint was made regarding the erosion of the grass verge on Great Lane caused by vehicles driving inconsiderately. **THE CLERK** will visit the property affected and send photographs of the damage to the Highways Agency seeking advice on how the problem can be overcome.

### Declaration of Interests

None

### Amenity Fund Applications

None

### Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were reviewed and signed.

### County Council Report

Cambridgeshire Police report road deaths have fallen in Cambridgeshire by 30% in the past year.

A decision has been made to open the Guided Busway from Cambridge to St Ives in the late summer following a review over the New Year period. All the features the scheme promised will be ready for passengers from the beginning.

Contractors are expected to hand over Central Library in February and subject to that, the Library will reopen in May.

Journeys on Cambridge's Park and Ride have exceeded four million for the first time. Stagecoach have been criticised for a rise in the price of park and ride tickets - just weeks after announcing charges would not go up. The cost of a weekly park and ride ticket has now risen from £9 to £10. Individual return tickets will cost £2.50 per person when bought on the bus, compared to £2.20 - the same as the current price - if purchased in advance from new machines being installed at Park and Ride sites.

Cambridgeshire Citizens Advice Bureaus are very busy with financial enquiries and have experienced a steep rise

in employment queries. The county council is now directing more resources to the charity, which is working on the front line of those affected by the credit crunch.

CCC's Integrated Plan and proposed budget for the next financial year are now published. Part of it's "protect and invest" strategy includes budget concentration on social care for adults and children; support for people during the recession and addressing items such as transport and road safety. The report considers a poor Government grant which has placed added pressure on next year's 2009/10 budget. The outcome is a proposed average council tax increase of 3.9% (for a band D property) or 70p per week. This will mean the tax levy is expected to be lower than neighbouring counties. The proposed budget is going through scrutiny at the moment. The opposition budget proposes an increase of 2.45% (44p per week) and this is also going through scrutiny. The budget will go to full council for approval on 12 February.

The Transport Commission have a website to give a picture of the transport and congestion problems in Cambridgeshire. Sir Brian Briscoe and Professor Tony Travers are not only looking at the TIF proposals but are able to make suggestions if they find other ways of helping improve the transport problems in Cambridgeshire.

The Children's Centre is running from Bottisham with activities across the area, including the Swaffhams, Burwell and Reach, for families with under 5's. Activities include dads groups, health clinics, young parents support and messy play.

### **District Council Report**

ECDC is now debt-free having paid off its loan (to fund the car park at Angel Drove) using funds from its reserves. Adequate funds still remain in the reserves.

Following refurbishment of the restaurant, bar and kitchen, the Maltings will reopen at the end of March. It is proposed to hold a number of reopening events.

The 2009/2010 budget was discussed at a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. The Government's rise of only 0.8% and the impact of the credit crunch will make life difficult. If all proposed savings are made a 4.9% increase in council tax will be proposed at the Full Council meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The latest South Area Neighbourhood Panel meeting took place on January 6<sup>th</sup> at Burwell. It was well attended, covering issues such as Speedwatch, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. It was also suggested that reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in many villages was not being given enough urgency. Mike Davies from CCC explained that a review of speed limits was being undertaken, but could take some time.

### **Financial Report**

The Parish Council's bank account is in a satisfactory state. It is forecast that the Parish Council will overspend its income in the year to March 2009 by approximately £500.

### **Police Liaison Committee Report**

For local crime information, visit [www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood/locate.asp](http://www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood/locate.asp). To look at all aspects of local policing, visit [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk).

Maria Green is our local Police Liaison Officer and can be contacted on 07710 994972. She will attend the next Parish Council meeting on the 4th of March.

The Parish Council gave its full support to the police carrying out random speed checks in areas not designated as accident blackspots.

### **Village Hall Committee Report**

Preparations for Reach Fair 2009 are making good progress. There remain some problems with the new curtains but these are being overcome. All electrical appliances in the Village Hall are to be PAT tested.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **1. Cemetery Mowing**

**THE CLERK** will write to the current contractor confirming our acceptance of their terms for 2009.

## **2. Councillor Vacancy**

The Parish Council has a vacancy which will be advertised by **THE CLERK** with a closing date for applicants being the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. It is planned to complete the selection process at the next Parish Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

## **3. Garden Waste Issue**

The Clerk had written to a resident to try and establish ownership of garden waste which lies outside the resident's property. The resident responded promptly – and to the full satisfaction of the Parish Council. No further action is required. **THE CLERK** will inform the resident of this outcome.

## **4. Land Registration**

The Clerk has visited the Land Registry in Peterborough to establish ownership of land within Reach. The car park near to the playground is owned by Cambridge County Council. **THE CLERK** will contact the council to confirm that it is in need of repair. It was also established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. **THE CLERK** will collect further information to establish the benefits/drawbacks of the Parish Council registering and thereby taking ownership of this land.

## **5. Peacocks Nuisance**

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. Allen Alderson has discussed the issue with ECDC and action is to be taken by ECDC to overcome the problem. **ALLEN ALDERSON** will continue to monitor progress and report back to the Parish Council.

## **6. RaSP Mast**

ECDC has received a complaint regarding the presence of a RaSP mast in the garden of a house in the village. The ECDC has reviewed the mast and will discuss any planning needs with the resident concerned. The Parish Council will be kept informed of progress.

## **7. Track Encroachment**

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the narrowing of the right of way known as Green Lane (the track just before Ditchfields as you approach Reach from Swaffham Prior). **THE CLERK** will look into the matter, getting advice from the Rights of Way Officer at the County Council.

## **8. Willow Trees on the Hythe**

There is concern regarding three willow trees on the Hythe which are considered to be in a dangerous state. Advice has been taken from Cathy White, Tree Officer and two quotations have been received for the required remedial work (a further quotation will be sought by **THE CLERK**). The **PARISH COUNCIL** will visit the area on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am to get a common understanding of the problem. **THE CLERK** will continue his endeavours to establish whether there is an owner for the land (it is not registered with the Land Registry). Due to the condition of the trees, a decision will be taken on how to proceed as a matter of urgency.

## **9. Cemetery Fence Repair**

**THE CLERK** will contact the proposed contractor to establish timescales for the required repair work to be carried out.

## **10. Haulage Activities within Reach**

There have been complaints regarding the activities of a haulier in Reach, based on the size of the vehicles involved, their leaving and arriving schedules, parking issues and potential pollution problems. One complainant has escalated their complaint to ECDC. The investigation continues with a visit by ECDC to the site during week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The Parish Council will be informed of the outcome in due course.

## **11. Pollution in Agricultural Land**

The Parish Council has 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 on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 12. Rights of Way

There are a number of footpaths within Reach and the Clerk has made contact with the Rights of Way office at the County Council. Documentation and maps have been provided to **THE CLERK** who will circulate them to the Parish Council.

## 13. Speedwatch

Reach has signed up for Speedwatch – an initiative which has residents volunteering to check the speeds of vehicles in local villages (including their own village), using equipment supplied by ECDC. Reach has two volunteers and is seeking at least one more having contributed £40 to the cost of the equipment required. All Panel areas will have their equipment with trained volunteers by Saturday, 21st February.

For complete details on Speedwatch please go to:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/carjourneys/communityspeedwatch/community\\_speedwatch\\_aims.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/carjourneys/communityspeedwatch/community_speedwatch_aims.htm)

## Planning Applications

None.

## Any Other Business

- a. The opportunity for CPALC training for councilors may be taken up following discussions with the organiser.
- b. Road sinkage outside Snib End was reported to the Highways Agency by the Clerk. Their response was that funds were not available to carry out repair work at this time. The Parish Council asked **THE CLERK** to reply, saying that this response was not acceptable and to also highlight the poor condition of certain areas of the Burwell road.
- c. The National Trust is planning to put a bridge across Reach Lode which will link Burwell Fen Farm with the Split Drove. They would like to show the Parish Council the designs for comment and this is planned to take place at the next Parish Council meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. **THE CLERK** will confirm this or may request a postponement of one month if time permits.

## Payments

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

100859	Moore Stephens	Annual External Audit	£211.67
100860	ECDC	Speedwatch	£40.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Chairman:**

**Date:**