



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd February 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	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. Rights of Way Review with Karen Whymark from the County Council

Karen described the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme which has been operating for over 15 years with half the parishes in the county now being members. It was agreed that Reach should join the scheme and volunteers will be sought via the website and Out of Reach magazine. Details of the scheme can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/access/parish/. **The Clerk** will write an email of thanks to the Payback teams that have been working in the village.

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 agreed to support a grant from the Amenity Fund of up to £500, subject to the farm providing three quotations for the work.

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.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th January 2010 were reviewed and signed.

6 (1) County Council Report

I attended the South Neighbourhood Panel as County Council Representative – probably unsurprisingly two of the major topics raised were gritting schedules and concerns about the waste collections during the bad weather.

I also attended a meeting of the Littleport Masterplan Working Party, which I sit on for the County Council as a “neutral”.

I have been appointed to the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership and attended my first meeting this month. This grouping considers crime and disorder issues across the district and received similar police reports to those provided at neighbourhood panels. We also had a presentation on the work of the drug awareness and action team.

The Adults and Communities Policy Development Group met. The main topics for discussion surrounded libraries, including the good performance of newly opened libraries in Cambridge, Huntingdon and Great Shelford.

Budget proposals will be considered at the Cabinet meeting today, prior to a meeting of the full County Council on 16 February.

Stagecoach is making some changes to bus timetables from 14 February, with suggestions that the current half-hourly service to Cambridge and Newmarket will revert to hourly off-peak and there will be changes to the Sunday service. Discussions are ongoing to mitigate the effects of the proposals.

There is an issue with the old railway bridge in Swaffham Prior. The problem has turned out to be a burst water main and Anglian Water have been asked to remedy this. The road will need to be closed when this happens.

6 (2) District Council Report

A seminar on the Council's forthcoming budget took place on Jan 25th. Several issues raised were debated at the Internal Overview and Scrutiny meeting that followed.

The Transport and Environment Committee have been recommended to undertake a mapping exercise to identify the locations of plastic recycling banks in the district and establish any gaps in provision. Information from the exercise will be included in a leaflet to be supplied to every household in the district.

The lay-by on the A142 between Barway and Stuntney has been re-opened following a major upgrade. This has traditionally been used by lorry drivers and provides refreshments. ECDC contributed £15,000 to the work with the City of Ely Council and Soham Town Council each contributing £5,000.

Fly tipping debris at Barston Drove has been cleared and that at Headlake Drove will also be cleared. Council officers say that this is a failing of Veolia.

Recommendations designed to make using taxis in East Cambs safer and easier have been approved following a six month consultation. The work, which looked at the signage, colour and livery on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles operating in the District included a significant input from the trade themselves. Among the recommendations approved was the introduction of a single colour for Hackney Carriage vehicles. The Council has yet to determine a suitable colour.

Reach Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £10,000 towards the creation of a new community tennis court in the village from the Section 106 Small Villages Fund.

On the 11th January I attended a meeting with Veolia management and the Reach Parish Council Clerk to discuss the problem of access on the Great Lane – Fair Green bend. We were looking for ways of overcoming the problem of possible damage to nearby buildings.

Allen was made aware of incidences of fly-tipping at the bottom of Tom Cole's drove and of a gas cylinder in the bus shelter. He agreed to take the necessary action to organise their removal.

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 £500 to £800.

6 (4) Parish Council Members

No reports provided.

6 (5) Play Spaces Officer Report

No repair work is currently needed.

6 (6) Police Liaison Committee Report

No report provided.

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 damaged roof shortly.

A request for support for the Snakehall Bus Shelter was agreed to the level of £500.

It was agreed that the new Amenity Fund Committee should be comprised 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.

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. It was agreed that the two Parish Council representatives will be Ross Clark and Rita Dunnett. 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) 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 (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 due to their weight and vibration.

It had previously been 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 agreed at this meeting that **the Clerk** would escalate the problem to a suitably high level within Highways with a view to securing the required funds more certainly and a lot sooner.

It was also agreed that **the Clerk** would make contact with local businesses who either use long vehicles or who take deliveries from suppliers who use long vehicles and currently use the bend to ask them to use an alternative route where possible.

7 (4) 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 (5) National Trust Grazing Animal Policy

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. Martin Lester, Countryside and Community Manager at Wicken Fen has agreed to come along to the March meeting of the Parish Council to discuss this matter. **The Clerk** will advertise this visit to encourage interested Reach residents to attend.

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) Playing Field Hedges

These will be reduced in height and trimmed during week beginning 8th February together with some tidying up at the Hythe.

7 (8) 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 by ECDC (who are monitoring the

situation) based on the very cold weather we have been facing. The resident concerned has informed the Clerk that the work will be carried out as soon as weather conditions allow.

7 (9) Reach in Winter

The Parish Council has expressed its interest in purchasing three extra salt bins for the village. **The Clerk** will tell villagers via the website and Out of Reach magazine how they should make best use of this facility and will try and clarify any legal or insurance issues.

At the request of the Parish Council, the Clerk wrote to the Head of Environmental Services to complain about (i) the lack of a refuse collection on Christmas Eve, (ii) any interim collection prior to the next scheduled and (iii) any information informing the village of its decisions. The response explained that adverse weather conditions precluded the collection on the day or an interim collection. There was also an apology for lack of information flow and for the overall situation together with an indication that lessons had been learnt.

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

7 (10) 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 (11) 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** was asked to monitor progress and let Highways know that we would wish to pursue remedial action outside 28 Fair Green.

7 (12) 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.

8. Planning Applications

No objections were raised to the construction of a low bund at Burwell Fen Farm Newnham Drove Burwell (10/00013/FUM).

9. Information Items

The Queen is hosting a garden party at Buckingham Palace on the 22nd of June. It was agreed to nominate Michael Aves as a guest. **The Clerk** will make the necessary arrangements.

There is a meeting of Wicken Fen Spine Cycle Route Steering Group on the 10th February. **Ross Clark** will attend should his schedule permit and **the Clerk** will let Wicken Fen know this.

The Parish Council declined to support Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council regarding their objection to the B1102 being a designated local HCV transport route on the Advisory Freight Map.

Amendments to the draft Standing Orders were agreed and with these amendments, the Standing Orders were approved. **The Clerk** will update the draft ones and issue to councillors.

10. Payments

These were none.

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