



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th May 2009

Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice 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	Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Present

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the next twelve months.

Chairman	Ross Clark
Vice Chairman	Michael Aves
Police Liaison Officer	Hilary Fielding
Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Officer	John Robinson
Tree Officer	John Reed
Village Hall Representative	Rita Dunnett
Village Hall Representative	Joyce Harrison

Ross Clark took over as Chairman for the meeting immediately after his election.

Forum for Members of the Public

Two members of the public attended but made no contribution.

Declaration of Interests

Ross Clark declared his interest in the planning applications submitted by White Roses.

Amenity Fund Applications

See the Matters Arising "Daffodil Planting in Reach".

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st April 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

Following the restructuring of senior staff at the county council, Mike Davey (who has been attending our Neighbourhood Panel meetings) has been promoted to Service Director for Community Engagement and Rod Craig has been appointed as Executive Director, Community and Adult Services. Three directors will be retiring.

The Older People's Strategy was approved by Cabinet before coming to the Council meeting.

Funding has been secured from the Regional Funding Allocation for a new station at Chesterton, as well as funding for the guided bus to continue to the station from Milton Road. At present 70% of travellers for the present railway station come from the north of the city.

Cambridgeshire Archives gave an update to the Scrutiny Committee on the difficulties of storing the archive materials (most of which is in the Shire Hall basement) and their search for a new venue.

Horizons gave an update on the implications of the economic downturn on the development of new communities.

County Council Farms Estate is celebrating its first century. The estate, the largest of its kind in the country, has 250 tenant farmers working 13,500 hectares (30,000 acres) of land. The first plot was bought in Milton in 1909.

The Guided Bus is being tested and members of the public and press have had the opportunity to ride on a short section of it before the opening. The northern section of the guided bus project should be open in late summer but no date has been set for the southern section. The contractor BAM Nutalls and the County Council are still in dispute over the contract and the Cabinet has met in closed session to discuss the situation.

The contract with the builders responsible for the Central Library has been terminated and Coulson Building Group has taken on the project. Completion date is now expected to be September 2009, over 18 months later than expected.

According to figures just released, the East of England has had the lowest level of public spending per head of any region in England for four of the last six years. Councils and public services in the area receive just £6,555 per person from the Government compared with an average of £7,353 for England as a whole.

Cambridgeshire will run a pilot 20mph scheme in Cambridge to see how well it works.

The four year term of the County Council is almost finished and County Council elections, together with those for the European Union, take place on June 4th 2009.

District Council Report

There was an unauthorised travellers encampment at Headlake Drove - they have now moved on but remain close by and action will be taken to properly move them on.

From May 5th ECDC will be unable to provide a pest control treatment service for a period of up to two weeks. Any queries on this matter should be made to Karen See or Liz Knox at ECDC Environmental Services.

There is an ECDC initiative of funding Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau with £10,000 over the next two years on the condition that it was matched by Forest Heath District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. Suffolk County Council has now agreed to provide £10,000 over the next two years.

Free swimming for the under 16's and the over 60's, already in place in Ely, has now started in Bottisham.

Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and on course to finish the financial year with reserves of £2,600 – approximately 35% of gross expenditure.

Police Liaison Committee Report

There have been bogus calls being made by someone claiming to be a Police officer. If such a call is received and there is concern over its validity, residents should not give out any personal details. The callers name should be asked for and an extension number and then the resident should call back using the 0845 456 4564 number. If the call is bogus, it should be reported to the police using this number.

Village Hall Committee Report

The Reach Fair went well although financial information is not yet available. The Parish Council thanked the Village Hall Committee and the villagers who contributed so much to making the Reach Fair 2009 such a success.

Matters Arising

1. Allotments in Reach

There has been a request for allotments to be made available in the village. An item regarding the potential need for allotments was included in Out of Reach Magazine and six people have expressed an interest so far. The opportunity will also be added to the Reach website and following the analysis of responses the Parish Council will review the matter further.

2. Calor Village of the Year competition

The Parish Council has received a letter from Cambridgeshire ACRE, inviting the village to enter this competition. This opportunity will be added to the Reach website and publicised in Out of Reach magazine. Entries need to be in by 15th June 2009. Further details can be found at www.cambsacre.org.uk.

3. Cow Parsley Strimming

There had been a request that the amount of strimming be limited. This was discussed with varying thoughts from the Parish Councillors. It was decided that a map of where the strimming is carried out be acquired by the Clerk for further discussion.

4. Daffodil planting in Reach

A resident has suggested that the village of Reach is somewhat lacking in daffodils compared to our neighbours and that there should be a "village planting day". The Parish Council asked that this suggestion be put into the Out of Reach Magazine and onto the website to see what support there was for the suggestion. If there was support, then a team would be set up to plan the day and it was suggested that the Amenity Fund be asked to pay for the cost of the bulbs.

5. Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access

The residents of the three houses closest to the bend 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 the houses due to their weight and vibration. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to work with the residents and a meeting took place with the residents and the Highways Department on the 29th April. The residents are now considering the options available and will, with the help of the Clerk, communicate their thoughts to the Highways Department in due course. The Parish Council wishes to review any finally agreed proposals prior to implementation.

6. Great Lane Road Erosion

In the winter, Great Lane gets very muddy due to vehicles cutting into the grass bank outside 19 Great Lane – indeed that bank has been eroded significantly over recent years. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to work with the residents and a meeting took place with the Highways Department on the 29th April. The residents are now considering the response of the council and will, with the help of the Clerk, communicate their thoughts to the Highways Department in due course. The Parish Council wishes to review any finally agreed proposals prior to implementation.

7. Annual Parish Meeting June Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd June in the Village Hall. This is a meeting which all Reach villagers are invited to and encouraged to attend. Brief presentations will be made by members of various village organisations and the opportunity is there for debate on current issues in the community. The agenda for this meeting will be issued by the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

8. Parish Mower Future

It was decided that this will be kept at least until the end of 2009 when the situation will be reviewed.

9. Playground Inspection 2009

This will be carried out over the next four weeks.

10. Track becoming Rutted off Great lane

The track in question has become, in the opinion of the Parish Council, dangerously rutted. The Clerk has

contacted the resident whose vehicles are causing the rutting and the resident has agreed to carry out remedial action when the necessary equipment is available.

11. Trees overhanging Burwell Road

There was concern regarding the trees which overhang the Burwell Road on the left hand side as you leave the village. The Clerk has contacted the owner of the trees who believes that any remedial work is the responsibility of the Highways department. The Clerk has asked the Highways department for their opinions on this and awaits their response.

12. Bus Shelters being used as Noticeboards

The two bus shelters in the village are doubling up as noticeboards and a concern was raised that this made them look untidy. It was decided to consider the acquisition of two wooden noticeboards which would be properly and appropriately attached to the two shelters. The Clerk will specify exact sizing and get 3 quotations for further consideration.

13. Land Registration

It has been 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 these areas of land (plus potentially others) and will report back to the Parish Council at a subsequent meeting.

14. National Trust Bridge Plans

The National Trust is planning to put in a bridge across Reach Lode for the use of walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The intention is that the bridge will link Burwell Fen Farm with Split Drove. A programme of showing the plans to interested groups has been completed. During the middle 3 Saturdays in May there will be a public road show to show these plans and other projects to the community. The plans for the bridge will be finalized and ready for planning in May. The Parish Council will then receive the application for comment from ECDC in the normal fashion.

15. Peacocks Nuisance

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. The issue has been discussed with ECDC and some action taken to overcome the problem. It was reported that unless the birds were a noise nuisance there was little that can be done. It was also felt that the problem had significantly reduced and that no further action should be taken.

16. 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 in 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. The situation continues to be closely monitored both by a Parish Councillor and the Scientific Officer, especially regarding the new aspect of rubbish coming out of the old pit and falling down into the wood.

17. 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 concluded that planning permission is required. The resident concerned will be submitting planning permission documentation in May for future consideration by the Parish Council.

Planning Applications

The planning application for the Old Granary Springhall Farm was discussed and there were no objections raised. The planning applications for White Roses were discussed and a visit will be made by Parish Councillors prior to any comment.

Information Items

- a. The Parish Council continues to try and assist Snakehall Farm in their construction of a bus shelter.
- b. The resident who was parking cars wholly on the pavement has ceased to do so.

- c. The possibility of appointing a “Play Spaces” Officer was discussed. This person would oversee the play spaces in the village and champion the cause for improvements to them. The Play Spaces officer would work with the Clerk to get grant funding for these improvements. It was agreed that this suggestion would be put into the Out of Reach Magazine and onto the website.
- d. All Parish Councillors have to sign a document stating that they undertake to observe the Code of Conduct. The Clerk will print off the Code of Conduct, a training presentation for the Code and the Guide to the Code and ensure that all Parish Councillors have copies and have read and understand the Code.
- e. It was noted that the trees cut down in Reach Wood have had significant stumps left which provide a health and safety issue. The Clerk will contact the Woodland Trust and ask them to remediate the problem.

Payments

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

100870	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00
100869	C R Contracting	Mowing	£270.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd June at 7.00pm, to be followed at 7.30pm by the Parish Meeting. The Agendas for both meetings 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: