



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd June 2009

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	Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Present

Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

Declaration of Interests

Ross Clark declared an interest in the Amenity Fund application.

Amenity Fund Applications

A request for funding has come from Joe Acklam for a cricket net for the village. This would be sited on the playing field and taken down in the winter. There was total support for this and **Ross Clark** will be working with Joe to come up with a firm proposal with costings. Once this is produced the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee will review and make a decision.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th May 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

A Lowry painting belonging to Cambridgeshire Schools Arts collection was sold at auction for £450,000. The proceeds will be used to support cultural activities across the county. When bought in 1935 it cost £31.50.

At the last full council meeting before the election there was disagreement about holding the discussion on the guided bus as a confidential item. Everyone agreed that information should not be released which would prejudice any case that the council might take against BAM Nuttall who are constructing the guided busway but it was felt that there was too much secrecy on the issue.

A scheme where waste cooking oil is collected at Cambridgeshire recycling sites has collected 2,000 litres of oil in its first 6 months. It is converted into clean, renewable energy which feeds into the national grid.

The Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-2012 that sets out the priorities over that time, has been agreed.

The Sustainable Communities Act has been adopted. This promotes much more of a 'bottom up' approach to government.

NHS Cambridgeshire announced that the total number of cases of swine flu in Cambridgeshire is five. The swine flu infection has been mild and the advice to the public and health care staff remains unchanged.

The government are consulting on the Concessionary Fare Scheme. They want views on whether to move the administration and responsibility to a different tier of government, either county or government level.

As Cambridge is a bicycle demonstration town there will be a number of events taking place throughout Bike Week (13-21 June) including a Bike Fair on Parkers Piece on the 13th of June.

The guideway beams for the Guided Bus are expected to reach the St. Ives Park and Ride site in early June. This site is nearing completion, as is Longstanton Park and Ride site.

Donarbon open day is on 6th June 10-4pm.

Marshalls are working with a relocation sub group to pursue options for the airport other than Mildenhall.

RECAP have secured funding to train non-waste officers in other council departments, who make regular visits to local businesses. This will enable them to gather waste related information as well as giving advice. The initiative includes all local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Cambridgeshire LAA target for Adapting to Climate Change is Level 1, the minimum level that local authorities should reach. This has been achieved by Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City and Fenland, South Cambs and Huntingdon having partially met level 1. East Cambs is level 0.

District Council Report

Once again there is a large amount of debris fly tipped at the far end of Headlake Drove. Council Officers have been notified.

A number of residents of Reach, Swaffham Prior and Upware receive their broadband via RaSP. The service it provides is significantly superior to that available from BT or other providers. Following a complaint from a resident near to the aerial, RaSP has had to apply for retrospective planning permission. The planners initial reaction was for refusal.

I have asked for this issue to be taken to Planning Committee and not decided by an officer's delegated powers. I feel that adequate broadband provision in rural areas is part of the Council's "Sustainable Communities Policy" and indeed ECDC's website says "access to broadband service is a key priority and we are committed to ensuring residents and businesses throughout have broadband internet facilities available to them". Officers seem more amenable to this application and hopefully it will be granted.

Financial Report

The Parish Council has received the first half of its Precept and 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

Over the last few weeks a large group of youths has been congregating at weekends on the grounds of Bottisham Village College. This has been discussed with the local policing team and the school. Positive action will be taken against anyone behaving in an antisocial manner, with parents being informed of any issues caused by their children. The group comprises both current and ex-pupils of the College and live in Bottisham, The Swaffhams, Lode and Reach. Parents who think their children might be involved may speak to the police who are keen to discourage this sort of activity.

In the last two months, there has been a series of thefts in Cambridgeshire, including a horse box from Wisbech area, car trailers from the Huntingdon/St Neots area and Transit/LDV vans in the areas of Wittlesford and Papworth Everard. Police are urging residents to be vigilant.

There has been a recent increase in cattle thefts in the Kings Lynn area, between the hours of 9.00 pm and 6.00am. The cattle have been ready for slaughter, but without the right paperwork legitimate abattoirs will not process them so the slaughtering would have to be done illegally. The police are asking:

1. Do you know of anyone trying to sell large quantities of meat?
2. Do you know of anyone with a large quantity of cattle they didn't have before?
3. Have you seen cattle without ear tags?
4. Have you seen any person /vehicle acting suspiciously around farm lands or fields?

Anyone owning livestock should be vigilant – the Norfolk Police number is 0845 456 4567.

Village Hall Committee Report

The Reach Fair went well and provided a total profit of £5,771.58 of which the share to the Village Hall will be £4,328.69 and the Amenity Fund £1,442.90. It was reported that on the day of the Fair the graveyard was used as a bicycle park. It was agreed that this was inappropriate and that measures would need to be taken to ensure this does not happen at subsequent Fairs.

Matters Arising

1. Clerk Annual Review

The Clerk has been in his role for one year now and therefore good practice dictates that his performance and pay level should be reviewed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that **Ross Clark** would look into this process and that this would be a discussion point at the next Parish Council meeting.

2. War Memorial Status

It was reported to the Parish Council that the War Memorial was looking in need of refurbishment. The Parish Council agreed to look at the War Memorial on the following evening and the result of this was that **the Clerk** will ask Ivett and Reed to provide details of what needs to be done and a price for carrying out the work. **The Clerk** will also contact the War Memorials Trust to see how they may be able to help.

3. Allotments in Reach

There had 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 on the website with six people expressing an interest so far. **Ross Clark** will continue to try and find a suitable location for the allotments.

4. 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 three quotations for further consideration. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

5. Calor Village of the Year competition

The Parish Council had received a letter from Cambridgeshire ACRE, inviting the village to enter this competition. This opportunity was added to the Reach website and publicised in Out of Reach Magazine. Since no-one came forward volunteering to lead any village entry, it was decided that this invitation would be declined.

6. Daffodil planting in Reach

A resident had suggested that the village of Reach was somewhat lacking in daffodils compared to our neighbours and that there should be a "village planting day". This suggestion was put into the Out of Reach Magazine and onto the website. 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

7. 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 the houses due to their weight and vibration. The Parish Council had 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 had written to the Parish Council with their proposals, asking the Parish Council to write to the Highways Department in support of these proposals. The Parish Council visited the bend on the Thursday evening following the Parish Council meeting and asked **the Clerk** to write to the Highways Department, supporting the proposals and asking, in addition, what might be done to protect the corner of Myster House. The Parish Council did have some concerns

regarding access for legitimate refuse vehicles and similar and would reserve the right to approve whatever plans the Highways Department comes up with.

8. 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

9. 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

10. Pollution in Agricultural Land

The Parish Council had 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

11. 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

12. Reach Wood Tree Stumps Update

Some tree felling took place in Reach Wood but the trees were not felled to ground level so as the grass grew, the stumps became a trip hazard. The Clerk has spoken to the Woodland Trust and they have agreed to arrange for the stumps to be reduced to ground level.

13. 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

14. 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. This item was not discussed at this meeting.

Planning Applications

The planning applications for White Roses were approved prior to the meeting subject to one comment.

Information Items

None.

Payments

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

100872	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00
100871	C R Contracting	Mowing	£270.00
100873	E.ON	Lighting Electricity	£331.28

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st July 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: