



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd June 2010

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Not 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

No members of the public attended.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

3. Discussion with Mark Mehaffey, Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer at ECDC.

This was postponed until the July meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were reviewed and signed.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The first meeting took place on the 12th of May. A grant of £150 was given to allotment holders to be used to provide water. **The Chairman of the Amenity Fund Committee** will respond to suggestions from another villager.

5 (2) County Council Report

May started on County Council duty with a real pleasure - being invited to be part of the Mayor of Cambridge's party to proclaim Reach Fair and help distribute coins. I was also invited to lunch, where I discovered another tradition - the new boys and girls are expected to give a speech (without warning!).

I attended a meeting of the Children and Young People's Policy Development Group where provision of secondary schooling and post-16 education in East Cambs were the main topics of discussion.

I also participated in two service appeal hearings relating to home to school transport provision. As I have reported before, these cases can be quite difficult and the two held in May were certainly that.

Full Council met on 18 May. Owing to family commitments I had to send my apologies. Cllrs Linda Oliver and John Powley were due to be re-confirmed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively with Cllr Jill Tuck remaining as Leader of the Council.

I was re-appointed to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee, Service Appeals Committee and the Adult and Communities Policy Development Group. I was also appointed to the newly-formed Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee. I remain as a substitute member on a number of other Committees and Groups. I also remain the County Council representative on the Littleport Masterplan Working Party, the LGA Rural Commission and the Cambridgeshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. Progress with the Guided Busway was a major agenda item, as has been widely reported.

I have attended a number of meetings considering the future direction of Highways Policy in the County - more details next month.

5 (3) District Council Report

On May 25th, at the ECDC annual meeting, Peter Cresswell, having finished his two years as chairman, was replaced by Anthea Davidson. The new vice-chairman is Tony Parramint. Last year I was on the Licensing and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. I now serve on the Strategic Development Committee.

Several people have been targeted for non-payment of Council tax and £41,500 has been recovered from across East Cambs, Forest Heath and Breckland councils.

Ely's Bank Holiday markets are proving to be a success.

The Bank Holiday also saw historical guided tours round Ely, plus Oliver Cromwell's House hosted some special events.

Travellers will be removed from Headlake Drove.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and should finish the financial year as per budget.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

None provided.

5 (6) Parish Council Members

There were none.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

ROSPA have recently conducted their annual safety check and their report is awaited. **The Clerk** will contact them to ensure this is received shortly. There is every indication that work will need to be carried out.

Anchoring of the goal posts on the playing field is an issue and **the Play Spaces Officer** and **the Clerk** will visit the playing field to see what is needed. In addition, **the Clerk** will get a quotation for spraying the weeds around the playground. The gate to the playground also needs repair.

5 (8) Rights of Way Report

It was decided that Councillor Fielding would henceforth become the Rights of Way Officer. No report was provided.

5 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month. Further volunteers are needed and **the Clerk** will arrange that this will be advertised in the Within Reach magazine and on the website.

5 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

Reach Fair 2010 was a success, providing £4,500 to the Village Centre and £1,500 to the Amenity Fund.

Redecoration of the small meeting room is nearing completion..

Three quotations are being sought to repair and upgrade the fire alarm system.

6 (1) 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.

6 (2) Hythe Tree Stumps in Ditch

It was decided that these tree stumps will be dealt with after the Parish Council concludes its land registration activities.

6 (3) 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.

6 (4) Litter Bins

There had been a suggestion by a villager that a cover is provided for the litter bin outside the playground and that a litter bin also be provided in the car park area for the playing field. The Parish Council felt that the openness of the litter bin by the playground encouraged its use and therefore that no action should be taken. They also felt that there was no need for a litter bin in the car park area.

6 (5) Mower Decision

The Clerk will seek a valuation for the current mower and a route to dispose of it and report back to the July meeting.

6 (6) Playing Field Prickly Hedges

There had been a suggestion by a villager that the hawthorn bushes around the playground be replaced since they puncture the footballs. The Parish Council felt that no action was needed.

6 (7) Reach Fair Car Park

The land currently used for the Reach Fair car park is leased by a local farmer from Cambridgeshire County Farms. This lease expires in October 2010 so the Parish Council has been in talks with CCF with a view to ensuring that the land is available for subsequent Reach Fairs. The Clerk and the Chairman met with CCF and **the Clerk** will get an update on the land in time for the July meeting.

6 (8) Snakehall Farm Bus Shelter

This is to be erected by Snakehall Farm but will subsequently become the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would include the insurance of the shelter within its insurance policy and would not recharge this cost to Snakehall Farm. As regards the maintenance of the shelter, this would be carried out as the Parish Council deemed necessary, at the expense of Snakehall Farm and a letter from Snakehall Farm agreeing to this arrangement would be sought by **the Clerk**.

6 (9) Tennis Court

A proposal for the management of the tennis court was approved by the Parish Council. This was based on it being free to use to all Reach villagers and it also being available for the games of badminton and netball. A Parish Council Sports Committee which will manage the facility and fundraise to provide the ongoing upkeep costs will be set up with members having already been identified, plus Councillor Dunnett.

6 (10) Verge Erosion on Fair Green

There is verge erosion outside 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. Highways recognise the problem and are prepared to provide 10 to 15 metres of kerbing to direct the water flow more efficiently. In addition to this, the drain on the track to the left hand side of the premises will be cleared.

6 (11) War Memorial

This was cleaned by villagers at a cost for materials of some £55 and four free pints from the landlord of the Dyke's End. The Parish Council thanked those concerned for their endeavours.

6 (12) Woodland Trust Update

It was agreed that **the Clerk** would invite Michael Ryder from the Woodland Trust to the August meeting.

6 (13) Pollution in Agricultural Land

Remedial action is taking place. **The Clerk** was asked to get an update on this and ask the relevant authorities to confirm that all is well, or otherwise.

7. Planning Applications

Planning application 10/00337/FUL was approved as per current plans.

8. Information Items

An area of land in the village is being used by a resident for composting and temporary storage of wood for burning. The Parish Council feels that this is inappropriate and could encourage fly-tipping of garden waste by others. The Clerk has contacted the residents concerned and requested that they tidy up this area and do not use it for these purposes in future. The wood has now been removed but the compost appears to remain. The Parish Council has asked **the Clerk** to let the residents know that the compost heap can be allowed to stay on the basis that it will naturally decline but to confirm that no extra garden waste should be added to it – the residents should use the brown bags as all other villagers do.

It was agreed that our insurance with Zurich via Suffolk ACRE would continue with a five year deal which means an annual cost of less than £625 compared to an YE 2009 cost of £792, a YE 2010 cost of £693 and a YE 2011 budget figure of £730.

There was some discussion regarding the issue of overgrown footpaths. **The Parish Council** agreed to walk around the village on Sunday 13th June with a view to identifying where footpaths need some attention. The Chairman, Councillor Clark, felt that pursuing people for trivial encroachments onto the footway should be avoided, on the grounds that it would damage the character of the village if flowers and other plants were removed in an overly-pedantic interpretation of the law. **The Clerk** was asked to include a notice asking villagers to check the footpaths near their houses in the first issue of Within Reach.

9. Payments

100911	E.ON	Street Lights Electricity	£331.28
100912	CR Contracting	Mowing May	£237.00
100913	Wildlife Trust	Donation	£36.00
100914	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing May	£134.00
100915	D M Parr	Memorial Cleaning	£59.85
100916	Zurich	Insurance	£624.35

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th July 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: