



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 1st July 2009

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Not 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
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

Forum for Members of the Public

One member of the public attended but made no comment.

Declaration of Interests

None.

Amenity Fund Applications

There are currently 4 applications ongoing;

1. Daffodil planting in Reach

Jo Riches has suggested that the village of Reach was somewhat lacking in daffodils compared to our neighbours and that there should be a "village planting day". There has been general support for this and Jo is producing a rough map of the village, showing the areas where the bulbs will be planted, quantifying the number of bulbs needed and the cost. It is expected that a decision will be made in August.

2. Cricket Net

A request for funding has come from Joe Acklam for a cricket net for the village, to be sited on the playing field. There was general support for this and **Ross Clark**, working with Joe has produced an estimate of around £1,800 for a suitable surface and netting. **The Clerk** will seek a grant from ECDC and other sources before a decision is made regarding this application.

3. Tennis Court

A suggestion has been made by a Reach resident that a tennis court, located on the playing field, would be a beneficial amenity for the village. The Clerk has established that for one court with painted porous tarmac, surrounding secure fencing and net would cost £25,000 to £30,000. It was suggested that in OORM and on the website, support for this application should be established by **the Clerk** and if this is positive, funding be sought from a variety of sources.

4. Village Sports Day 2009

A request has been made for funding for this event to the level of £265. The Parish Council felt that this was a large amount of money, well in excess of what has been granted previously. They therefore proposed a figure of £125 to cover the cost of engraving and repairing the cups, sundry items for the races and certificates for all competitors.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3rd June 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

This was delivered by David Brown, who narrowly beat Hazel Williams in the recent elections.

Since the election I have attended a number of training days at Shire Hall. The Annual Meeting of the County Council took place on Tuesday 23 June. Owing to a business commitment taken on before the election I was out of the country and unable to attend that meeting. The agenda consisted primarily of electing Councillors to the different Committees and outside bodies. I have been placed on:

Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee
Service Appeals Scrutiny Committee
Adult and Communities Policy Development Group
Local Government Association Rural Commission

I am also a substitute on Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People Policy Development Group and the Political Management Policy Development Group.

I have the first meetings of these groupings over the next couple of weeks and will have more to report next month.

District Council Report

Speedwatch results for Reach are so far disappointing. Two separate checks were carried out with a total of 120 motorists approaching Reach from Swaffham Prior being measured for speed. Of those, 19 received letters from the police and of those, 13 were Reach residents.

Fly tipping has taken place in Barston Drove and Headlake Drove and in addition there is rubbish to be cleared from the recent traveller's encampment on the Swaffham Road. This has been reported and will be dealt with shortly.

Section 106 money is that which is paid by developers to compensate inconvenienced residents and is to be used by the community for worthwhile causes. The Council has been looking at ways that smaller parishes, like Reach, might benefit from these funds. For parishes with less than 800 residents, there may be additional S106 resources available. It is proposed that villages will be able to bid for funding for projects through their Neighbourhood Panels.

ECDC and CCC are working together to respond to the potential changes to the way the buses concessionary fare scheme is organised. The Department of Transport has launched a three phase consultation on the current scheme and there are concerns that some of the proposals may leave councils worse off if they were to be implemented.

It is planned that both rubbish and recycling collections will, from October, take place on the same day (but with no change to frequency of collections). Further information via leaflet will be provided to all households during August and September.

Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and is on course to finish the year with a positive contribution to our reserves. The 2008-2009 accounts have been received back from the accountants and are approved; they will now be sent to the auditors.

Police Liaison Committee Report

The new non emergency contact number for the police is 0345 456 456 4

There has been an increase in crime using the cat flap or letter box to obtain keys to properties. Do not leave keys or any valuable items in visible places near to doors or windows.

The use of DNA infused Smart Water is a great deterrent to the burglar and is very helpful to the police when tracing stolen goods. Prosecutions can only take place when stolen goods can be traced and identified. All prisoners at Park Side are screened for traces of UV pen and Smart Water. Smart Water is traceable back to the area in which it originated so goods and individuals handling them can be identified with specific areas. Burglary victims are supplied with Smart Water in the Police Burglary Packs and it can be bought over the internet.

Individuals are encouraged to sign up to E-Cops to increase awareness of Crime in their areas – to register go to www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops/.

Levels of crime remain stable in Burwell and Bottisham, and have decreased slightly in the Swaffhams

There is still concern about the anti social behaviour and large gatherings of young people on the playing fields of Bottisham Village College.

Neighbourhood Panel Report June 2009

Dog fouling along public paths parallel to highway is illegal and should be reported to the dog warden. Guidelines about action on dog fouling are to be issued to parish councils

The police are very grateful to Speedwatch activities. The current results for Reach are contained within the District Councillor's report.

Village Hall Committee Report

None provided.

Matters Arising

1. Clerk Annual Review

The Clerk has been in his role for one year now and therefore his performance and pay level were reviewed by the Parish Council. The Parish Council were happy with the performance of the Clerk in the previous 12 months and it was decided that an increase to £8.50 an hour was to be implemented immediately and a further increase to £11.28, or the current equivalent rate at that time, will be implemented in April 2010.

2. Insurance

The Clerk produced a spreadsheet showing all the assets of the Parish Council and the level of cover that might be provided for each. Three options were documented, one of which was chosen by the Parish Council. **The Clerk** will communicate this decision to the both the successful and unsuccessful insurers.

3. Play Area Inspection Report

The report has just one high priority item. **The Clerk** will order and arrange for the fitting of the necessary parts. In addition, the weeds will be removed from the area and other more minor remedial actions will be taken. It was also decided that Rita Dunnnett will become the Play Spaces Officer.

4. Reach Fair Car Parking

There is concern that the current car parking field used for the Reach Fair may not be available once the current tenant relinquishes it. **The Clerk** will look into this, working with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

5. Standing Orders

These provide procedures and controls for the management of the Parish Council business and are an aid to proper and effective governance. **The Clerk** will circulate a template for Standing Orders for Reach Parish Council to the councillors and these will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. War Memorial Status

The War Memorial is in need of refurbishment and a quotation from Ivett and Reed has been received. **The Clerk** will review this and see if cost savings can be made and also organise a 50% grant from the War Memorials Trust

as well as asking their advice on what needs to be done.

7. Allotments in Reach

There had been a request for allotments to be made available in the village. 10 people have now expressed an interest and **Ross Clark** continues to seek a suitable area for villagers to use.

8. 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. Initially, the Parish Council felt that the answer was to purchase two noticeboards to be properly attached to the sides of the two bus shelters and all notices to be approved by the Clerk prior to entry onto those boards. However it was finally decided that this would require significant cost and add to beurocracy. Instead, rules will be created for use of the bus shelters as follows;

- Non-commercial events or lost/found items only.
- Events for the geographical area of Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Wicken Fen only.
- Notices to be posted no earlier than four weeks before the event.
- Notices will be posted tidily, secured at all four corners.
- Drawing pins only should be used to attach the notices, not staples.
- Drawing pins must be provided by the notice poster, not "borrowed" for other already placed posters.
- The Clerk and Ross Clark will police the Fair Green noticeboard
- Helen Platt and Hilary Fielding will police the Ditchfield noticeboard
- All out of date notices will be removed.
- All non-conforming notices will be removed.

9. 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 or walls 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. Following this the residents had written to the Parish Council with their proposals and the Parish Council wrote to the Highways Department in support of these proposals. **The Clerk** will send the response from the Highways Department to the residents and ask how they might want to proceed and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

10. 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. **The Clerk** will take this up with the residents ready for discussion at the next meeting.

11. 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 Village Green status (as Fair Green has) to ensure that they are protected from registration by other parties.

12. 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.

13. RaSP Mast

ECDC had received a complaint regarding the presence of a RaSP mast in the garden of a house in the village. The ECDC reviewed the mast and concluded that planning permission was required and this was duly submitted. It was subsequently approved subject to a four year period only and work to be carried out in conjunction with the council to improve the aesthetic appearance of the mast.

14. 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. Since this has not been carried out **the Clerk** will recontact the resident.

15. 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 Highways Department has no issue with the trees and therefore this item will be removed from subsequent agendas.

Planning Applications

None.

Information Items

Hilary Fielding is working with the Bridleways Commission to significantly improve the access to the Rights of Way in Reach.

Payments

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

100874	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00
100875	Wicksteed	Playground Inspection	£86.25
100876	Wildlife Trust	Affiliation Fee	£36.00
100877	David Parr	Clerk's Pay	£387.60
100878	ECDC	Cemetery Rates	£25.25
100879	David Parr	Clerk's Expenses	£59.72
100880	C R Contracting	Mowing	£230.00
100881	CPALC	Affiliation Fee	£101.44
100882	Village Hall	Meetings Hall Rental	£24.00
100884	Suffolk ACRE	Insurance	£693.72

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th August 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: