



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th July 2010

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Not Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not 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	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman Councillor Aves chaired the meeting.

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 EDCD.

An excellent presentation was given on the topic of Fly-tipping. **The Clerk** was asked to include information in the next issue of Within Reach magazine.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No report provided.

5 (2) County Council Report

Discussions at the County Council have been dominated by announcements from Central Government about cuts in expenditure and a freeze on spending in other areas pending further work. In terms of cuts we have been told of over £5 million in the current year and the freeze includes such work areas as the A14 improvement and the hoped-for new railway station at Chesterton. We are waiting for further detailed information.

The Highways Review Group I have been asked to sit on has met on a number of occasions and has given initial consideration to highways policy in general, the review of the Winter programme and the role and remit of Area Joint Committees.

The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee met to discuss work priorities for the coming year. Once again the need to consider the budget situation played a large part in discussions. I have suggested that we need to take a detailed look at some of our basic infrastructure in the County to see where there

might be shortfalls in provision of water and energy services.

The Neighbourhood Panel met at Stetchworth, with presentations regarding a proposed cycleway from Lode to Waterbeach and about caring for older people.

I also attended a liaison meeting with teaching unions.

Stagecoach has indicated that it will be making some amendments to bus timetables in late July following concerns raised with them. At the time of writing I do not have the full details.

5 (3) District Council Report

No report provided.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and the current forecast remains as per budget.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

Changes to the bus service will commence on the 26th July but as yet Stagecoach is unable or unwilling to provide details.

Traffic lights are to be installed at the Lode crossroads.

The tethering of aggressive horses between Hurdle Hall and Reach is being dealt with.

5 (6) Parish Council Members

Councillor Platt attended the Local Development Framework meeting in Soham. Two main items were the building of 100 new houses off Ness Road in Burwell and the possibility of a Travellers Site being created in Swaffham Prior.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

No report provided.

5 (8) Rights of Way Report

Councillor Fielding reported on discussions regarding the state of the individual footpaths in the village. It was decided that further information regarding each of the paths, including their state of repair and the ownership of adjoining land should be documented and then an action plan defined for each.

It was agreed that **Councillor Platt** will identify the relevant person in the Devil's Dyke Restoration Project and **the Clerk** will then invite them to a subsequent Parish Council meeting.

As regards providing safe access to Tubney Fen during the period when cattle are grazing, the owner of the adjoining land has been identified. **The Clerk** will liaise with the Swaffham Prior Clerk to see whether the owner will allow permissive access to this land.

5 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month.

5 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

No report provided.

6. Accounts to be Signed Off

The year ending March 31st 2010 accounts were signed off and will now be sent to the auditors. The Parish Council gave their grateful thanks to Roger Smith who kindly put the accounts together, thereby saving the village over £250 in accounting fees.

7. Cricket Nets - Grant Received

Ross Clark has organised a grant of £1,000 from Sport England towards the cost of mobile cricket nets to be located on the playing field. The total cost will be £1,872.42 - the Amenity Fund has agreed already to support this up to the sum of £1,000 and therefore will be asked for a cheque to the value of £872.42 by **the Clerk**.

8. Footpaths Review - comments from Councillors on their Village Inspection.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

9. Land Availability on the Burwell Road.

The National Trust are pleased with the enthusiasm of villagers to support this venture. They are awaiting a valuation from the County Council and in the meantime are seeking funding. Proposals continue to be received from villagers including one for Horticulture therapy.

10. 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.

11. Mobile Library

The Parish Council has been informed that there is to be a reduction in the regularity of this service, probably moving from every two weeks to every four weeks. The Parish Council will monitor the progress of these deliberations.

12. Mower Decision

An offer has been made of £800 for our current mower and the Parish Council decided that this was acceptable and asked **the Clerk** to conclude the transaction.

13. Pigeon Poo - What to Do

A villager had expressed concern over pigeons leaving a mess on the swings - and this is also a problem on the War Memorial. **The Clerk** was asked to investigate potential solutions and report back to the next meeting.

14. Playground ROSPA Report

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

15. 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 August meeting.

16. 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 is being sought by **the Clerk**.

17. Tennis Court

A proposal for the management of the tennis court has been 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. A decision of the availability of further funding from a third party will be made on the 12th July. Should this be positive, **the Clerk** will take the necessary steps to get planning permission for the project.

18. 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. Highways states that this work will take place during the current financial year.

19. Woodland Trust Update

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

20. Pollution in Agricultural Land

Remedial action is taking place. The Clerk has spoken to the local contractor involved who is taking the required quality soil to the site. In the next 4 to 8 week period, this soil will be levelled to produce the desired effect and then the project will end.

21. Planning Applications

Planning application 10/00476/FUM, the creation of a low bund and mixed wetland habitat was approved.

22. Information Items

Villagers have asked for new goal post nets for the large goals on the playing field. The Parish Council were supportive of this and asked **the Clerk** to also look at the smaller goals and come up with a pricing proposal. They asked then for this funding to be put to the Amenity Fund Committee for approval. **The Clerk** will also investigate the useage of the football pitch by the Fen Tigers club.

The Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Scheme for the year 2011/2012 has opened. As agreed previously, an application will be made for a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO), based on vehicle length or weight to restrict traffic using the Great Lane - Fair Green bend.

It was agreed that **the Clerk** would ask the Council Tree Officer to assess the current health of the tree on Fair Green and give an indication of what work needs to be carried out.

It was agreed that the useage of the outside of the bus shelters as noticeboards will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

23. Payments

100917	Village Centre	Meeting Room Useage	£24.00
100918	British Legion	Wreath for 2010	£16.50
100919	CR Contracting	Mowing June	£237.00
100920	ROSPA	Playground Safety Inspection	£88.13
100921	D M Parr	Clerk Pay April to June	£589.00
100922	D M Parr	Expenses	£10.98
100923	Suffolk ACRE	Insurance	£624.35
100924	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing June	£134.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th August 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: