



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 1st September 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	Not Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Part-time
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

Two members of the public attended to discuss a planning application as detailed in item 18.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

### 4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No new applications have been received.

### 4 (2) County Council Report

August started with a meeting of the Littleport Masterplan Working Party.

The Highways Policy Review Group met on three occasions during August. As well as seeking greater flexibility in general highways policy the group considered a number of other items, some of which have already been sent to Parish Councils for comment. These other items included:

- The proposed winter gritting schedule and workings
- The role and remit of Area Joint Traffic Management Committees
- Jointly Funded Minor Highways Schemes
- A review of Environmental Weight Limits
- A paper will be presented to the Policy Development Group in September, prior to consideration by Cabinet

As a significant stakeholder, the County Council has responded to the ECDC consultation on the Local Development Framework. I have contributed to the County Council response regarding suggestions for Burwell and Swaffham Prior.

#### **4 (3) District Council Report**

It has been confirmed by DEFRA that ECDC's performance in regard to fly-tipping has improved from "poor" to the top grade of "very effective" during the last year – this improvement happening since Mark Mehaffey, the Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer was employed last year.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has confirmed that ECDC is to receive £180,000 of capital funding to help deliver the Ely Country Park and £90,000 to support detailed work on Ely's Station Gateway and southern link road. ECDC will also receive £215,000 in revenue funding for growth delivering initiatives and the new Leisure Centre to be built on council owned land on the Ely bypass.

At the last Community Services Committee meeting Councillors agreed the improvement plan for Ely's markets over the next few years.

A proposal for all East Cambs taxis to be coloured silver has been deferred until a future meeting to allow for legal clarification as there was a possibility of a legal challenge by the Taxi Drivers Association.

Complaints have been received regarding the number and size of vehicles using Great Lane to transport grain to Swan Lake Barns. This use of Great Lane should cease shortly, it seems the recent inclement weather has resulted in more vehicle movements over a shorter period this harvest time.

At this point the Parish Council discussed, also the speed of the vehicles and asked **the Clerk** to express their concerns to those transporters with a view to reducing the risk to villagers in subsequent years.

#### **4 (4) Financial Report**

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation. The auditors of our annual accounts have suggested that our reserves, as a percentage of spend each year, may be too low. The Parish Council will discuss this during the Precept discussions at the November meeting.

#### **4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report**

No report provided.

#### **4 (6) Parish Council Members**

No reports.

#### **4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report**

A list of possible remedial actions for our play areas was discussed. A final list was established and ownership of each item was agreed.

#### **4 (8) Rights of Way Report**

No report provided.

#### **4 (9) Speedwatch**

There was no activity in the preceding month.

#### **4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report**

There was no meeting in August. A new dishwasher and fridge have been installed and further painting carried out.

### **5. Football Pitch Netting Protection**

The hawthorn hedging around the football pitch results in footballs being punctured on a frequent basis with the problem being especially severe at the Burwell Road end of the ground.

Since this is where the new tennis court will be located, which will provide 35 metres of protection it was decided to reassess the problem and any potential solutions once the tennis court is in place.

#### **6. Footpaths Review - comments from Councillors on their Village Inspection**

Since it has been some time since the village inspection took place it was agreed that a further inspection would take place and be reported upon at the next meeting.

#### **7. Land Availability on Two Areas of the Burwell Road**

The first area is on the right hand side of the Burwell road as you leave Reach which is used as the car park for Reach Fair. The Chairman has been in discussions with County Farms to ensure that this land is available to Reach Fair for this purpose at a reasonable cost. Recent correspondence from County Farms was discussed and **the Chairman** of the Parish Council will take this issue up with the Chairman of the Village Centre.

The second area is the 24 acres on the left hand side of the Burwell road as you leave Reach. The National Trust is interested in purchasing this land and working with Reach villagers to maximise its utilisation. The National Trust has recently received a valuation of the land which they believe is not totally unacceptable and has asked the Parish Council for help (to be provided by the Clerk) in co-ordinating a further, more in-depth meeting or meetings between interested parties within the village and the National Trust regarding potential use of the land by villagers.

#### **8. Land Registration**

It has been established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. **The Clerk**, working with **the Chairman**, 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.

#### **9. Mirror on Swan Bend – Who Owns it?**

The Parish Council has been informed that the mirror was put up some 16 years ago by the then current resident of 17 Fair Green to aid traffic navigating the bend.

#### **10. Noticeboards on the Bus Shelters**

It was agreed that instead of notices being posted on the exterior of the bus shelters, a board should be placed at the interior back of the shelters. **The Clerk** will secure the necessary wood and put the boards in place. The rules established for the noticeboards during the July 2009 Parish Council meeting will be reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **11. Pigeon Poo - What to Do**

A villager had expressed concern over pigeons leaving a mess on the swings. It was agreed that the use of "slippery paint" would be investigated by the **Play Spaces Officer**. This was discussed during item 4 (7).

#### **12. Playground ROSPA Report**

This was discussed during item 4 (7).

#### **13. Pollution in Agricultural Land - Update**

It was reported that the lorry transport of top soil to cover over the pollution should cease over the next two weeks.

#### **14. Salt Bins (new) Locations**

The Parish Council recently heard that it is proposed (but not confirmed) that Reach will be included on the primary gritting route in future. Since the Parish Council has purchased three new salt bins it was proposed that one be placed near the road that dissects the Fair Green and the other two be placed close to the first and the second bends on Great Lane as you leave the village. **The Clerk** had identified potential specific locations and these will be reviewed by Councillors over the next month and decisions made at the next meeting.

## 15. 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 at the expense of Snakehall Farm and the relevant section of a letter from Snakehall Farm agreeing to this arrangement was read out by the Clerk and accepted by the Parish Council.

## 16. Tennis Court Update

Total funding raised should now be sufficient to purchase the court. **The Clerk** has put in a planning application and will get final tender quotations from potential suppliers for discussion at the next meeting. It is hoped to have the court in place by the end of the year.

## 17. Tree on Fair Green Remedial Action

The tree on Fair Green has been inspected and requires some attention. **The Clerk** has approached four suppliers for quotations and these will be assessed at the next meeting.

## 18. Planning Applications

Planning application 10/00702/FUL was discussed. It was felt that the extension was too big, an over-development of the site and **the Clerk** was asked to communicate this to the relevant planning officer.

## 19. Information Items

**The Clerk** will prepare a JFMHI application for a Traffic Restriction order for the Great Lane – Fair Green bend, as agreed at the January 2010 Parish Council meeting.

**The Clerk** will investigate the possibility of a grid being placed over the track between Hill Farm and Fitzroy Farm, thereby significantly increasing the channelling of water into the drain situated at the end of the track. The Clerk will also liaise with the occupant of Hill Farm who has expressed an interest in funding a similar solution across the entrance to his farm. The whole proposal will be costed and the possibility of it becoming a second JFMHI application investigated.

**Councillor Platt** has arranged for Karen Whymark (Public Right of Way Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council) and Phil Clark from the Devil's Dyke Restoration project to come along to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss progress with the project and its impact on Reach.

**The Clerk** will ask Highways to look at the pothole which has been outside Snib End for some time but which has now got worse.

## 20. Payments

100928	CR Contracting	Mowing August	£237.00
100929	David Parr	Goal Nets (ordered online)	£100.00
100930	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing August	£134.00
100931	Moore Stephens	Audit YE 2010	£155.39

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th October 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](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

**Chairman:**

**Date:**