



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th October 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	Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

Forum for Members of the Public

Members of the public attended and commented on items Daffodil planting in Reach and Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access.

Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Amenity Fund Applications

There are currently 3 applications ongoing;

1. Daffodil planting in Reach

Jo Riches has suggested that Reach is lacking in daffodils and that there should be a “village planting day”. A list of proposed planting sites has been added to the village website under “News and Events”. The Parish Council agreed to support this application when it is discussed with the Village Hall Committee and approved the planting plan. The event will take place on Sunday 25th October.

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 up to £2,500 for a suitable surface and netting. **Ross Clark** is seeking funding for this venture from various sporting sources, therefore minimising any request for funds from the Amenity Fund.

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 a painted porous tarmac court, surrounded by secure fencing would cost up to £30,000 and is seeking three competitive quotations. The Parish Council approved the use of Section 106 monies for funding this venture and the Clerk will complete the necessary application. Since this source of funding has a limit of £20,000, **the Clerk** will seek further funding from various sources.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd September 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

In Your Patch – where County and District Councillors from East Cambridgeshire meet to exchange views - met in early September. We received a presentation on the work the County Council does with looked-after children. There is a desperate shortage of foster parents across the County, especially in East Cambridgeshire. If anybody knows of people prepared to take on this role please ask them to contact the County Council. The meeting also received a report regarding schools' provision across East Cambridgeshire. The need for a new Secondary School is recognised and a consultation is taking place as to whether this should be in Ely or Littleport. At Primary School level talks are to commence on new or expanded schools – including the possibility of extending Burwell Village College.

The Adult and Communities Policy Development Group met with the major agenda item being to consider Government proposals for reform of adult social care. This was a poorly attended meeting and we agreed that a topic this important needed wider input from Council members.

A seminar was held regarding the forthcoming talks surrounding budgets for next year. I am sure you will have seen reports of the financial difficulties facing the Council for the foreseeable future. The seminar was an eye-opener and there will be some intense discussions over the coming months.

I met with Richard Preston, Highways Network Manager and Nick Clarke, County Councillor for Fulbourn and Quy Parish Council regarding the traffic calming measures in Quy. Quy parish Council, whilst not very happy with the existing scheme having wanted something more all-encompassing, is adamant that they do not want to lose what they have got. County officers accept that it is not ideal and are prepared to consider improvements. We will be meeting again shortly on-site to consider possible changes to try to enable traffic to flow more easily. Interestingly the officers said that there had been little comment from neighbouring villages about displaced traffic.

Cambridgeshire Community Services, currently a subsidiary of Cambridgeshire NHS, held its first AGM in September. CCS provides community-based health and social care services across the County. CCS aims to become one of the first Community Foundation Trusts.

Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee met to consider the early stages of a suggested bid for £517 million of Transport Innovation Fund money for a wide-range of transport improvements, including the first phase - a new railway station at Chesterton. If Cabinet decides to proceed with a bid there will be wide consultation before any bid is submitted by late 2010.

District Council Report

He attended a seminar on affordable housing which he will report upon in more detail next month. Next week he will attend an Overview and Scrutiny meeting related to the Ely Masterplan.

The fly tipping at Barston Drove has been cleared up, further fly tipping at Barston Drove has been identified as the remains of a caravan - this is being dealt with.

The new railings are in place at Split Drove.

The National Trust Bridge planning application has been approved.

Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially sound situation and is on course to finish the year with a positive contribution to reserves. The year ending 31st March 2009 accounts are with the auditors.

Play Spaces Officer Report

Weeds continue to grow around the playground. **The Clerk** will investigate what can be done to combat this problem and a similar problem at the War Memorial.

Police Liaison Committee Report

At the end of August PCSO Alistair McKenzie worked closely with Trading Standards who conducted Test Purchasing of alcohol at four shops in Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, and Burwell. A fifteen year old volunteer was used on this occasion and two out of the four establishments served him alcohol. Trading Standards will deal with the licensing side of the offence and the police will issue the assistants in question an £80 Penalty Notice for Disorder. (A PND goes on the person's record, but does not create a criminal record). Anti social Behaviour (ASB) is a local priority for the police and is usually caused by underage drinking.

The police are also targeting the recent spate of burglaries and metal thefts. Other items stolen last month in our area include ladders, pushchairs, bikes, a dismantled shed left at the side of the road, electrical items and drink from a garage, a trailer and a horse trailer. Do not leave anything of any value either on view or unsecured. If it can be stolen, it will be!

PC Chris Herring has started compiling a list of vehicles that are being used without tax or insurance, or by people who have been drinking.

It has been proposed that police off-road motorcycles will be introduced for use in the villages to combat the anti social use of mini motos and mopeds. The bikes can also be used to tackle other rural crimes such as hare coursing and diesel theft.

Speedwatch

There was no further activity last month. The Parish Council agreed that they would contribute to the purchase of a Voice Recorder for Speedwatch. **The Clerk** will make the necessary arrangements.

Village Centre Committee Report

There will be a Reach Fair meeting on Wednesday 14th October. Money is being sought for repairing the shed and volunteers will be redecorating the meeting room on October 17th. The annual Carol Evening is being planned and a date and time will be communicated in due course.

Matters Arising

1. Bonfires in Reach

Concern has been expressed regarding bonfires being lit in the Ditchfield area of the village. The Clerk looked into the legalities and environmental implications and provided the Parish Council with a leaflet which outlines what is permitted and what is not. In summary, infrequent bonfires of dry garden waste where some thought has been given to the prevailing wind direction should not cause problems. However, household waste including rubber and plastic components should never be burnt. A link to the relevant area of the ECDC website will be added to the village website and a summary of the legalities will be included in the next issue of Out of Reach magazine. In addition, some leaflets will be acquired which will be sent to offenders.

2. Cemetery Fees

The cost of the cemetery, including maintenance and mowing, far exceeds the income. It was therefore decided to ask **the Clerk** to increase the prices by 10%.

3. Football Goal Posts on the Greens

Concern has been expressed regarding the positioning of the small goal posts on the Green, in front of the War Memorial, which often got hit by the ball. The Parish Council felt that it would be wrong to ban the goal posts from the Green, but that players should be encouraged to not position them directly in front of the War Memorial.

4. Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access

The residents of the three houses closest to the bend have 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 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. One issue revolves around two bollards to be erected outside 2 Great Lane which Highways suggest need to be plastic whereas the residents, the Parish Council and

the local Conservation Officer feel should be made of wood. **The Clerk** has been asked by the Parish Council to inform the Council that wooden bollards need to be put in place and to escalate this requirement, as necessary, until the Council accede.

5. Mowing in the Village

Councillor Aves declared an interest in this agenda item. The Parish Council employs two contractors. One mows the cemetery, the other mows the Greens, the playing field, the Hythe and the Wood. The Parish Council was pleased with the performance of both contractors during the last twelve months and felt that, subject to the concluding of a satisfactory financial agreement, they would both be asked to continue through the following twelve months. **The Clerk**, working with Parish Councillor **Rita Dunnett**, will hold discussions with the two contractors in October.

6. Section 106 Grants

Section 106 monies are provided by developers with a view to improving the local amenities for those people affected by their developments. An amount of money has been made available to smaller Parishes like Reach, subject to a limit of £20,000 per application and one application only per year. The Parish Council agreed that **the Clerk** should make an application for funds which would significantly contribute to the construction of a tennis court on the playing field.

7. Standing Orders

These provide procedures and controls for the management of the Parish Council business and are an aid to proper and effective governance. A draft set of Standing Orders, produced by the Clerk with help from other local Parish Clerks, was provided to Parish Councillors and will be discussed at a special meeting of the Parish Council to take place on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm in the Village Centre.

8. War Memorial Status

The War Memorial is in need of some level of refurbishment. **The Clerk** has received two quotations and awaits a third at which point a decision will be made by the Parish Council as to what will be done.

9. Allotments in Reach

There had been a request for allotments to be made available in the village. **Ross Clark** continues to seek a suitable area for villagers to use.

10. Amenity Fund Committee

It was felt that the current arrangement whereby two organisations, who have no regular meetings together, have to jointly approve Amenity Fund applications, should be reviewed. It was agreed that **Ross Clark** would take up this issue with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee with a view to implementing a more satisfactory and efficient arrangement.

11. Fair Green Verge Erosion

There is verge erosion outside the properties 21 to 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. Funding from the JFMHI scheme has been applied for to kerb the road and contain the soil, preventing any further erosion.

12. Great Lane Verge Erosion

In the winter, Great Lane gets very muddy due to vehicles cutting into the grass bank outside 17 and 19 Great Lane. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to work with the residents and a meeting took place with the Highways Department. Funding from the JFMHI scheme has been applied for to kerb the road and contain the soil, preventing any further erosion.

13. 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) or Common Land status if this is not possible, to ensure that they are protected from registration by other parties.

14. 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, especially regarding the new aspect of rubbish coming out of the old pit and falling down into the wood. The Environmental Officer concerned is to visit the site in October and his findings will be reported at the next meeting.

Planning Applications

None.

Information Items

Local by-ways are becoming impassable in places – **the Clerk** will discuss this with the relevant people at ECDC in order to remedy the problem.

It was agreed to purchase a wreath for the War Memorial celebrations in November.

It was decided not to provide a donation to Victim Support.

The Clerk was asked to enquire of what progress has been made in making the RaSP mast more aesthetically pleased, as required by the retrospective planning application agreement.

The Clerk was asked to remind a resident of their responsibility in keeping hedges and boundaries under control. These responsibilities will be added to the website and the Out of Reach magazine.

Street lamp 12 is non-functioning. **The Clerk** will inform the authorities and check that any resident can report such a situation without there being any required payment by that resident or the Parish Council.

Payments

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

100894	David Parr	Clerk Salary Jul/Aug/Sep	£433.50
100893	RBL	Poppy Wreath	£16.50
100892	C R Contracting	Mowing	£125.00

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