



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th April 2011

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	Not Present
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. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The Amenity Fund Committee agreed to provide up to £650 (against receipts) to support the Garden Party. It also agreed to pay £600 for the memento mugs with any revenue from their sale being returned to the Amenity Fund. A request from the Tennis Court Committee for £200 a year to go into the Tennis Court Maintenance Fund was rejected but the Amenity Fund Committee agreed that they would look favourably upon any future request for funding for a specific maintenance requirement. It was also agreed to contribute £200 to the allotment holders' needs for a pump and hosepipe to irrigate their crops.

4 (2) County Council Report

Following Budget setting in February, March was relatively quiet at the County Council. The Highways Policy review group met to finalise our report, which will now go to the Cabinet for discussion.

Full Council met on Tuesday 29 March with the main items on the agenda being the third Local Transport Programme for the County and a Lib Dem motion seeking the reinstatement of the current free City Shuttle bus service in Cambridge City. It is intended that this service, wholly subsidised by the County Council, should cease as part of the budget savings. Discussions have taken place with the City Council and the "Love Cambridge" organisation, but neither appears interested in taking on the service. Following some debate the Lib Dem motion was defeated.

I tabled a question regarding the future of Depot Road, Newmarket, Household Waste Recycling Centre, following the announcement by Suffolk County Council that the site will close on May 9th. Various reports have appeared in the local press stating that Suffolk CC had asked Cambridgeshire CC to contribute to keeping the site open. I was categorically assured that this is not the case. Cllr Orgee, cabinet portfolio holder, has written to his Suffolk counterpart seeking a meeting to explore whether there can be a stay of execution for the site. He intends that I should attend that meeting to put the views of local residents.

4 (3) District Council Report

The following report was not presented at the meeting but added to the Minutes for completeness.

CCC and ECDC are looking at new ways to communicate with residents, Parish Councils and community organisations by providing them with targeted news and information from both councils which is relevant to their parish, village or area. This seems to be a consequence of both authorities stopping their residents' magazine as a cost cutting measure. Instead, a survey has been produced and is being sent to all parishes and community networks for their feedback.

Work has begun on a new state-of-the-art recycling centre at Witchford. It is the first purpose-built indoor recycling centre and will open in October 2011.

The Community Services Committee has awarded £70,000 to Burwell Parish Council towards work being undertaken at the Community Centre. It also awarded £10,000 towards an extension to Burwell Day Centre.

100% grants are still available from the Small Villages Fund. These can be for anything from restoring a play area to moving a bus stop.

As regards previous questions raised:

There was a members-only Neighbourhood Panels meeting recently which Reach was not invited to. A definitive answer was not possible since Neighbourhood Panel Officer, Alan Williams, has now left. The probable reason is that Reach Parish Council no longer has a specific Neighbourhood Panel's Officer.

Councillor Platt raised the issue of members of ECDC using taxis as transport down to London, as reported in the press. Taxis have been used on two occasions. Once by the Council Chairman while representing the council at Buckingham Palace. As he had to take his very expensive chain of office, it was felt to be inadvisable to take public transport. Also, whilst attending a function in London, the Council Leader and three council officers shared a taxi. This was cheaper than using public transport.

Councillor Platt commented that the latest issue of East Cambridgeshire Magazine, containing information about Diary events to take place in Dec 2010 and January 2011, was delivered only at the end of January 2011. This was because the council was let down by its distributors.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and has finished the year with reserves of around £4,800. For the new financial year end March 31st 2012, there will be the added expense of the Parish Council election (probably one third of £2,000 so £666) and potentially an additional audit fee of £140 since the grants that the Parish Council received for the tennis court will be considered as income for the previous financial year.

4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No meetings have taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

4 (6) Parish Council Members

No meetings attended.

4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

Spikes to deter birds from alighting on the top of the swings on the Green and in the Playground have been put in place by Neville Dunnett. Neville is also happy to carry out the necessary repairs to the chicken.

4 (8) Rights of Way Report

A number of finger posts have been put in place.

4 (9) Speedwatch

There was no activity in the preceding month.

4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report

Reach Fair preparations continue to make good progress. The repairing of the roof following the theft of lead has been completed.

5. Cemetery Rainwater Collection

The Clerk will carry out the necessary work in May.

6. Fly Tipping

The Parish Council is concerned that neither the Police nor ECDC are willing to take responsibility for prosecuting people who fly tip on private land. The Chairman will raise this issue at a subsequent Neighbourhood Panel meeting.

7. Land Availability – 24 acres on the Burwell Road

At a village meeting with the National Trust, which hopes to buy this land, the three main areas of community involvement (1) orchard, (2) horse ménage and (3) cricket/football pitches were reviewed. In addition, the possibility of horticulture therapy will be considered and also the suggestion of some form of community wood to produce sustainable fuel. The National Trust continues to seek funding for purchasing the land – were they to be successful, it is expected that the village would need to seek funding for the chosen projects.

8. May Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed that these will take place on Wednesday 11th May 2011 with the Parish Council meeting being brought forward to 7.00pm to be followed by the Parish Meeting at 7.30pm. The Clerk will ensure that all of the new Parish Council will be properly in place prior to this meeting.

9. Mowing Contracts 2011/2012

These have been awarded to C R Contracting for the village and wood grass-cutting and to Within Reach Services for the mowing of the cemetery. Both contracts have now been signed.

10. Reach Village Garden Party

There will be a Garden Party, to include a barbecue on the Green on the 29th April 2011. The Clerk is chairing a small committee who will organise the event. Grants have been received from the Amenity Fund and a request for funding has been put to the Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities.

11. Tennis Court Maintenance Fund

The tennis court requires routine cleaning, probably on an annual basis, repainting probably on a six year basis and resurfacing probably on a ten year basis. The Tennis Court Committee plans to raise funds to supplement the Fund so that a significant proportion of the main costs of repainting and resurfacing will be available when required. Other grant funds will be sought at the relevant time to achieve the full cost requirement.

12. Village Signpost Refurbishment

The signpost in the middle of the Green would benefit from refurbishment. **Councillor Aves** has agreed to carry out the necessary work.

13. Water Bills Possible Discount for Villagers

The Chairman explained that villagers may be paying too much water rates since he believes that Anglian Water maintains no storm drains within the village. Therefore on villagers' water bills the words "foul only" should appear. If this is not the case, there may be around £35 per year in savings. Villagers should go to www.anglianwater.co.uk/household/your-account/tariffs/reduced-sewerage/index.aspx or call 08457 919155.

14. Planning Applications

There were none for consideration.

15. Information Items

It was agreed that **Councillor Dunnett** would purchase a "No Dogs Allowed" sign which will be placed on the entrance to the Playing Field.

The Clerk was asked to review the cemetery fencing with a view to it being improved to stop unwanted pets entering the cemetery and fouling it.

It was noted that our current PCSO Annie Austin will be leaving our area and that Ian Hawkins will take over.

Members of the Parish Council were invited to attend the Institution and Induction of Revd Dr Eleanor Williams as vicar of Burwell and Reach. All Parish Councillors declined or were unable to attend. **The Clerk** will RSVP accordingly.

Our village-owned street lights are maintained by the County Council – at the Parish Council's expense. From 1st July 2011 onwards, the opportunity is for the lights to be maintained by Balfour Beatty. **The Clerk** will investigate the options in readiness for a decision at the next Parish Council meeting.

16. Payments

100956	David Parr	Clerk's Pay Jan-March	£589.00
100957	Neville Dunnett	Bird resisting spikes	£108.90
100958	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing March	£67.00
100959	C R Contracting	Village Mowing March	£67.00
100960	ECDC	Cemetery Rates for YE 2012	£14.71
100961	Wildlife Trust	Subscription YE 2012	£36.00
100962	CPALC	Parish Council Support	£112.75
100963	Village Centre	Hire of Hall for PC meetings	£24.00

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 11th April 2011 at 7.00pm. 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: