

REACH

NEW WEBSITE



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The Reach website has now been updated and can be visited at; www.reach-village.co.uk

There is information on the HISTORY of the village as well as current day issues and opportunities.

In the PARISH COUNCIL area you can download the Minutes of previous meetings and see the Agenda for the next one.

Older issues of this magazine can also be downloaded from the MAGAZINE page.

The NEWS page is constantly updated to show happenings in the village.

If you have any comments or items to be included on the website then just let me know.

**David Parr
20 Fair Green, Reach, CB25 0JD
Tel: 01638 744081
Email: davidmparr@btinternet.com**

Out of Reach



Information

Parish Council Chairman	Ross Clark 743725
Parish Clerk	Dave Parr 744081
Village Hall Committee	Andrew Towers 742484
Village Hall Bookings	Joyce Harrison, 742405
County Councillor	Hazel Williams
District Councillor	Allen Alderson 01638 741744
Neighbourhood Watch	Joyce Harrison 742405
Vicar	Revd Canon Stephen Earl 741262
Hon.Assistant Priest	Revd David Bush 741839
Asst.Curate	Revd Gill Smith 743589
Licensed Lay Minister	John Hooper 742026
Priest in Retirement (Reach)	Revd David King 742924
Editor	Grahame Radford 742814 e-mail: gnk@btinternet.com
Advertising Distribution	Freda Lloyd. 742368 Joyce Harrison. 742405
Doctors (The Burwell Surgery, Newmarket Road, Burwell, CB5 0AE)	
Appointments/Emergencies	741234
Doctors	Dr Anne Shneerson, Dr Andrew Wills,
Surgery Hours	Dr A Manning, Dr James Parry, Dr Maureen Birch Mon 8.40 - 11.30 am, 3.00 - 5.30 pm Tues. 8.40 - 11.30 am, 3.00 - 5.30 pm Wed 8.40 - 11.30 am, 3.00 - 5.30 pm Thu 8.40 - 11.30 am, 3.00 - 5.30 pm Fri 8.40 - 11.30 am, 3.00- 5.30 pm
Community Nurses	742382 11 - 11.30 am, 1.00 - 1.30 pm & 4 - 4.30 pm
Ante Natal	Wed. 4.30 - 5.30 pm, Run by Midwife
Child Health Surveillance	2nd & 4th Tuesdays. 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Emergencies	0800 783 8838.
Eastern Electric	08457 145 145.
Anglian Water	999 Non Emergencies 0845 4564564
Police	

Church Services



Services at Burwell and Reach

July 09	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda & The Holy Trinity Reach
5th Trinity 4	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Service	
12th Trinity 5	9.30am Parish Communion	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 7.00pm "Sunday @ 7" Informal Contemporary Worship
19th Trinity 6	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Parish Communion	
26th Trinity 7	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Parish Communion	

Church Services



Services at Burwell and Reach

June 09	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda & The Holy Trinity Reach
7th Trinity Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Service 3.00pm Deanery Carers' Service at St Andrew's Soham	
14th Trinity 1	9.30am Parish Communion	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 7.00pm "Sunday @ 7" Informal Service
21st th Trinity 2	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Parish Communion	
28 th Trinity 3	8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Parish Communion	

Editor's Notes



The purpose of Out of Reach is to serve the whole village by circulating information and interesting articles free to every household in Reach. Issues are published bi-monthly with cover dates of Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep and Oct/Nov.

Items for inclusion should reach the editor two weeks before the 1st day of the first month on the cover. Inclusion date for June/July issue will be 16th July.

From the Editor

Another cracking Fair! Despite the slight rain shower just as the Mayor was performing the official opening, this year's Fair proved to be another popular event. Thank you to all those who helped, either on the day, before or after. Without you the Fair cannot go ahead, let alone do well. Report and provisional figures inside.

"Mowergate", or the "Schipol Memorandum" continues. The anticipated replies and counter-replies to Bryan Pearson's letter are printed in this edition to continue the debate.

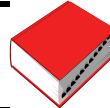
Elsewhere, keep an eye on the new website as Dave Parr has been busy updating and amending lots of pages with useful information. Well done David!

I could still do with more articles for publication. Let me have details on unusual hobbies, exciting trips, achievements etc.

Grahame Radford

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Before the war we used to visit a family in Fludger Street in Lewisham. It's all gone now to make room for high-rise flats. But then our dear old friend Grimmie, a labourer with Lewisham Borough Council, and his wife, would be sitting on their doorstep chatting to their neighbour next door or across the street. They knew their neighbours because they were part of a community who cared about each other. Today I see no great signs of "chatting over the fence" or hob-nobbing with the passers-by.....we are all too busy (and usually enclosed in our metal boxes on 4 wheels). Oh dear!. What we have lost and must find again.

But now we invite you to come and share with us at St Marys our 10th Anniversary Celebrations at 9-30 am on JUNE 21st. This will be followed by a shared meal in the Guildhall.....and of course a cup of TEA . Thank you all for the 10 years.....here's to the next 10.

Greetings and blessings to you all,

David Bush

Village Centre



To help raise money to run the Village Centre we have a 100 club. Tickets are just £10.00 each.

The 100 club has 10 draws a year.
8 draws of £20.00 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
2 draws of £50.00 July and December

⁴
Please contact Joyce Harrison 742405



It was almost a music-hall joke as I went round our various parishes visiting, and being offered tea at nearly every home, whatever the time of day. But the human capacity is limited and many offers had to be refused.

But the phrase “ Tea, Vicar ? ” became almost a password; and the acceptance of a drink was the means of breaking any barriers and opening doors to the sharing of worries, concerns and joys of the giver. And incidentally often a source of great advice for me. ! The humble tea pot is one of the most powerful tools in Christian social involvement. (from a Spring Harvest paper.)

As Anita and I celebrate on June 21st our Tenth Anniversary of coming to live amongst you we look back on those 10 years with the satisfaction of making so many new friendships (with and without an accompanying cuppa) ; and I think of other events in life when a cup of tea has made a very great impact upon me.....tea round the fireside in the old family home in Stoke Ferry and watching the chestnuts roasting on the coal shovel.....silently sitting and listening to a parent telling me how her son has just committed suicide.....but perhaps the very best cup of all was the one thrust into my hands by a Sally Ack lady as my parents and I scrambled from the bowels of our bomb-shattered home in Blackheath, heavily and heavenly laced with sugar.

As we have moved around the country..London...Isle of Man...Cotswolds...Burwell... each move has left some regrets and tears, things left undone, tasks uncompleted (there always are), as new challenges and opportunities emerged (are we doing the right thing ?) . But in Faith we've moved on , ultimately aware of the guiding hand with us all the time....and ,bless you all, “Tea, Vicar ? ” has been our constant welcome. In spite of the times when darkness has crept into one's soul, when one feels “if only” and inadequate, there has always been the humble tea pot to hand.

“If onlys” are very unhelpful, and moving on and accepting the sorrows as well as the joys is the response to Christ's parable of the Lilies of the Field which toil not but are so much more beautiful than all our human vanities, possessions and strivings for more. What about a new parable : “Consider the Humble Teapot” ? So let us, for a moment, forget the Dow Jones Index and Footsie figures (whatever they really are) and concentrate on the question of improving and extending our own human contacts. There's always someone “out there” who is lonely or worried and aching for a visitor to call on them. Aren't we all !



Diary Dates

DATES for your DIARY

June

Tues 2	Mobile Library	Village Green	1.10 pm
Weds 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30 pm
Fri 5	Recycling Day		
Tues 16	Mobile Library	Village Green	1.10 pm
Weds 17	Village Hall Committee	Village Centre	8.00 pm
Fri 19	Recycling Day		
Sun 29	Village Quiz	Dykes End	
Tues 30	Mobile Library	Village Green	1.10 pm

July

Weds 1	Parish Council Meeting	Village Centre	7.30 pm
Fri 3	Recycling Day		
Tues 14	Mobile Library	Fair Green	1.10 pm
Wed 15	Hall Committee	Village Centre	8.00 pm
Fri 17	Recycling Day		
Sun 27	Pub Quiz	Dykes End	8.00 pm
Fri 31	Recycling Day		

Reach Village Centre 100 club

Remember to get your 100 club ticket to be in with a chance of the monthly draw. Only £10 for the year!

tel Joyce Harrison on 742405

April £20 winner - Pam King

REMEMBER – To win it you've got to be in it

Notices



Reach & Swaffham Prior Community Broadband

Your local internet / e-mail provider
(Before going to BT—contact us)
£20 per calendar month

Name.....

Address

.....

Tel No.....

Please fill in this form if you require Broadband and return it to
Paul Catling, 10 Adams Road, Swaffham Prior

For further details contact Paul on 07005 800 991

Village Games for Hire

Following this year's Fair we have a number of stall Games for hire.

These include:-

Feed the Frog, Drop the Dice, Splat the Rat and Hoopla.

Ideal for private parties, fund raising etc.

Interested?

Then telephone Jan Tabecki on 01638 742552
(Deposit required)

County Council Report April/May 2009
Cllr Hazel Williams

01638 743897

1. Following the restructuring of senior staff at the county council Mike Davey (who has been attending our Neighbourhood Panel meetings) has been promoted to Service Director for Community Engagement and Rod Craig has been appointed as Executive Director, Community and Adult Services. Three directors will be retiring.
2. The Older People's Strategy was approved by Cabinet before coming to the Council meeting
3. Funding has been secured from the Regional Funding Allocation for a new station at Chesterton, as well as funding for the guided bus to continue to the station from Milton Road. At present 70% of travellers for the present railway station come from the north of the city.
4. Cambridgeshire Archives gave an update to Scrutiny Committee on the difficulties of storing the archive materials (most of which is in the Shire Hall basement) and their search for a new venue.
5. Horizons gave an update on the implications of the economic downturn on the development of new communities.
County Council Farms Estate is celebrating its first century. The estate, the largest of its kind in the country, has 250 tenant farmers working 13,500 hectares (30,000 acres) of land. The first plot was bought in Milton in 2009.
7. The Guided Bus is being tested and members of the public and press have had the opportunity to ride on a short section of it before the opening. The northern section of the guided bus project should be open in late summer but no date has been set for the southern section. The contractor BAM Nuttalls and the County Council are still in dispute over the contract and the Cabinet has met in closed session to discuss the situation.
8. The contract with the builders responsible for the Central Library has been terminated. And Coulson Building Group has taken on the project. Completion date is now expected to be September 2009, over 18 months later than expected.
According to figures just released, the East of England has had the lowest level of public spending per head of any region in England for four of the last six years. Councils and public services in the area receive just £6,555 per person from the Government compared with an average of £7,353 for England as a whole.
10. Cambridgeshire will run a pilot 20mph scheme in Cambridge to see how well it works.

The four year term of the County Council is almost finished and County Council elections, together with those for the European Union, take place on June 4th 2009.

Friends of Bottisham Village College
Cordially invite you to the

'CASINO LAS VEGAS BALL'

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2009

Starting 7pm, carriages at midnight

- ◆ Champagne Reception ◆
- ◆ Three Course Meal ◆

Dance the night away to the music from
Shredded Beat

- ◆ Entertainment throughout the Evening!! ◆
- ◆ Bar ◆
- ◆ Black Tie ◆

Tickets £40

Please contact:

Claudine Bateman for tickets or information
Telephone: 07747484058 or 01223 811250 Ext 275
Email: friends@bottishamvc.org

For Hire from Reach Village Hall

Marquees - £80.00
(includes erection by experienced personnel)

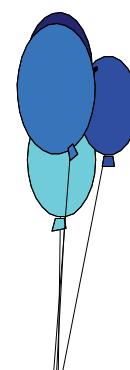
10' x 10' Gazebos - £20

Large BBQ - £20.00 deposit
(£10.00 refunded if the BBQ is returned fully cleaned)

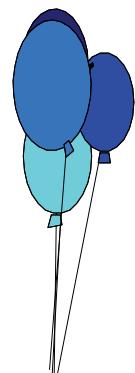
Please contact Andrew Hall on 01638 743737

Birthdays

Congratulations to :-



Harry Towers - 6 on the 9th June



Anya Tabecka - 10 on the 10th June

**News from
Swaffham Prior
Church of England
Primary School**



SWIMMING POOL OPENS!!

I am very pleased to announce that the new Swaffham Prior School swimming pool will be open for use from 5th June! The children, staff, parents and governors cannot thank enough all of the members of the community who have pulled together to make this happen. Without all of your very kind donations we would not be able to have our lovely new pool.

We are having an 'official' opening ceremony on 11th June at 2.30pm and we would like to invite any interested members of the community to come and enjoy the celebrations with us. The children will be serving refreshments and it should be a very enjoyable afternoon, so please come along if you can.

As well as the new swimming pool there has been a lot of other change happening at school. I will be leaving the school at the end of this term and moving to be the headteacher of the village school where I live. I have really enjoyed my years at Swaffham Prior and will really miss all of the children, staff and parents as I have thoroughly enjoyed working here. A new headteacher has been appointed. Her name is Mrs Diane Hawkes and she is really looking forward to starting at the school in September. Diane is currently a very experienced deputy head at a large school in West Sussex. Her family is relocating to East Anglia.

Mrs Hanke, our Year 1/2 class teacher, has decided to retire this term. She has been at the school for nine years, and would now like to focus more on her PhD which she has been doing for a few years. Everyone in school will miss her and we wish her the best of luck. We have appointed a new teacher, Mr Gordon Godfrey, to take over her role.

This term the children in Key Stage Two have been learning all about Castles. They started their project by having a brilliant visit to Norwich Castle. Toby Pitt in Year 3 wrote about it:

On Tuesday 22nd April Neptune and Saturn went to Norwich Castle because it is our topic.

First George, our tour guide showed us under the keep, and let us touch and hold things, my favourite was the three handled cup.

Planning Applications

A plan for two gravestones to be erected in the cemetery was approved. The CLERK will inform J K Memorials.

Information Items

- a. The opportunity exists for Reach to enter the Calor Village of the Year competition (www.calorvillageoftheyear.org/england/index.htm). This will require someone or a small group to organise the activity – anyone interested should contact the CLERK and this item will be added to the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.
- b. The Parish Council continues to try and assist Snakehall Farm in their construction of a bus shelter.
- c. 'Help the Aged Cambridgeshire' has a small grants scheme. One-off grants are available for projects that help to 'improve the quality of life for elderly people in Cambridgeshire', grants must be for specific projects and are between £100 and £1,000 (however the average grant is approx £400). Grants can be for capital items or project revenue costs.
Applications should be sent to: Chris Lakin, 15 Dane Drive, Cambridge, CB3 9LP
- d. "Weather the storm" is an advice website to help residents and businesses in Cambridgeshire through the recession. Their web address is www.weatherthestorm.org.uk.
- e. It was noted that a resident is parking cars wholly on the pavement of the village. This is illegal and also dangerous because of the location. The CLERK was asked to write to the residents advising them that this practice must cease.

Payments

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

100863	Gardenworks	Tree works	£1,121.25
100864	David Parr	Clerk's Pay	£387.60
100865	D. Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£65.00
100866	C R Contracting	Mowing	£145.00
100867	David Parr	Clerk's Expenses	£29.88

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm. The Agenda 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).

12. Tree Cutting in Reach Wood

The Clerk had contacted the Woodland Trust to question the need for the recent tree cutting in the wood. The Woodland Trust had replied with a satisfactory explanation for the activity and confirmed that no further tree cutting was planned for the rest of the year.

13. Cemetery Fence Repair

The contractor who had planned to carry out some repair work was no longer able to do so. It was decided that the need for the remedial work and the scale of it should be re-assessed prior to any further action being taken.

14. Great Lane Road Erosion

THE CLERK is awaiting a response from the concerned residents with regard to a meeting between them and the council highways department. Should no response be forthcoming by the next Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council will remove this item from future agendas.

15. Land Registration

It has been established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. THE CLERK will collect further information to establish the benefits/drawbacks of the Parish Council registering and thereby taking ownership of these areas of land (plus potentially others) and will report back to the Parish Council at a subsequent meeting.

16. National Trust Bridge Plans

The National Trust is planning to put in a bridge across Reach Lode for the use of walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The intention is that the bridge will link Burwell Fen Farm with Split Drove. A programme of showing the plans to interested groups has been completed. During the middle 3 Saturdays in May there will be a public road show to show these plans and other projects to the community. It is also planned, but not confirmed, that the National Trust will attend Reach Fair. The plans for the bridge will be finalized and ready for planning in late April/early May. The Parish Council will then receive the application for comment from ECDC in the normal fashion.

17. Pollution in Agricultural Land

The Parish Council has 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 on Friday 7th 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.

18. RaSP Mast

ECDC has received a complaint regarding the presence of a RaSP mast in the garden of a house in the village. The ECDC has reviewed the mast and concluded that planning permission is required. The Parish Council awaits this application for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Next Neptune and Saturn had LUNCH outside, it was hot and very sunny. When we finished lunch we played a game of it until every one else had finished.

Afterwards Neptune and Saturn were split into groups with an adult. We all did a quiz around the castle. It was funny because there were toilets. They did not flush and they were just blocks of wood with a hole in.

Lastly Neptune and Saturn went to the shop in their groups. It was hard too decide what to buy, every thing was good but a lot of money. I would recommend Norwich Castle for 7s and over.

As ever we have been very busy with sporting events in school. Our Year 5/6 boys football team were recently crowned district champions and we are very proud of them. Our school Basketball and High 5s teams have also been doing very well in recent tournaments. Another competition success we have had is at the local Primary Schools Geography Quiz. Our children beat 10 other primary schools to be crowned champions! We have a team entering the Primary History Quiz soon, so we wish them the best of luck!

On Wednesday 3rd June we are holding a Family Learning Day in school. All of the parents have been invited in to come into school and see what really happens in the classrooms and to join in with some activities with their children. Hopefully it will be well attended and it can be extended into a whole week next year.

The children in Years 5 and 6 are getting ready for their weeks residential trip to Aylmerton Field Study Centre in the middle of June. They will be doing all sorts of exciting activities. For example, seal watching at Blakeney, beach combing at West Runton and of course the disco!

FoSPS are working very hard at the moment planning our annual Summer Fair. This year it is on Saturday 4th July and we are praying for sunshine!! It would be lovely to see members of the community there.

The children in Years 3-6 are starting rehearsals for our Summer show, which is called, 'The Lemonade Kid!' It is loosely based on a Western and the script is really good fun. If you would like to come and watch it we are holding our dress rehearsal on Tuesday 14th July at 9.30am. Please contact the office for tickets.

**Emma Vincent
Head Teacher**

Reach Fair 2009

Although the weather changed a little for the worse on the Monday morning it didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the visitors this year and we had about as many visitors as 2008. Fortunately, the rain was only a passing shower and soon stopped, at which point visitors poured in.

The biggest problem last year with the new car parking arrangements was the conflict of two-way traffic and pedestrians along Burwell Road. This could have resulted in a major accident. Therefore, the Committee decided to implement a one-way scheme to separate pedestrians and cars for safety's sake. The scheme seemed to have worked well although the additional cost will be reflected in the overall profit for the Fair. It is anticipated that this will be a feature of future Fairs, assuming we use the same car park.

We had a return of the Raptor Foundation this year and some "information" stalls with local interest subjects and projects. The funfair also saw a return of the "Big Wheel" which has been absent for a few years.

The Fancy Dress again had some innovative entries with the theme being "Nursery Rhymes". Well done to all those who took part. It has been suggested that an adult category be included next year!

All in all, it was a great day out for everyone and another successful event for the village. The provisional figures are shown opposite and the Fancy Dress competition results below.

On behalf of the Committee a huge thank you to everyone who helped — we really can't run the event without you. Also a big thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make it such a fun and successful day.

Fancy Dress Results.

Under 5's

1st - Tobias Aspin

2nd- 'The Muffin Man'

3rd - Harry Towers

6-8

1st - David Cane

2nd- Katrina Newson

3rd - Lucy Whiteside

9 +

1st - Freya Thomas &
Suzy Tucker

-

3rd-Alice Lingley

4. Contingency Fund Requirement

Each year a Precept is agreed based on the likely expenditure that the Parish Council will make in the forthcoming financial year. The question of how much emergency reserve should be kept to cover unidentified expenditure was raised. The Clerk was given guidance that somewhere between 25% and 100% of annual spend was an appropriate level. The plan for the current financial year is a spend of £7,500 which would leave the Parish Council with a reserve of around £2,600 at the end of the financial year – which is 35% of spend. The Parish Council felt that this was sufficient but the situation will continue to be monitored each month.

5. Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access

The residents of the three houses closest to the bend 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 the houses due to their weight and vibration. In 2005 Cambridgeshire County Council agreed to erect three bollards to provide some protection but this did not happen despite written commitment. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to work with the residents and contact the County Council to discuss the overall issue and seek an acceptable outcome.

6. Parking on the Green

There had been a request from two residents of Reach to park some cars on the village green overnight in early June. Permission was granted and the Clerk will inform the residents of this.

7. Peacocks Nuisance

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. The issue has been discussed with ECDC and some action taken to overcome the problem. The Clerk will monitor progress and report back to the Parish Council.

8. Playground Inspection

The annual inspection is due and the Clerk will seek at least two estimates before selecting a suitable company to carry out the inspection.

9. Reach Fair Parking and Road Closures

The Parish Council approved the proposed application which the Reach Village Centre Committee will now put to Cambridge County Council for their approval.

10. Track becoming Rutted off Great lane

The track in question has become, in the opinion of the Parish Council, dangerously rutted. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident whose vehicles are causing the rutting to see what can be done to alleviate the problem.

11. 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 Clerk was asked to contact the owner of the trees to outline the problem and agree a solution.

ECDC has announced that children aged 16 and under and adults aged 60 and over can swim for free at the Paradise Pool in Ely.

There are travellers on Headlake Drove. Should they not have moved on by the end of April the County Council will take legal steps to remove them.

Financial Report

Included within the Contingency Fund requirement/level discussions

Police Liaison Committee Report

None presented

Village Hall Committee Report

Preparations for Reach Fair 2009 continue to make good progress. A grant has been achieved to purchase further chairs.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Report

This was provided by John Robinson. The Charity has made a number of awards through the year and was pleased to be able to provide a sum of £75 to OAP's at Christmas last year.

Matters Arising

1. Allotments in Reach

There has been a request for allotments to be made available in the village. An item regarding the potential need for allotments has been included within Out of Reach Magazine in order to assess the size of the requirement. Once this has been done the Parish Council will review the matter further.

2. Bottisham Bowling Club Request for Funds

The Parish Council has received a letter from Bottisham Bowling Club explaining their planned major expansion. Within the letter it explained that funds were being sought. The CLERK was asked to communicate to the Bowling Club that whilst we wish them every success with their venture, the Parish Council would be unable to provide any financial support.

3. 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. It was decided to consider the acquisition of two wooden noticeboards which would be properly and appropriately attached to the two shelters. The CLERK will continue to investigate how this might be achieved, with assistance from other councillors.

Commercial Stalls	2009	Village Stalls	2009
Perrett - Fair	£1,500.00	Car Park/Programmes	£3,193.32
Air brush tattoos	£34.00	Tea Tent	£875.95
Bar	£750.00	BBQ	£1,082.90
Barbara Russell	£50.00	Bottle Stall	£409.30
Beekeepers	£65.00	Cake Stall	£358.75
Bric a Brac (Kirkpatrick)	£40.00	Salad Stall	£628.76
Chris Winch	£25.00	Coconuts	£277.10
Crepes - C Verrecchia	£31.00	Cream Teas	£499.40
Emma Mitchell	£25.00	Football	£164.99
Friends of Swaffham Prior School		Creche	£0.00
Go Karts/Assault Course	£105.00	Village Games	£302.21
Gooding	£25.00	Toss Welly/Bale/RollaBall	£158.90
Grandads Clothing	£25.00	Grand Draw	£55.25
Handy Plaice	£25.00	Programme Adverts	£140.00
Hoggies	£50.00		
Inner Lather	£59.00	Total	£8,146.83
Jack's Kitchen - Jack Ringer	£105.00		
Johns Fish	£80.00	Expenses	2009
Jules' Jewels	£41.00	Traction Engine	£60.00
Kate Child	£25.00	Grass Cutting	
Kings Ice Creams	£150.00	St Johns Ambulance	£86.25
Lisa Hedges-Sharman	£128.00	General Expenses	£21.90
Little Windmills	£75.50	Car Park	£1,800.00
Lucy Baynes	£25.00	Parking	£304.24
Lynn MacDonald Knitwear	£110.00	Wicken Brass Band	£0.00
National Trust	£25.00	Solitech PA System	£402.50
Olivia Coles - Pheonix Trading	£45.00	Puppets/ Magic Show	£200.00
P Harlow	£25.00	Patchwork Circus	£210.00
Paul Hedges - Giant Slide	£80.00	Advertising	£0.00
Peter Fears (Coffee Quest)	£70.00	Latta Loo Hire	£646.25
Plant Stall - Janet Hall	£105.00	Raptor Foundation	£70.00
Prospect Trust	£25.00	Swords of Chivalry	£0.00
Ronaldos Ice Cream	£77.52	Straw Bales	£90.00
Samamba	£45.00	Venture Scouts	£250.00
Steadfast Trust	£63.05	Village Games/Prizes	£136.73
Sue Green Forever Living	£34.00	Traffic Management	£1,262.70
Thelma Harris - Tombola	£25.00		
Tom Foolery	£74.00	Programmes	£450.00
Oxford Archaeology	£0.00	Banners	£224.25
		Police	£402.50
Total	£4,242.07	Total	£6,617.32
Summary			
Commercial Stalls	£4,242.07	Share to Village Hall	£4,328.69
Village Stalls	£8,146.83	Share to Amenity Fund	£1,442.90
Total Income	£12,388.90		
less Expenses	£6,617.32		
Profit	£5,771.58		

GRAND PRIZE DRAW RESULTS

1st	£150	M Beales - Soham
2nd	£100	S Brandt - Newmarket
3rd	£50	L Sandham - Cambridge
4th	Sunday lunch for two at The Dykes End	Jan Tabecki - Reach
5th	1 month's membership of Fitness Express.	Emma Jennings - Isleham
6th	4 Games of Bowling from Strikes at Ely	Mr Pumfrey - Swaffham Prior
7th	£15 gift voucher from Tina's at Burwell	Thomas Reed - Reach
8th	Bone China Aynsley cake stand	Mrs Long - Gt Wilbraham
9th	Free ride for 2 adults & 4 children at Audley End Steam railway	C Gillard - Reach
10th	£10 Gift voucher from Finishing Touch, Burwell	Jacqui Lewis - Reach
11th	£10 voucher from Hurrell's Butchers, Burwell	R Thompson - Cambridge
12th	Nail file and polish at Salon 34, Burwell	A Freeman - Ely
13th	Orchid	Jackie Peyton - Ely
14th	Leather luggage	Claire Nash - Burwell
15th	1 session for 2 children at Planet Zoom, Ely	Mr Pumfrey - Swaffham Prior
16th	£5 gift voucher from Finishing Touch, Burwell	M Beales - Soham

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

Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Not Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not 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
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Not Present

Forum for Members of the Public

Members of the public attended and contributed to the Great Lane – Fair Green Bend Large Vehicle Access discussions.

Declaration of Interests

None

Amenity Fund Applications

None

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th March 2009 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

Not presented

District Council Report

The waste and recycling contract with Veolia has been reviewed. There has been mixed feedback and councillors have vowed to do all they can to improve the service.

Staffing changes are being implemented, the most significant of which is the temporary part-time secondment of Alex Colyer, Executive Director Finance to South Cambs District Council for a period of six months.

Planning Applications

None

Information Items

- a. There has been a complaint that the two bus shelters in the village are looking scruffy due to them also being used as noticeboards. This item will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
- b. It was reported that trees on the left hand side of the Burwell Road as it leaves Reach require trimming. THE CLERK will investigate and as necessary, add this to the agenda of the next meeting.
- c. Trees within Reach Wood have been cut down by the Woodland Trust. THE CLERK will contact them seeking an explanation of why this is necessary.

Payments

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

100861	ECDC	Street Lighting	
£232.05			
100019	Village Hall Committee	Christmas Music	£100.00
Amenity Fund			

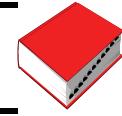
The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued by Wednesday 25th March – and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

[Cambridge ACRE](#) runs the annual Cambridgeshire Calor Village of the Year competition and encourages all villages to enter. Entrants not only have a great deal of fun preparing an entry but also reap benefits from working together to engender a real sense of community spirit.

So if you are interested in this, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council (me, David Parr) by going to the [Contact Us](#) page.



Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor

Although my family and I have only been living in the village for just under three years, I have noticed that compared to many surrounding villages, Reach is distinctly lacking in daffodils.

We have a wonderful village green that would look even more beautiful with the addition of some golden daffodils dotted around.

I wonder what the other residents think? Perhaps we could arrange a planting group to undertake the task. Perhaps this is a worthy project for the amenity fund? If anyone is interested I would love to hear from you!

On another note, there seems to be a lot of rubbish building up in the hedgerows along the dyke and car park and also at the bottom of the woods. I know there is a general litter picking session after the Reach Fair but I think it would look so much nicer if we were tidy before the event! We are so lucky to live in such a pretty village, we need to look after it and enjoy it in its natural state.

Again, perhaps we could arrange a litter picking session one morning ??

Thoughts please.

Yours sincerely

Jo Riches

743089
jo@joriches.com

(From Geoffrey Woollard, Chapel Farm, River Bank, Nr. Upware, Ely, Cambridgeshire. CB7 5YJ. Telephone 01223 - 861823).

Dear Editor

Thanks to some extraordinary generosity, especially from individual people in and around Reach and from Burwell and Reach Parochial Church Council, I have pleasure in reporting that the re-roofing of 'The Little Chapel in The Fen' is nearly finished and that the Trustees have enough money to pay the contractors.

Yours very sincerely

Geoffrey Woollard

'Straws in The Wind'

Your readers may be watching the ongoing battle that I and my friends are waging against the National Trust's ill-conceived 'vision' that is intended, if and when implemented, to flood or junglefy thousands of acres of valuable food-growing Fen land in this area.

Well, thanks to the support of the many who have signed the on-line 'SaveOurFens' E-Petition at - <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/SaveOurFens/> - it has become clear that we are beginning to win this one, though we ask for many more signatures before the E-Petition closes in early 2010.

Another 'straw in the wind' was a poll taken at the end of a large and excellent meeting of 'Fenland History on Friday,' held at Ely on the 3rd of April under the leadership of Mr Mike Petty, M.B.E. A National Trust spokesperson had addressed a previous meeting, but about 95% of those present supported my line, with none against. I enjoyed speaking to the meeting and thank those who were there and did 'the right thing.'

One gentleman mentioned that his wife had been bitten 150 times by mosquitoes on a recent visit to Wicken Fen: this was poor propaganda for the Trust's 'vision,' but it suited me!

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Woollard.

7. Cemetery Fence Repair

The Clerk has contacted the proposed contractor to establish timescales for the required repair work to be carried out. THE CLERK will report the response at the next meeting.

8. Great Lane Road Erosion

THE CLERK has contacted the Highways Department and is arranging a meeting between them and the relevant occupants. He will also attend this meeting and report back to the Parish Council.

9. Haulage Activities within Reach

There have been complaints regarding the activities of a haulier in Reach, based on the size of the vehicles involved, their leaving and arriving schedules, parking issues and potential pollution problems. One complainant has escalated their complaint to ECDC. ECDC have now ruled on this issue as follows;

"The current assessment is that at this moment in time there has not been a material change in use and planning permission is not required. There is no further action to take and the file will be closed".

10. Land Registration

It has been established that the Hythe and the Drying Ground are not registered. THE CLERK will collect further information to establish the benefits/drawbacks of the Parish Council registering and thereby taking ownership of these areas of land (plus potentially others) and will report back to the Parish Council at a subsequent meeting.

11. Pollution in Agricultural Land

The Parish Council has 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 on Friday 7th 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.

Whilst the Scientific Officer feels that this item can now be removed from subsequent Parish Council agendas, the Parish Council feels that it needs to keep the action plan under scrutiny. THE CLERK will write to the Scientific Officer accordingly.

12. RaSP Mast

ECDC has received a complaint regarding the presence of a RaSP mast in the garden of a house in the village. The ECDC has reviewed the mast and concluded that planning permission is required. The Parish Council awaits this application for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Matters Arising

1. Allotments in Reach

There was a request for allotments to be made available in the village. ROSS CLARK will look into what allotments there might be currently and as necessary, how the number of these might be increased. ROSS CLARK will also include this item in the next issue of Out of Reach Magazine to assess the size of the requirement.

2. Contingency Fund Requirement

Each year a Precept is agreed based on the likely expenditure that the Parish Council will make in the forthcoming financial year. The question of how much emergency reserve should be kept to cover unidentified expenditure was raised. THE CLERK will provide financial details for the next meeting in order to facilitate discussion.

3. Councillor Vacancy

Hilary Fielding was co-opted onto the Reach Parish Council.

4. Peacocks Nuisance

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. Allen Alderson has discussed the issue with ECDC and action is to be taken by ECDC to overcome the problem. ALLEN ALDERSON will continue to monitor progress and report back to the Parish Council.

5. Track Encroachment

The Parish Council had received a complaint regarding the narrowing of the right of way known as Green Lane (the track just before Ditchfields as you approach Reach from Swaffham Prior). The Clerk looked into the matter and discussed the issue with the relevant Rights of Way Officer who, following a review of photographs taken, was not uncomfortable with the actions taken by local residents to protect their fencing and verges. THE CLERK will write to the complainant outlining the outcome of the complaint.

6. Willow Trees on the Hythe

There was concern regarding three willow trees on the Hythe which are in a dangerous state. Advice had been taken from Cathy White, Tree Officer regarding the work required and following the standard three quotations process, the Parish Council selected a contractor. The Parish Council also negotiated a 50% contribution towards the costs from the County Council. The work will take place on Tuesday 10th March. 34

Dear Editor

The last issue of Out of Reach carried a letter by Bryan Pearson regarding the decision by the parish council to contract out grass-cutting on the village green, recreation ground, Reach Wood and the Hythe this year. Much as we appreciate the contribution by Bryan and other volunteers in cutting the grass over the past decade, the assertion that the change towards contracting is responsible for the 18 per cent rise in parish precept this year is simply not true. The precept has regrettably had to rise this year because for the past couple of years the council's rising costs have out-stripped its income, with the result that its reserves have been eroded.

The biggest drain on the parish council's finances over this period has been the service and repair of the elderly parish mower. Last year the mower cost us £1,500 in repairs, servicing and fuel - nearly 20 per cent of our total expenditure. That excludes the public liability insurance we must pay to cover the risk of a volunteer coming to grief while mowing the grass, or damage caused by the mower. Moreover, thanks to the time that the mower spent in the workshop, the grass spent some of last season overgrown.

It became clear some time last summer that we could no longer persist with the existing mower. We therefore had a choice: either we buy a new one or we contract out the cutting. Bryan recounted in his letter that he was made the offer of a one year old machine for £7,500 - which he intimates was a fantastic deal. What he didn't say was that the machine had been used intensively during that time, the owner estimating that it had clocked up around 1,500 mowing-hours (although the meter which registers the number of mowing hours was broken). This is nearly as many as our existing mower. Not only that, a little research revealed that the mower was a 2004 model which had been previously used as a demonstration model by Pecks of Ely, who had sold it to the current owner. We risked, therefore, spending £7,500 only to be left where we began, with a heavily-used machine requiring frequent servicing and repair. As for the offer by the owner to service the machine 'forever', this wasn't a written service contract on offer. If I remember, Bryan's exact words were 'I'm sure he will honour it'.

The cost of an equivalent new mower would have been £15,000 to £20,000. Even had we managed to secure a grant for part of the cost, we would still have had to raise a huge sum far in excess of our annual precept. We are not allowed to borrow money and therefore the only source of funding would have been an even more dramatic rise in parish precept.

The decision to contract-out the mowing was based on a straightforward economic decision: it is going to work out cheaper. The job was put out to tender in a proper way and a contract drawn up which guarantees the cost for the coming year. When you take into account the cost of depreciation of a new mower, the servicing, fuel and insurance costs, contracting-out will cost the parish approximately 20 per cent less than what it would cost to do the job ourselves. We have only taken out a contract for one year and if the job proves unsatisfactory, or if the economics change, then we will reassess the situation.

The decision to raise the parish precept was not taken lightly, but it should be noted that even after this year's rise the precept in Reach will still only be average for East Cambridgeshire - in spite of the fact that the village has an unusually high amount of public open space and a village hall which is the envy of other villages.

The volunteers, Bryan included, have been advised of the reasons for the decision, but the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity, once more, to convey our appreciation for the hours they have spent trundling up and down on an increasingly dysfunctional mower.

Ross Clark, on behalf of Reach Parish Council

Dear Editor

As Clerk to Reach Parish Council, one of my roles is that of Responsible Financial Officer, which requires me to ensure that no financial impropriety takes place. Therefore, having read the letter from Bryan Pearson, published in the April/May issue of Out of Reach magazine, I wish to make the following comments which relate primarily to the financial aspects of his letter.

The large increase in rates is not because the Parish Council took the decision to contract out the village grass cutting - it comes from a number of areas. The documentation used as a basis for deciding the year ending March 2010 precept level contains details of the individual areas of increase. It also shows that in the last financial year the Parish Council reserves were depleted by approximately £1,000 and starting to correct this was one part of the £1,100 increase. This document would have been made available to Bryan, if he had asked to see it.

Bryan also states that the issue of reclaiming VAT might have made the increase "even greater". The handover to me as the new Clerk was not optimal and I accept some level of responsibility for this. However, the problem was dealt with soon after my arrival in July 2008 with the discussions regarding the precept taking place in November. It is therefore incorrect to give the impression that this could have resulted in an even bigger increase and the choice of the words "sheer incompetence" is unfortunate.

The costing analysis used to decide how the Parish Council should organise its mowing activity was produced by me and included information provided by the three contractors approached for quotations - for comparison to the do-it-ourselves situation. It was properly discussed at a number of Parish Council meetings and there was unanimous agreement that the mowing should be contracted out. The analysis included the annual cost of setting money aside for future replacement mowers, the lack of which Bryan was critical of in his letter, (although, to the best of my knowledge, no such provision was in place when Bryan was on the Parish Council). Again, the costing analysis document would have been made available to Bryan, if he had asked to see it.

Michael Aves did not "depute himself" to work with me on this - neither was he at all "engineer, architect and schemer". I met each of the contractors, on my own and drew up the contract, which was ultimately approved by the whole Parish Council. There was nothing "murky" about this process – and I resent this implication since it suggests that either I was involved in the "murkiness" or simply too stupid to recognise it.

I was surprised that Bryan states that "the [mowing] contract was not due to start until mid April" since he was made aware prior to the publication of his letter that the contract started on March 1st.

The right of free speech should always be treated with care. Facts must be checked – especially when serious allegations are being made. If, as he suggests, Bryan wanted to initiate a debate entitled "the dynamism of a community is the sum of its moving parts" then I, for one, would come along and listen and get involved – but his letter, in my opinion, was totally the wrong way to go about it.

David Parr

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Clerk to Reach Parish Council

County Council Report

The County Council average council tax increase for 2009/2010 for a band D property is 3.9% - £38 a year. The opposition proposed an increase of 2.45% but this was defeated.

The Children's Centre is running from Bottisham with activities across the area, including the Swaffhams, Burwell and Reach, for families with under 5's. Activities include Dads groups, health clinics, young parents support and messy play.

The County Council Research Group has won an award for the best piece of research undertaken by a local authority for its work on the Post Office Network Change Group.

District Council Report

ECDC is using a special windfall payment from central government to reduce its council tax increase for the coming financial year to 4.5%.

The council has also decided to provide an additional £10,000 to Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau over the next two years – which has been matched by Cambridgeshire County Council Forest Heath District Council, making an extra £30,000 in all. ECDC are also giving Ely CAB £20,000 this year and £14,000 the following year.

ECDC are looking to see if improvements can be made in local transport from community dial a rides to local buses. Consultations are underway to explore the possibility of expanding services to include more members of the community over a longer period during the day. It could, for instance, be used by our younger residents in the evening.

Financial Report

The Parish Council's bank account is in a satisfactory state. It is forecast that the Parish Council will overspend its income in the year to March 2009 by approximately £1,000 (to include the cost of tree works on the Hythe).

Police Liaison Committee Report

The number of metal thefts in Cambridgeshire has dropped dramatically in the past year.

Police and partner agencies ran numerous days of action across Cambridgeshire based on hundreds of vehicles being stopped and searched.

Anyone with information regarding any criminal activity should contact the police on 0845 456 4564 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Village Hall Committee Report

Preparations for Reach Fair 2009 are making good progress. Further assistance is needed from Reach residents to assist on the day. Efforts are underway to ensure that parking will be more efficient than last year.

Parish Council Meetings



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2009

Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Not Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Present

Forum for Members of the Public

Two members of the public attended and contributed to the National Trust Bridge Plans and the Track Encroachment – Green Lane Track discussion points.

Declaration of Interests

None

Community Policing Review with Maria Green

A presentation was made discussing what community policing entailed and what the community could do to help themselves. This was much appreciated by the councillors.

National Trust Bridge Plans Review with Chris Soans

The National Trust is planning to put in a bridge across Reach Lode for the use of walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The intention is that the bridge will link Burwell Fen Farm with Split Drove. Plans were shown to the Parish Council prior to planning permission being sought. No major objections were raised – the Parish Council will have a future opportunity to review the plans.

Amenity Fund Applications

None

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held ³² the 4th February 2009 were reviewed and signed.

Ed.....And to continue !!.....

20th May

Dear David

You have done a great job since joining the community of Reach both with the web site and with starting the task of professionalising the Parish Council. My critical letter was in no way directed towards your good self as the relatively new clerk on the block

Answering your points in turn. I didn't ask to see the document used for the precept setting because you had previously provided me with the document assessing the tender options for the grass cutting (email to me on 27th September at 2104 hrs). That is all I needed to form a view about the cost options.

My charge over Michael's role was meant to refer to the overall issue from his initial objections to my being involved through to his work on the contract, not the specific tendering process. I know you carried this out as professionally as possible and presented a clear report to the PC for their consideration.

As to the contract start date, I had understood from conversations with you that it was to commence in April so was intrigued when the cutting started in early March. As you recall, I emailed you to express such. You replied and expressed some surprise yourself and said you'd have to check with Michael... and then reverted a week later (on the 26th of March) to inform me that the arrangement "is for 21 cuts based on an average three a month from March to September" with Michael hoping that it might be possible to have a couple of (in warm weather) two cut months, which would allow for a couple of cuts in October. That you didn't know this without reverting to Michael does make it sound as whilst you no doubt did the hard bit in drafting the document, the nitty gritty of the contract setting would appear to have been done by Michael.

And to your final point. I wrote my letter at Amsterdam airport in the early morning whilst waiting a couple of hours for a connecting flight. I e-mailed it there and then to Graham. So, alas, your info of 26th March came too late for inclusion.

So onward and upward David. This'll blow over in time, but to your councillors I hope it will serve to help underscore the need for the greater professionalism and transparency that you are introducing.

Best wishes

Bryan

And.....

20th May 2009

Dear Ross

Congratulations on assuming the great mantle of Chair of the PC at the May meeting, and indeed thank you for your reply to my letter in the last issue of Out of Reach. However as if to announce your political step up, you did rather avoid answering the question! So herewith a rejoinder to keep the pages of Out of Reach turning.

1. Community

My central charge was that the PC failed to entertain any kind of consultation with villagers, and yet you chose to ignore any response on this! The role of the PC is to represent the views of the residents, not just do what the councillors want to do. Thus now you are Chair, it would be great to hear the PC asking for views on the real big issue of the day - The Wicken Fen Vision, and then representing that view in the wider debate. I'm tired of hearing the W man droning on about the National Trust spending taxpayers money when he and his family have been trousering buckets of the same for years and years via the Common Agricultural Policy. But I digress. I think you will find general support for a practical self help approaches, be it grass cutting or other issues.

2. Declarations of interest

I thought I fell over backwards to try to keep this issue as neutral as possible when the evidence pointed incontrovertibly otherwise. I assume the response to my letter came from you as (then) Vice Chair because you recognised that it was to the Chair that the questions were being raised. What was needed was either a rebuttal of the allegation (and thus a vote of confidence in your Chair) or some kind of statement which made clear that you had some understanding of the issues raised, and maybe a comment promising some kind of 'renewing your code of conduct vows'. Again, you chose to entirely ignore the issue.

3. You went on to say that "The increase in the precept had nothing to do with the mower". I beg to differ... see analysis below.

4. "We had a choice: either we buy a new (mower) or we contract it out"

There is something called 'the third way'... which involves buying something called a second hand mower. A two season old second hand mower that has been well used (my words in my first letter) which means being well maintained, is a very different animal to the technology of 20 odd years ago when our old mower emerged from the John Deere factory. (It is a bit of a digression, as 'the evidence' you avert to the quality of the mower we were recommending came well after you had decided to contract out, but I am nevertheless intrigued by the fact that the source of your information was the very same Pecks of Ely who of course I saw trialling/demonstrating mowers to our new contractor! The owner of the mower we found, firmly refutes your allegations. But, be sensible... if you saw a one year old £18k car being sold for £7.5k you'd know there was a history to explore. We did, and we concluded positively, but let us not get too distracted, there are thousands of other second hand mowers out there that you could go and assess. We were simply trying¹⁸ to save you some time.

KNOW YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The council has 7 Councillors;

Ross Clark	Chairman	743725
Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	742800
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	742943
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	741853
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	742405
Angela King	Councillor	742266
Helen Platt	Councillor	742331

The 2009 council meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays:

January	7th	July	1st
February	4th	August	5th
March	4th	September	2nd
April	1st	October	7th
May	6th	November	4th
June	3rd	December	2nd

in Reach Village Centre, starting at 7.30pm.

There is a Forum for Members of the Public at the beginning of the Meeting.

Proposed agenda items should be sent to any of the Councillors or to the Clerk;

David Parr - 20 Fair Green, Reach, CB25 0JD
Tel: 01638 744081, Email: reachparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Minutes of previous meetings and the agenda for the next meeting can be found on the PARISH COUNCIL page of the new Reach website at;

www.reach-village.co.uk

Other useful contacts;

Village Hall Officers	Joyce Harrison	742405
	Rita Dunnett	742943
Police Liaison Officer	Hilary Fielding	741853
Tree Officer	John Reed	742140
Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Officer	John Robinson	743563

The next meetings of the South area Panel (both 7pm starts) in 2009 are :-

Tuesday, 30th June at The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Wednesday, 7th October at Burwell Village College

Please come along, become involved and help to bring about improvements in your locality ! (On the basis of increasing success of multi-agency Panels, they are being introduced across the whole of Cambridgeshire)

If you are unable to attend, and have an issue to be raised with the Panel, please contact Allen Alderson – Parish Council representative on the South area Panel.

We have created a travel Blog using some of the photos and snippets of information from our recent trip to **Antarctica**. If anyone would like to view this just follow the link below.

<http://travelpod.com/travel-blog/ann.and.trevor/1/tpod.html>

OR

<http://www.travelpod.com/members/ann.and.trevor>

Once again a **HUGE** thank you to you all for helping to make this trip of a lifetime possible for Ann and I.

Trevor (the Postman)

5. Grants and Loans

I still find it extraordinary that the PC didn't even try to apply for a grant that appeared to be there for the taking. This omission is then compounded by your assertion that the Parish Council is not allowed to borrow money. Again... rubbish! Please see the Local Government Act of 2003, Chapter 26. It is quite clear: A local authority may borrow money : (a) for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or (b) for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs. I did tell you this (in writing) before you formally took your decision but disappointingly you have chosen to ignore it. That said, with a little bit of initiative, I'm sure you wouldn't have needed a loan.

6. "A simple economic decision: it is going to work out 20% cheaper". Mmmm

7. "a Village hall the envy of all around"

I think as the new Chair of the Parish Council you need to be informed that the Village Hall Committee is a charitable body that has no formal connection to the Parish Council!

The figures...

Craig tendered in at a fraction over £2k for the season (easily winning the tender process as his price was more than 30% cheaper than the established local grass cutting contractors). Councillors then assessed the costs of doing it ourselves as being almost the same (£40 cheaper to be explicit). So reduce the number of cuts (hope for dry months... like the April we just had) and you'll be saving money. There is logic in this. But the problem to me was that you had factored in £1000 of cost for depreciation, and a similar sum for repairs. For the latter, with a modern machine rather than a clapped out 20 year old machine, you wouldn't need anything like such a sum. £500 would be more than required, and you'd get change. And as far as the depreciation figure is concerned, really what you mean is how much should we set aside for a replacement. Again, £500 would be ample on a five year cycle accruing £2500. I would then consult villagers over the use of the Amenity Fund. Currently this receives around £2k a year from the proceeds of the Fair and a consensus of say £500 of this going towards the cost of a new mower would I think be well received (recently over £4k went back into the village hall because there had been no calls on it... (and Ross ... at the risk of a further digression... you should submit for the cost of the Reach Cricket Club kit that you have currently so generously fronted: that is precisely what the fund was meant for when we set it up). Thus over five years you've pulled together £5k towards a new mower, plus the residual value in the machine that got you there with, plus whatever grant money is around at the replacement time. Sorted. And lots cheaper than contracting out... however dry it is!

But the latter is all relative detail. The key issue of my submission was a) the PCs rather arrogant disregard for village opinion, your roll is to consult and represent; and b) the PCs seeming disregard in this matter for the national Code of Conduct regarding declarations of interest. I think with the new Clerk, issues are being seriously addressed, but that things will be right in the future, doesn't mean that wrongs in the past become irrelevant (and I believe there might be some other place where I've heard this theme in recent days...!).

best wishes

Bryan

bryan@fsg.co.uk

And finally ??.....

Dear Bryan

I don't intend to spend much longer dealing with what future historians will now surely know as the Schipol Memorandum, but I will try to get this across again. Michael Aves was neither architect nor schemer of the decision by the parish council to contract out lawn-mowing this season. It was on my insistence that we sought quotations for contracting-out the mowing, so that we might compare the cost of taking that route compared with the cost of doing it ourselves. Given that our job is to represent all residents and taxpayers in the village rather than just grass-mowers it would have been irresponsible simply to have accepted the offer of the secondhand mower which Bryan had put on the table. While these quotes were being sought – by the Clerk, not the Chairman -- I personally contacted a number of mower suppliers to research further the market for old and new mowers, plus servicing/repair costs. My own analysis came to much the same conclusion as the spreadsheet produced by the parish clerk: namely that the annualised cost of buying and maintain a mower of the standard demanded by Bryan, new or secondhand, would exceed the lowest quote for contracting out the job. The decision was voted upon by the entire council, in a public meeting, and the documents upon which it was based are available to all. Moreover, the contract was drawn up by the clerk, not Michael Aves.

Therefore, the allegation that this was all done in closed session, with Michael manipulating us all in order to find work for his son's friend is simply not true. In fact, given that Michael's son is an employee of the agricultural contractors to whom Bryan kept sending the broken mower for repair, and who have now been deprived of this highly lucrative source of work, one might instead argue that the Aves' family finances would have been better served by maintaining the status quo.

Ross Clark

Andrew Killington talked of his 2 purposes in providing the presentation:

the importance of 'local intelligence'

consideration of how local agencies can ameliorate the impact of the downturn at all levels

(ultimately, to international level) before looking at 4 perspectives:-

the impact on the Council

the impact on the local (East Cambridgeshire) community

the impact on Business and the local economy

what we can do (as a Council, as businesses and as individuals)

Full details of Andrew 's presentation are in the minutes of the South Panel meeting and can be accessed from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage at the District Council 's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Identification of issues of concern (from local residents and Panel members), and setting priorities for action.

The priorities for the next 3 months are :-

For the police (working in partnership with other agencies)

Combating burglary in The Swaffhams

Combating burglary in Dullingham

(ASB Partnership teams will continue their work in Burwell and Bottisham)

For the other agencies

Review of the extent of 40 mph zones close to villages

Operation of Speedwatch scheme

For on-going information about Neighbourhood Panels - minutes from the meetings, Neighbourhood Profiles, **Newsletters**, **Speedwatch**; **dates and venues for the Panel meetings in 2009/2010** - please use the A-Z section of the East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)

website:www.eastcambs.gov.uk to access the '**Neighbourhood Panel**' webpage.

Or contact Alan Williams, the Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator at alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk **or on 01353 - 616349**

Neighbourhood Panels: a growing reputation !

Thank you to those additional people in the area who have volunteered their help with the Speedwatch scheme. Details of the scheme can be found in the Neighbourhood Panel webpage at the District Council 's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk

The scheme is operational now in the area, thanks to the efforts of the (20 or so) people who have volunteered their time. You can still join the scheme if you wish (by contacting me) and training will then be provided by your local team.

As drivers, please continue to drive within the limits of the speed guidelines, at all times !

At the last South area Neighbourhood Panel meeting in Kirtling (1st April) the main items were:-

Feedback on actions taken to address the priorities and issues of concern raised at the meeting in January. Please note that (again) ALL priorities and issues were actioned, and this emphasises that the Panel meetings are all about listening, clarifying and taking improvement actions.

Multi-agency working to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Burwell has been demonstrably effective and needs to be sustained (including a newly-opened Boxing Project in Burwell) Crime is now below 2006/7 levels, although acquisitive crime (theft, shoplifting and burglary) is on the increase – so please take care with the security of your personal property !

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have decreased and are now compare to 2006 levels.

Full details of police actions, crime trends and local statistics are in the (Southern area) Neighbourhood Profile which you can access from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage. The Profile is updated on a 3-monthly basis, so do take a look at the detail, please.

Local people, parish councils and agencies are understanding the benefits of working together to bring about improvement.

Dealing with the economic downturn. Andrew Killington, an Executive Director at the District Council, drew participants ' attention to a leaflet 'Weather the Storm ' and to the website www.weatherthestorm.org.uk which acts as a ' gateway to other organisations' which provide advice, support and guidance services,e.g. CAB.

WHO

Who writes the songs for the birds and whistles
Up the breeze?
And turns the leaves from green to gold, on our
Friends the trees?
Who turns on the sun, on a cold winters frosty
Day
And keeps the dainty snowdrops alive, as in the
Ground they lay?
Who changes the seasons through the year, and
Makes the flowers grow?
Where do they get their colours from, and who
Shapes the flakes of snow?
Who paints the rainbow after a storm, that bends
Across the sky?
And who makes the swallows wings, so they can
Swiftly fly?
Who creates all these miracles, when all new life
Is born?
And turns up the midday sun, to ripen the growing
Corn?
Who polishes up the moon, as it rises high in the
Sky?
And gives the stars their twinkle, or make the willow
Tree cry?
Who lights the fire at sunset, when the sun retires to bed?
And gives the flowers of our roses, so many shades
Of Red?
Who will provide the things we want, as we travel
On our way?
Along the long and bumpy road of life. Each and
Every day?
Now the answer to all these questions, we all surely
Know
That our good Lord made Heaven and Earth ,and
Everything just so.

THE 2009 ANNUAL REACH PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD

ON:

Wednesday 3rd June 2009 at 7.30pm - Reach Village Hall

All Parish Councils in England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting at this time each year. The meeting allows the Council and local community organisations to explain what they have been doing over the last year and electors can have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of the parish.

Who can attend the meeting?

Anyone may attend but only registered electors may ask questions. An elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything pertinent to the people of Reach - this will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Who will chair the meeting?

Normally the Chairperson of the Parish Council will chair the meeting otherwise the meeting will elect a Chairperson from amongst those electors present.

Will Parish Councillors be there?

Usually they do attend and will speak as necessary but the purpose of the meeting is to enable the electors to have their say. Councillors will listen and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.

Will notes be taken of the meeting?

Yes, a written record of the meeting will be taken and presented at a future meeting of Parish Council for their consideration.

Can I suggest Agenda items?

Yes, just get them to [the Clerk to the Parish Council](#) by the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

The Agenda for the above meeting will be posted on this website and the Church Noticeboard at least one week prior to the meeting.

ALLOTMENTS

The parish council is investigating the possibility of setting up allotments in Reach. If you would be interested in renting one, or you have some land you would be interested in renting for the purpose, please contact Ross Clark on 01638 743725 or rossjclark@aol.com

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre 2009

proudly presents

THE MIKADO

**“(or the Town of Titipu)”
by Gilbert and Sullivan**

Performances take place in The Barn, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck (6 miles north-east of Cambridge on the B1102) The barn has been adapted to create a theatre.

There is on-site parking, a licensed bar and easy access for wheelchairs. The ticket prices at £8 for Wednesday and Thursday nights, £10 for Friday and Saturday nights and £5 for Saturday matinee. These prices include a programme, and tea or a soft drink and biscuits at the matinee. The box office is Kari Karolia, 17 Buntins Crescent, Burwell; tel. 01638 745490 and e-mail kari.karolia@gmail.com

The tickets will be on sale from the end of April, and from early May also in the Country Stores, Swaffham Bulbeck. Also see www.sbstgands.co.uk for further details or ring Ruth Dennis on 01638 508171.

For ticket prices tickets or further information, please contact Kari Karolia on email kari.karolia@gmail.com or visit our website at www.sbstgands

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being
-

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So www.walkingincambridgeshire.co.uk came into being.

www.walkingincambridgeshire.co.uk gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County:

Details of more than 90 walks to download and print free, details of all the Cambridgeshire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information.

So check out the website and get walking!

Bus Timetable



We are indebted to **Ian Massini** who has kindly volunteered to provide and maintain an up-to-date timetable in "Out of Reach" for the residents.

Mondays to Fridays

Newmarket Rookery	Reach	Swaffham Prior	Cambridge Drummer St	Bus
06.22	06.54	06.57	07.38	10
—	07.39	07.42	08.36	10
09.22	09.54	09.57	10.35	10
Then .52 & .22 past each hour	Walk	Then .27 & .57 past each hour	Then .05 & .35 past each hour	10/10A
12.22	12.54	12.57	13.35	10
Then .52 & .22 past each hour	Walk	Then .27 & .57 past each hour	Then .05 & .35 past each hour	10/10A
16.22	16.54	16.57	17.35	10
17.22	17.54	17.57	18.35	10
17.52	18.24	18.27	19.08	10A
18.52	Walk	19.27	20.05	10
	Walk	21.52	22.30	10

Cambridge Drummer Street	Swaffham Prior	Reach	Newmarket Rookery	Bus-
07.00	07.32	07.35	08.11	10
09.00	09.32	09.35	10.08	10
09.22	09.54	09.57	10.35	10
Then .30 & .00 past each hour	Then .02 & .32 past each hour (walk)	Then .38 & .08 past each hour		10
12.00	12.32	12.35	13.08	10
Then .30 & .00 past each hour	Then .02 & .32 past each hour (walk)	Then .38 & .08 past each hour		10
16.00	16.32	16.35	17.08	10
17.00	17.32	17.35	18.08	10
18.00	18.32	18.35	19.08	10
18.30	19.08	(Walk)	19.38	10A
19.00	19.38	(Walk)	20.08	10
21.00	21.38	(Walk)	—	10
23.00	23.38	(Walk)	23.08 (Tesco)	10

Saturdays

Newmarket Rookery	Reach	Swaffham Prior	Cambridge Drummer St	Bus
06.52	(walk)	07.27	08.05	10A
Then .52 & .22		Then .27 & .57	Then .05 & .35	
past each hour	Walk	past each hour	past each hour	10/10A
09.22		09.54	10.35	10
Then .52 & .22		Then .27 & .57	Then .05 & .35	
past each hour	Walk	past each hour	past each hour	10/10A
12.22		12.54	12.57	10
Then .52 & .22		Then .27 & .57	Then .05 & .35	
past each hour	Walk	past each hour	past each hour	10/10A
16.22		16.54	16.57	10
17.22		17.54	17.57	10
17.52		18.24	18.27	10A
18.52		Walk	19.27	10
_____		Walk	21.52	10
			22.30	

Cambridge Drummer Street	Swaffham	Reach Prior	Newmarket Rookery	Bus
07.30	08.02	(walk)	08.38	10A
08.30	09.02	(walk)	09.38	10A
09.0	09.32	09.35	10.08	10
Then .30 & .00	Then .02 & .32		Then .38 & .08	
past each hour	past each hour (walk)		past each hour	10
12.00	12.32	12.35	13.08	10
Then .30 & .00	Then .02 & .32		Then .38 & .08	
past each hour	past each hour (walk)		past each hour	10
16.00	16.32	16.35	17.08	10
17.00	17.32	17.35	18.08	10
18.00	18.32	18.35	19.08	10
18.30	19.08	(Walk)	19.38	10A
19.00	19.38	(Walk)	20.08	10
21.00	21.38	(Walk)	_____	10
23.00	23.38	(Walk)	23.08 (Tesco)	10

Sundays and Bank Holidays	Reach	Swaffham Prior	Cambridge Drummer St	Bus
Newmarket Rookery				
_____	(walk)	09.09	09.39	10
_____	(walk)	11.09	11.39	10
_____	(walk)	13.09	13.39	10
_____	(walk)	16.09	16.39	10

Cambridge Drummer Street	Swaffham	Reach Prior	Newmarket Rookery	Bus
10.25	10.52	(walk)	_____	10
12.25	12.52	(walk)	_____	10
15.25	15.52	(walk)	_____	10
17.55	18.22	(walk)	_____	10

Volunteers needed

Cambridgeshire Mencap is seeking volunteers to support young people with learning disabilities.



You could assist someone to go to the cinema, attend a youth club, go swimming, play sport, or do any number of fun activities. Your support could help develop the young person's self-confidence, social skills, and level of independence in the community.

If you are aged between 16 and 30 and can spare a few hours every fortnight then you could do something new, or something you already do and enjoy, whilst making a BIG difference in a young person's life.

Interested? Find out more by contacting Robert Wallace, Volunteers Support Coordinator, by

Phone: 01223 883140

Text: 07835101621

Email: robert@cambridgeshiremencap.co.uk

Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair

Saturday 4 July 2009

12.30 pm to 3.30 pm

at Swaffham Prior School

Bouncy Castle * Bar * Pony rides

Barbeque * Maypole dancing * Games

Craft corner * Stalls * Arena Events

**There's something for everyone and everyone's welcome at the
Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair!**