



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6 August 2008

Attendance

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

Forum for Members of the Public

The bus stop area opposite the bus shelter at Ditchfields was discussed and will be added to the agenda of the September meeting. In the meantime [Allen Alderson](#) will look into whose responsibility this is.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd July 2008 were confirmed and signed.

District Council Report

This is summarized as follows;

The District Council has been awarded a £697K grant which is likely to be used for improving planning services.

The process to find a new company to run the Maltings in Ely continues. Whoever is selected will need to provide high quality services and promote a cinema.

Despite press comments to the contrary, the council is wholeheartedly committed to the weekly refuse collection system.

Should anyone have any recycling or refuse collection difficulties they should contact the council Waste Services on 01353 665555.

On the 23rd July Allen Alderson attended a liaison meeting between Sanctuary Hereward and ECDC. Various issues, including lettings, allocations, resident involvement and older people's housing were discussed. One problem identified by Allen Alderson was that their bidding system of allocation housing always favoured homeless people, at the expense of existing tenants who have a very pressing need for more suitable accommodation.

Police Liaison Committee Report

Julie Spence, Chief Constable has emailed as follows;

"We are committed to delivering the highest possible standard of service to residents of Cambridgeshire. To do that we need to constantly develop a better understanding of what people in Cambridgeshire think about their local police service.

We want to hear from you, even if you've never been a victim of crime. Have your say, complete our online survey and help us to improve our service. Please visit <http://www.cambs.police.uk>"

Dates for Police Surgeries coming up during the next three months are as follows;

Swaffham Prior (at Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School, Station Road, in the car park).

Tuesday	5 th August	16.00-16.30
Wednesday	3 rd September	10.00-10.30
Wednesday	1 st October	10.00-10.30

Swaffham Bulbeck (in the Pavilion Car Park, Station Road)

Tuesday	5 th August	17.00-17.30
Wednesday	3 rd September	11.00-11.30
Wednesday	1 st October	11.00-11.30

The surgeries give you the opportunity to tell PCSO Maria Green directly what concerns you about the area you live in.

A list of recent local crimes, as supplied previously, will be asked for by **Ross Clark**.

Village Hall Committee Report

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been re-elected. A cheque for £1,794 was donated to the Amenity Fund based on proceeds from the 2008 Reach Fair. **The Clerk** will email the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee a copy of the Agreement between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee to facilitate payment of the 2007 donation of £727.21.

Instructions for resetting the alarm system within the Village Hall are now in place above the unit.

Matters Arising

1. Cemetery Fence

It was agreed that Ron Greenhill would be asked to carry out the work, based on an estimate of £80. **Penny Lang** will communicate this to Ron.

2. Lower Limit on 3 Quotations Requirement

It was agreed that for any expense below £100 (excluding VAT), it would not be mandatory for three quotations/estimates to be sought.

3. Bollards in Quy

The Clerk will write to the County Council Highways Department and Quy Parish Council regarding the Reach Parish Council's concerns over the traffic calming measures in Quy.

4. Parish Mowing Requirement

The current mower continues to be expensive to maintain and unreliable. The Parish Council identified the options of replacing it or sub-contracting out the activity.

It was agreed that **the Clerk** would seek quotations for sub-contract. **Michael Aves** would ask Robert Aves to review the current mower over the weekend.

One possible secondhand mower was identified by Bryan Pearson. This would be used as a benchmark for comparison and Bryan will keep in touch with the current owner.

The Clerk would endeavour to identify grant opportunities.

The Parish Council should be invoicing the Woodland Trust for mowing Reach Wood. **Penny Lang** will get the information to the Clerk to allow this invoicing to take place.

5. Reach Fair Plaque

Sue Edwards of Cambridge City Council has placed an order on Ivett and Reed to get the plaque refurbished. **The Clerk** will liaise with Sue, the contractor and John Cole to ensure that the work is carried out satisfactorily.

6. Traffic in Reach

Deferred to the September Meeting.

7. Overgrown Footpaths

The Chapel Lane to the Hythe footpath is impassable. **The Clerk** will write to the Rights of Way Officer at the County Council to get this remedied and also check on any response to a letter sent by the Parish Council regarding a fallen/dangerous tree.

The bushes around the Fair Green Bus Shelter are overgrown and hinder the view of waiting passengers when they are in the shelter. **The Clerk** will take this up with the owners of the local land.

There have been complaints regarding the blocking of Little Back Lane by a vehicle. **The Clerk** will take this up with the owners of the vehicle.

8. Village Hall Alarm System

Instructions for resetting the alarm system within the Village Hall are now in place above the unit.

9. 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. **The Clerk** will look into this and the issue will be added to the September Meeting agenda.

10. Playground Inspection

An inspection was carried out in April 2008 and decisions need to be made on any subsequent work to be carried out. This will be added to the Agenda of the September Meeting. In the meantime, one issue is the leg on one of the swings which was, in the view of the Parish Council, not satisfactorily dealt with by the contractor when work was last carried out. **The Clerk** will contact Wickstead to ask them to remedy this particular fault at their cost.

The Clerk will also contact Michelle Burrell of ECDC who oversees play areas locally to see what help they might be able to financially give.

11. 2007-2008 Accounts

These have now been audited by our external auditor and will be reviewed prior to sending off to the Council's internal auditor. This topic will be added to the Agenda of the September meeting.

12. Maps

The Clerk will provide maps of the Parish in sufficient detail to allow Parish Councillors to have full information on local geography and Parish Council responsibilities.

13. Payments

These were made as follows;

100838	Ben Burgess	Mower Repairs	£729.43
100839	Ben Burgess	Mower Repair	£307.05
100840	Browns	Mower Diesel	£25.80
100841	Ben Burgess	Mower Repair	£68.51
100842	D. Bloxage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00
100843	Anglian Water	Cemetery	£24.41
100844	Helen Platt	Expenses	£11.33
100845	Mead Construction	Roller Loan for Green	£58.75

14. Planning Applications

- (i) Land Adjacent to 36 Swaffham Road, Reach, Cambridgeshire, CB25 0HZ (08/00650/FUL).

After review, the Parish Council had no objections to the application. It will, however, make comment that the "access to rear of site" is a public right of way and not owned by the owners, which the Site Plan appears to indicate.

- (ii) Construction of one house on land adjacent to 8 Ditchfield, Reach, CB25 0JA (08/00709/OUT).

After review, the Parish Council had no objections to the application and added no comment.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm

Chairman:

Date: