



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2008

Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
Angela King	Councillor	Present
Penny Lang	Councillor	Present
Helen Platt	Councillor	Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Present

Forum for Members of the Public

There was input regarding the proposed Bus Service Changes which were discussed in the Matters Arising.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th August 2008 were confirmed and signed.

County Council Report

The County Council continues to take forward the Local Area Agreement scheme. All funding will go through the government initiative, once agreement difficulties have been overcome.

District Council Report

This is summarized as follows;

The proposal to create Mereham, a 5,000 home development between Cambridge and Ely has been successfully opposed and rejected.

The new ECDC Corporate Plan has been agreed and can be viewed on the Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

To mark the anniversary of Oliver Cromwell's death, Oliver Cromwell's House is holding a day of activities on Saturday the 6th September.

Travellers have encamped at Headlake Drove but swift action has resulted in the issuance of a court order. The council will continue to send out the message that unauthorized encampments will not be tolerated.

Financial Report

The Parish Council's bank account is in a satisfactory state, however due to extra spending on the cemetery and the mower, the Parish Council will overspend its income in the year to 2009 by approximately £1,000.

The Clerk will liaise with Barclays to seek a higher rate of interest for the Amenity Fund account.

Police Liaison Committee Report

There has been under-age drinking in Bottisham – some parents need to be reminded that it is illegal for them to supply alcohol to their under-age children.

There has been a burglary in Reach recently and oil thefts reported in Swaffham Prior. Reach residents need to be vigilant.

A white van has been seen in the area and the Police would like to know if it is seen again – registration number T243ERX.

A list of recent local crimes, as supplied previously, will be asked for by **Ross Clark**. It appears that Burwell Parish Council is furnished with such information and **Ross Clark** will contact their Clerk, Leslie Reader (743142, burwellpc@btconnect.com) to get a better understanding of this.

Village Hall Committee Report

There has been no meeting of the Village Hall Committee since the last Parish Council meeting.

Matters Arising

1. Proposed Bus Service Changes

It was decided that **the Clerk** would write to the County Council as follows;

On Sundays, the Burwell – Cambridge route should have, as a minimum, one bus each way to best suit the needs of the public. On Monday to Friday, the last bus should run the complete route from Cambridge to Newmarket at 19.00 hours and from Newmarket to Cambridge at 18.52 hours. On Saturday, the last bus from Cambridge to Newmarket should leave at 23.00.

The possibility of making Reach a “request stop” should be considered so that buses due to bypass Reach would in fact go to Reach if requested to do so by a passenger.

The Clerk will also ask for a listing of all the 70 routes reviewed with full details of the analysis. In addition, a set of CCC accounts for the last financial year will be requested together with an indication of what the total saving from the proposed changes will be and what the money will be spent on.

2. Bus Stop Area at Ditchfields

The current Bus Stop Area has become overgrown and this will be cleared and re-tarmaced some time over the next 10-12 weeks.

3. Cemetery Fence

Ron Greenhill will carry out the work, based on an estimate of £80.

4. Bollards in Quay

A letter generally supporting the views of Reach Parish Council has been received from Quay Parish Council. The day after the Parish Council meeting an email response from CCC was received with apologies for the delay in sending. This suggested that there will be a review of the situation later this

month which may involve other interested councils. This was responded to by the Clerk saying that Reach Parish Council would be happy to be represented at that meeting, if invited.

5. Parish Mowing Requirement

A financial analysis has been made of mowing costs based on the status quo (DIY) plus that of three contractors. This will be reviewed over the next month and discussed again at the next meeting when a decision will be made regarding DIY or contract out. **The Clerk** will inform the potential contractors of progress.

6. Traffic in Reach

The problem with visibility, traffic speed and parking around the junction of Ditchfields and the Swaffham Road was discussed. It was agreed that **Hazel Williams** would raise the issue with Paul Butcher (East Highways Division of Cambridgeshire County Council, based at Witchford near Ely) with a view to Paul visiting the area to understand the issues first hand.

It was also agreed that **the Clerk** would write to ECDC indicating that the Parish Council would wish to participate in the Speedwatch scheme.

7. Overgrown Footpaths

The Chapel Lane to the Hythe footpath is overgrown. **Helen Platt** will contact the Clerk at a convenient time to demonstrate the problem so that appropriate action can be taken.

8. 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 email the Environmental Officer concerned suggesting a visit by him to the problem area in October.

9. Playground Inspection

One of the legs of the swings was, in the view of the Parish Council, not satisfactorily dealt with by the contractor (Wicksteed Leisure) when work was last carried out. The Clerk has written to the contractor to ask them to remedy this particular fault at their cost and a reply is awaited.

10. 2007-2008 Accounts

These have now been audited and agreed by the Parish Council.

11. Burial Fees

It was agreed that Burial Fees will increase by 5% for all new applicants.

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. Reach Fair 2007 Payment

There has been no Village Hall meeting since the last Parish Council meeting so no progress has been made on this. **Rita Dunnett** will raise this at the next Village Hall meeting. **The Clerk** will resend the copy agreement and also a copy of the Amenity Fund account history which shows no payment in 2004 or 2005 either.

14. Haulage Activities of John Cole

There have been complaints regarding these activities 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 who will investigate the situation. **The Clerk** will write to the relevant person in ECDC commenting that the Parish Council is aware of this complaint and other complaints and ask for the Parish Council to be kept informed of progress.

15. Payments

These were made as follows;

100846	Browns	Mower Diesel	£25.20
100847	Debbie Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00
100848	David Parr	Clerk's Expenses	£91.07

16. Planning Applications

None.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 1st October at 7.30pm. Due to the Clerk being on holiday until the 27th September, the Agenda will be issued on Monday 29th September.

Chairman:

Date: