



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st October 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	Not Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Present

### Review of Village Hall Accounts for 2007-2008

These were presented, questions asked and suitably answered.

It was agreed by the Parish Council and the representatives of the Village Hall committee that the vast majority of Reach villagers are unaware of the existence of the Amenity Fund. It was agreed that its existence, its purpose and how to access it should be properly communicated. **The Clerk** will produce a draft document for review by the Parish Council and the Village Hall committee which will form the basis of the communications process.

It was agreed that the addition of a wireless router to the Village Hall network should be investigated. **The Clerk** will seek permission from the relevant people for such an addition to be made, together with a costing, for approval or otherwise.

### Forum for Members of the Public

There was no input from members of the Public

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2008 were reviewed and an amendment agreed. The Minutes will be amended by **the Clerk** and signed as soon as is practicable.

### County Council Report

The weekly Park and Ride ticket has been frozen at £9 and the Stagecoach Megarider at £10.

The Corporate Leadership team at the County Council is being restructured to better deal with the challenges facing the council.

An independent chairman is being sought for the Transport Commission, which is being set up to look at solutions for tackling the problem of congestion in the Cambridge area.

The council has looked at the pros and cons of the credit crunch on its finances. In 2008/9 the position will be roughly neutral but in 2009/10 there is a potential revenue cost of £6 million.

As regards the consultation on cuts to the bus subsidies, there have been more responses to the 10/10A buses than any other route as well as two petitions. It will also be discussed at the Neighbourhood panel meeting next Tuesday.

At the Fire Authority meeting it was agreed in principle to go ahead with the 'Fireguard Project' which ensures the provision of emergency cover should there be a major incident or fire strike. This used to be covered by the armed forces but would not be in future. It would mean an increased cost on the fire authority part of the council tax.

### **District Council Report**

The District Councillor did not attend the meeting – a summary of his written report, delivered after the meeting, is as follows;

#### 1. Proposed changes to the 10 and 10a bus route

All six district councillors have expressed their opposition to the proposed cuts in services, as have the East Cambs Environment and Transport Committee. The consultation process has now been extended to allow the Neighbourhood Panels to consider their views to the proposed changes.

#### 2. Recycling and Household Waste collections

The end processes following the collection of items for recycling are described in the Oct/Nov issue of Out of Reach Magazine.

#### 3. Grants for Community Groups in the Swaffhams

Over the next 2.5 years (to March 2011) a series of grants (£250 to £5,000) are being made available to "grassroots" community groups in East Cambs, administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF). More details can be found at [www.cambscf.org.uk](http://www.cambscf.org.uk).

### **Financial Report**

The Parish Council's bank account is in a satisfactory state. It is forecast that due to extra spending on the cemetery and the mower, the Parish Council will overspend its income in the year to 2009 by approximately £500.

**The Clerk** is liaising with Barclays to seek a higher rate of interest for the Amenity Fund account.

**The Clerk** will create a document regarding the 2009-2010 Precept for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting in November.

### **Police Liaison Committee Report**

Maria Green is our local Police Liaison Officer and can be contacted on 07710 994972. She is planning to strictly enforce illegal parking with £30 fixed penalty notices.

Hare coursing, which is illegal, has been taking place. If anyone witnesses such an event or is made aware of any such proposed event, they should not challenge the individuals concerned but report what they know to the police.

As regards crime and other local policing information, full details are contained at <http://www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood/locate.asp>.

**Ross Clark** will invite Maria to a Parish Council meeting.

### **Village Hall Committee Report**

The curtain material was approved; the cost is expected to be in the region of £4500.

Engraving of the small window with names of those who donated has been ordered.

The Village Hall Committee had arranged a meeting to discuss Reach Fair 2009. It was hoped volunteers to assist with the organisation and running of the fair would attend.

## **Matters Arising**

### **1. Proposed Bus Service Changes**

These relate to the 10/10A service. Latest information provided by the County Council is that the consultation period has now finished and across all services being reviewed, there have been 238 responses. In view of this level of response the County Council will not be seeking further involvement of members of the public. It is expected that a decision will be made by the end of November and implemented from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

### **2. Quality of the existing Reach Bus Service**

There have been complaints regarding some buses simply not taking the route through Reach when they are supposed to. Detailed information on occurrences are being gathered by **Ross Clark** and **the Clerk** will ask other regular passengers to document occurrences and also assess passenger usage to support the Parish Council's concerns detailed in 1 (above).

### **3. Cemetery Fence**

Ron Greenhill will carry out the work, based on an estimate of £80, by the end of November 2008.

### **4. Bollards in Quay**

Latest information is that a meeting took place between Richard Preston (Head of Network Management, South and City, County Council), County Councillor Robert Turner and the Quay Parish Council. Feedback is that they wish to retain the scheme but would like some aspects changed. Richard is not in a position to agree to any changes at this time but has arranged a further site meeting with the Quay Parish Council to look at their suggested amendments to the layout. He will get back to Reach Parish Council following that site meeting. Reach Parish Council have asked **the Clerk** to get an understanding of what the proposed changes are and to confirm that they would wish to be involved in the ongoing consultation process.

### **5. Parish Mowing Requirement**

It was decided that, starting in 2009, the Parish Council will appoint a contractor to carry out the mowing needs of the village. This decision was based on the reasonableness of quotations received from three contractors, the increasing cost of fuel, the high cost of maintaining our current (and doubtless any subsequent) mowers and the requirements for health and safety. **The Clerk** will work with **Michael Aves** to conclude the agreement with a suitable contractor. **The Clerk** will write to the volunteers who are currently mowing the village's green areas, thanking them for their excellent endeavours.

### **6. Traffic in Reach**

The problem with visibility, traffic speed and parking around the junction of Ditchfields and the Swaffham Road was again discussed. It was agreed that **the Clerk** would raise the issue again with the relevant department within the County Council, with a view to a site visit being made to understand the issues first hand and come up with a proposed solution.

The Clerk confirmed that Reach had volunteered to join the Speedwatch Scheme. Alan Williams (Neighbourhood Panel Controller ECDC) has sent a summary of responses to date (most of which are positive) and expects to be able to announce a decision, following 100% responses, by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### **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. There are a number of footpaths within Reach and **the Clerk** will document these and make contact with the Rights of Way office at the County Council, specifically Simeon Carroll, to establish their responsibilities.

### **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. A site visit by the Scientific Officer will be organized by **the Clerk**, with Helen Platt in attendance so that progress can be made in understanding the scale of the problem.

### **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. The Contractor has responded with further questions which will be dealt with by [the Clerk](#).

#### 10. Maps

Penny Lang was able to provide a useful map of the village. [The Clerk](#) will collate all maps of the village which will show other relevant information, for review at a future meeting.

#### 11. Reach Fair 2007 Payment

A cheque for the Reach Fair 2007 payment has been received from the Village Hall Committee and deposited in the Amenity Fund account.

#### 12. 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. The investigation continues and the Parish Council will be informed of the outcome in due course.

#### 13. Willow Tree on the Hythe

There is concern regarding a willow tree which appears to be in a dangerous state. [The Clerk](#), with assistance from [Ross Clark](#), will establish whose responsibility this tree is and ensure that remedial work is carried out.

#### 14. Fly Tipping

There has been some fly tipping in Great Lane near number 31 and the track near Ditchfield and Swaffham Road. [The Clerk](#) will email [Allen Alderson](#) asking him to advise on actions to be taken. It was suggested that this issue should be included in the next Out of Reach Magazine and [the Clerk](#) will talk to Grahame Radford about this.

#### 15. Payments

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

100849	Debbie Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£130.00	
100850	Moore and Co.	2007-2008 Accounts	£282.00	
100852	D M Parr	Clerk's Wages Jul-Sept	£387.60	
100853	British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£16.50	
100017	Juliet Vickery	Sports Day Refreshments	£82.65	Amenity Fund

#### 16. Planning Applications

08/00909/FUL – New dining room extension at rear with double glazed link to existing cottage at Chapel Farm, 15 Fair Green, Reach, Cambridgeshire, CB25 0JD.

The Parish Council had no comments and/or observations on this application.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th November at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Chairman:**

**Date:**