



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th November 2008

Attendance

Michael Aves	Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Not 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 no input from members of the Public.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on the 3rd September 2008 and the 6th October 2008 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

Another petition about the possible cuts to 10/10A bus has been handed in to the appropriate Cabinet member. There is some optimism that the case to retain the current service will be considered favourably.

Shredded used car tyres are being used for part of the base of the guided busway to help provide good drainage between the rails.

For the first time for ten years the weather was freezing in October and gritters were sent out on the roads on four nights.

The Cambridgeshire Compact is a countywide partnership agreement between statutory bodies such as councils and the voluntary and community sector. It is designed to improve relationships and provide a framework within which there is an understanding of what to expect from each other. Events are scheduled to raise awareness and encourage volunteering.

Views are still being sought about the forthcoming priorities, budget and level of Council Tax. Individuals can have their say by completing the survey on the County Council web site.

A list of cycling improvements costing around £7.2M will be delivered over three years in Cambridge and surrounding villages in Cambridgeshire.

The new Deputy Chief Fire Officer is Chris Strickland and he started on November 1st.

On Monday 10th November a meeting will take place in Ely to explain the importance of the Local Area Agreement. The LAA is a way for local authorities and partner agencies to work together to improve services in the area. The board is called Cambridgeshire Together.

The Prospects Trust has been shortlisted to appear on the People's Millions on ITV on Thursday 27th November. They want to buy a new dual control tractor.

District Council Report

Examples of fly tipping within the ward have been identified and such instances have been passed to the ECDC for action to be taken.

ECDC does not have funds invested in Icelandic Banks.

The recession will doubtless have an impact on ECDC receipts. The Finance Director is working hard to negate any impact on the Council's budget.

It has been proposed to issue all residents with a year's supply of black plastic sacks for refuse collection plus a bulk supply of clear sacks for plastic bottles.

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 or by phoning the CCF on 01223 421588.

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 2009 by approximately £300.

The Clerk is liaising with Barclays to seek a higher rate of interest for both the Amenity Fund and the Parish Council accounts.

A rate rebate has been agreed for the cemetery and a refund is due.

Police Liaison Committee Report

None presented.

Village Hall Committee Report

Preparations for Reach Fair 2009 are underway.

Repairs have taken place to the entrance area of the Village Hall.

A Carol Evening has been scheduled for Wednesday 17th December at 7.00pm.

Matters Arising

1. Precept Proposal for Year 2009-2010

This was discussed and agreed to be £6,900. **The Clerk** will submit the necessary documents to the ECDC.

2. Traffic in Reach

A complaint regarding the movement of heavy lorries through Reach from Upware was investigated. Since there is signage in place deterring such vehicles and physical width restrictions would preclude legitimate vehicles from using this route, it was agreed that no more could be achieved.

Reach has signed up for Speedwatch – an initiative which has residents volunteering to check the speeds of vehicles in other local villages, using equipment supplied by ECDC. Angela King and Helen Platt volunteered from Reach and **the Clerk** will inform Speedwatch of this and give contact details. Volunteers from other local villages will monitor the speed of traffic coming through Reach.

3. Bus Shelter at Snakehall Farm

Snakehall Farm has requested a bus stop to be placed outside their premises. They have requested a grant from Cambridgeshire County Council. In order for this to proceed, the Parish Council needs to support the proposal and following discussion, this support was given. **The Clerk** will complete the necessary paperwork.

4. Amenity Fund Document

A document describing the Amenity Fund and how it might be accessed was reviewed. It was seen to be work in progress and will be reviewed again prior to inclusion in the December/January edition of Out of Reach magazine.

5. Amenity Fund Applications

The Village Hall committee requested £1,500 from the Amenity Fund for the making up of new curtains for the Village Hall. Following discussions, a vote was taken on the application, the result of which was one councillor in favour, four against and one abstention. It was agreed that should the Village Hall committee submit an updated application with further substantiating documentation including details of the tendering process and reasons for the selection of the final supplier, then it would be reconsidered by the Parish Council. **Rita Dunnett** will inform the Village Hall committee of the decision and what would be required for a resubmitted application.

The Village Hall committee requested £150 from the Amenity Fund as a contribution to the cost of a Brass Band to play at the Carol Evening in December. It was agreed that the Amenity Fund would pay all costs for a Brass Band up to a maximum of £150 following receipt of an invoice or written request for donation from the Brass Band.

6. Fly Tipping

This continues to be a problem but the clearance aspect is being dealt with by the District Council, as detailed in their report. It was agreed that **the Clerk** would produce a document for inclusion in the next issue of Out of Reach magazine, making it clear that fly tipping is illegal and unacceptable.

7. Water at the Cemetery

Water has not been available at the cemetery since March 2006. However, the Parish Council continues to pay for unconsumed water, based on estimated bills from Anglian Water. It was decided that **the Clerk** will request Anglian Water to formally discontinue the supply and endeavour to obtain a rebate on payments made since March 2006.

8. Banking Arrangements

It is planned to open Barclays instant access savings accounts for both the Parish Council and the Amenity Fund. These accounts currently pay 3.15% interest.

9. Bollards in Quay

Discussions continue between the Quay Parish Council and the Highways department. Richard Preston from Highways felt there was no progress to report at this time. Kate Watts, Clerk for Quay Parish Council, comments that Highways are aware of some deficiencies in the current scheme and that Quay Parish Council continues to seek a 30mph speed limit.

10. Proposed Bus Service Changes

These relate to the 10/10A service. There has been significant resistance to the changes – a decision is promised in November.

11. Cemetery Fence

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

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. Overgrown Footpaths

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.

14. 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 takes place on Friday 7th November with Helen Platt in attendance.

15. Willow Tree on the Hythe

There is concern regarding a willow tree which appears to be in a dangerous state. **The Clerk**, with help from **Ross Clark**, is trying to establish ownership of the problem. Anglian Water has been contacted but the tree is not on any land owned by them so the County Council will now be contacted.

16. Wicksteed Complaint Letter

One of the legs of the swings was, in the view of the Parish Council, not satisfactorily dealt with by the contractor 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 had responded with further questions which have been responded to and further communication is awaited.

17. Telephone Box

It was pointed out that the village telephone box (which is a listed building) is in need of refurbishment. **The Clerk** will contact BT to remind them of their responsibilities.

18. Wireless Router

Adding a wireless router to the Village Hall network is not permitted.

19. Salt Bin

The salt bin near Ditchfields needs to be commissioned. **The Clerk** will contact ECDC to arrange for this to happen.

20. Payments

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

No payments were made.

21. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 1st December at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued on Tuesday 25th November.

Chairman:

Date: