



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st December 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	Present
Hazel Williams	County Councillor	Not Present

Forum for Members of the Public

There was no input from members of the Public.

Amenity Fund Applications

The request from the Village Hall Committee for £1,500 contribution to the Village Hall curtains was approved.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5th November 2008 were reviewed and signed.

County Council Report

Local representations were successful in the decision of the County Council to retain the evening and Sunday buses (10 and 10A) in this area of the county. They will however be looking again at the Sunday buses in the summer. The 6.30 and 7pm buses will become a commercial route (i.e. not subsidised). The reason that the direct service (12) from Cambridge to Newmarket, which has now been cut, was not consulted upon is because this was a Stagecoach commercial service and not a subsidised one.

Cambridgeshire – the fastest growing county in the country - will receive an increase of 1.9% (£1.71 per person) in Government Grant next year compared to a county council average of 4.2%. As a result Cambridgeshire County Council will need to find savings of around £19 million. This compares with Essex receiving £3.47, Suffolk which will get £8.87 and Norfolk who benefit by £12.88 per person.

Cambridgeshire's below inflation increase will have to meet the cost of any increases in road maintenance, social care, respite care for children and libraries at a time of rising unemployment, when spending in the public sector is being expected to support the economy.

Adult Social Support Services provided by Cambridgeshire County Council and its partners have been given a two star rating by Government inspectors – up from the previous year's one star rating.

Fiona Whelan, Liberal Democrat, has won the County Council seat for Hardwick at a recent by-election.

The new **Milton Road Park and Ride** is located south of Butt Lane just off the A10.

The new site provides customers with improved facilities including over 500 car parking spaces with room to expand to 1,000 at a later date. The Cowley road site is now closed. The buses will depart every 10 minutes on weekdays. For all route and timetable information for Milton Park & Ride, log onto www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/parkride or call 01223 845561.

Home to School Transport charges are due to go up on September 1st. Parents and students will be advised of the eligibility criteria when making choices about post 16 transport. This is because Stagecoach have put up their charges by 10% so the current rate won't cover the Authority's costs for 2009/10.

District Council Report

The 10 and 10a buses have been successfully saved (see the County Council report for further details).

Speedwatch progresses – there will be training for volunteers in January.

There has been an increase in abandoned vehicles in the district. If anyone knows of any such cases, please contact either Allen Alderson on 01638 741744 or Environmental Services at ECDC.

ECDC's Strategic Development Committee received a presentation on the Wicken Vision from the National Trust. Although there are advantages to the Wicken Vision it has become increasingly apparent that there is significant local concern in the area envisaged for the Vision. ECDC has a duty to consider that concern on behalf of local people. The committee passed the following recommendation "It reserves this council's support for the development of the Wicken Vision subject to further detailed consultation of interested parties, including local residents, the farming community and countryside user groups and continuing community engagement and involvement in shaping this vision, together with any detailed comments that councilors make in the context of the outcome of the recent consultation by the National Trust".

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** continues to seek a higher rate of interest for both the Amenity Fund and the Parish Council accounts.

Police Liaison Committee Report

There is currently a scam whereby "PDS Parcels", a fictitious company, leaves a note for householders that they have a parcel to be delivered. A premium rate phone number is given to be phoned and by using this number, the householder spends £15 which is then transferred to the scammers.

Maria Green is our local Police Liaison Officer and can be contacted on 07710 994972. **Ross Clark** will invite Maria to a Parish Council meeting.

Village Hall Committee Report

There was significant discussion regarding the curtains for the Village Hall. A request for a £1,500 contribution from the Amenity Fund had been rejected by the Parish Council. Following exchanges of views, the Village Hall Committee decided to resubmit their request.

Matters Arising

1. Traffic in Reach

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 it is understood that there will be a training session for them and other volunteers in January 2009. Volunteers from other local villages will monitor the speed of traffic coming through Reach.

2. Bus Service Quality Update

Ross Clark will provide an analysis at the January Parish Council meeting.

3. 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 with Helen Platt in attendance. The Scientific Officer recognized that there was a problem and has had subsequent meetings with the landowner and the person farming the land. The proposed solution is that the worst affected land at the western end will be grassed over and not farmed. The Scientific Officer will keep the Parish Council informed of progress in resolving this issue.

4. Peacocks Nuisance

The Parish Council has received a complaint regarding the presence of a number of peacocks in the village. **Allen Alderson** will discuss the issue with ECDC to see what process needs to be followed to overcome the problem.

5. Telephone Box

The Clerk has contacted BT regarding the dilapidated state of the red phone box in the village. BT will send out an inspection officer who will report back to the Parish Council in due course. It is hoped that a repaint will be carried out, probably in the next financial year, starting April 2009.

6. Bollards in Quay

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. Discussions and reviews continue. It was decided to remove this issue from the Reach Parish Council agenda.

7. Proposed Bus Service Changes

These relate to the 10/10A service. Pleasingly the radical changes proposed have not been implemented (see the County Council Report above).

8. Cemetery Fence

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Salt Bin

The salt bin near Ditchfields will be installed and filled over the coming two weeks.

12. Willow Tree on the Hythe

There is concern regarding a willow tree which appears to be in a dangerous state. The Parish Council has asked **the Clerk** to conduct a Land Registry search, at its reasonable expense, to establish ownership of the land on which the tree is situated. Should it be common land, it was felt that the Parish Council should take ownership. Such a course of action was also proposed for the Drying Ground.

13. 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 will be addressed by **the Clerk**.

14. Car Park

It was pointed out that the car park near to the playground was in need of repair. **The Clerk** was asked to contact Paul Butcher to establish responsibility for this repair work.

15. Payments

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

100854	Debbie Blocksage	Cemetery Mowing	£65.00	
100018	Village Hall Committee	Village Hall Curtains	£1,500.00	Amenity Fund

16. Planning Applications

The planning application for 4 Chapel Lane was discussed and no objections raised.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th January at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be issued on Tuesday 30th December.

Chairman:

Date: