



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Tim Quilter	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Edward Hall	Councillor	Not Present
Catherine Gibson	Councillor	Present
Nick Acklam	Councillor	Present
Vacancy	Councillor	
Vacancy	Councillor	
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
John Trapp	District Councillor	Not Present
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Not Present
Yannifer Malinowski	County Councillor	Present

Apologies for absence

Received & approved.

Forum for members of the public

A member of the public attended for the Dykes End Pub discussion

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Gibson declared an interest in the planning application and left the room for the discussion.

1. The Dykes End Pub – opening hours

The PC had been informed by the lessee of the Dykes End Pub that they would be reducing the opening hours and therefore, closing at 6pm on both Saturday & Sunday evenings. The PC were grateful for this briefing. The Lease Clause 3.2.2 states 'to keep the building open as a licensed Public House during such hours as the Lessor might reasonably require.' Ideally, the PC would like the pub to be open 7 days a week; however, it is understood that it may not currently be commercially viable for full week opening but it is disappointing that full weekend opening is not possible.

The PC feel that it is a fateful step to the viability of the pub as a business to not be open on a Saturday night. The lessee stated that if people were in the pub at 6pm on Saturday & Sunday he would stay open.

The PC suggested many ideas for widening the scope of the business offering but the lessee stated that costs were prohibitive.

The lessee also informed the PC that they intend to move out of the premises and are considering other uses for the upstairs flat. They will keep the PC informed of any further changes.

2. Planning - 26/00062/FUL Manor House 10 Chapel Lane, Construction of a natural swimming pond with decking areas

Councillor Gibson left the room for this discussion.

All Councillors felt they knew Councillor Gibson too well to lead on a visit to this site, however they had

studied the application documents. The PC concluded that the application would have no visual impact or intrude on the surrounding properties as it will be well fringed by vegetation & the decking is to be discreet. The PC also noted that the application will have a good biodiversity impact. No comment to be made.

3. District Councillor Report

Local Government Reorganisation

There is a public consultation on this issue with a closing date of 26 March -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

This is your chance to tell Government whether you want East Cambs to go into a Unitary with Cambridge and South Cambridge or with Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

Greater Cambridge Development Company

There is a consultation about the powers and area of responsibility for the Cambridge Growth Company. As with the GCP, this company is likely to have a significant impact on our area. This consultation closes on 1 April -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

Licensing Committee 11 February

There was an item on a consultation to a proposal by the Government to transfer responsibility for taxi and Private Hire Vehicles to Local Transport Authorities (the Combined Authority in our area) to save money; the safety and the protection of the public or drivers was not considered. The Committee will be replying to this consultation.

Full Council 24 February

This was quite a long meeting and the budget for the forthcoming year was put forward. The increase of £300,000 to the Mepal Crematorium contingency budget was brought forward from the last Finance and Assets meeting and was approved with the Chair's casting vote.

The Lib Dem & Independent group proposed in the budget for next year that funds should be given to:

- establish Civil Parking Enforcement in the District (which 97% of other Councils have) to tackle the blatant illegal parking in most of our towns and villages,
- further tourism in our District; the only tourism effort in the District is done by Ely City Council and is, obviously, Ely-biased,
- to increase the Environmental spending by £100,000,
- to help reinstate the Ely Citizen's Advice Bureau, restoring a much-needed independent advice service in Ely and taking some pressure off the CAB in Newmarket,

These proposals, which would have still been within budget and not require a rise in Council Tax, were defeated by the casting vote of the chair.

4. County Councillor Report

Councillor Malinowski had been absent for part of the last month & therefore asked whether the bridge repairs had taken place & the streetlight on Ditchfield repaired. Neither of these problems had been resolved.

Councillor Malinowski to check for updates. It was reported that potholes continue to be a major problem for the whole area, and that the road repair contract cannot go out to tender until the LGR had been completed.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes were approved as correct.

6.1 Finance

Nothing to report.

6.2 Parish Council Members

Parking on the village green had continued despite the PC asking the Village Hall and residents to refrain from doing so, to avoid damaging the grass surface. **Councillor Gibson** agreed to contact the Village Hall committee again.

Councillor Acklam had completed the online LGR consultation on behalf of the PC including the additional idea of splitting the ECDC area to allow the south of Ely parishes to become part of the Cambridge area and the north of Ely parishes part of the Peterborough area. **Councillor Acklam** to contact CCC, to offer this new idea and give them Reach PCs continued support as they had requested.

Land near Reach wood still contained dumped rubbish. This situation will be monitored.

A lock code will be fitted to the Defibrillator this week.

6.3 Play Spaces

Nothing to report.

6.4 Rights of Way

Nothing to report.

6.5 24Acres Committee

Nothing to report.

6.6 Friends Of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

6.7 A to B1102 Group

Nothing to report.

6.8 Nature Recovery Plan

Talking continues with the Ground Up & Chalk Stream groups but there has still been little progress.

6.9 Hythe Restoration Group

An onsite meeting has now been arranged between the PC and the Anglian Waters (AW) agent to discuss access to the site and the possibility of making a parking area on site. Councillor Acklam had asked for more detailed feedback as to why the AW funding application had been turned down.

6.10 Website & public communications

See below.

Information & reports need to be added to the website. **Councillor Quilter** to investigate whether there was an easy way for this to happen allowing more Councillors & The Clerk to add the required information.

6.11 Energy developments in the locality

Kingsway Solar

There have been no new developments this month.

Greenergy Battery Storage

Tomorrow the deferred Greenergy application will come back before the ECDC planning committee, with the planning officer still pushing for approval. **Councillor Acklam** to attend the meeting. A large turnout of residents from both Reach & Burwell is expected.

7. IT Contract

As previously discussed the PC IT contact will be changed before renewal in mid March.

The Microsoft subscriptions will be replaced with a direct to Microsoft licences agreement (PC to Microsoft – no middle person).

IT support will be provided by a local Burwell company – email, telephone or in person support to be provided. The benefit of this is firstly cost, & licences that include better features including PC SharePoint site that can be accessed by all councillors and clerk for document storage. The PC will also be moving the email addresses to the new @reachparish.gov.uk domain which aligns with the PC website and the intent from UK Government to have PCs on recognisable and trusted domains in the coming.

8. Payment

E.on – Power on the green

£22.17

Payments approved. **Councillor Hall** to authorise.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held **on 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm.**

The agenda for this meeting will be issued by the previous Tuesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council website <https://reachparish.gov.uk/parish-council/agendas-and-minutes>

Chairman:

Date: