

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 26th April, 2004.

Apologies were received from Mr.Hawkins. Mr.Smart was absent, all other councillors, together with Mr.P.Jolley,F.D. Councillor were present.

Visitor – Mr.G.Sheldon from the Environment Agency attended the meeting. He spoke about the sale to the council of the Fishing Pit in Park Road. Mr.Sheldon said he had the approval of the Agency for the sale to proceed. The pit had been valued and current market value was £68,500. However as the council intended to manage the pit as a conservation area and encourage youth use he had a good case to recommend the sale at the original price of £58,000. Unfortunately the sale now has to gain approval from DEFRA. The documents have been sent to them today. Mr.Sheldon hopes to be able to recommend to them also that the sale proceeds at the reduced price. There will be a “claw-back” clause of 15.4% if the council sells the pit for more than the valuation. The land adjoining the pit is included and this is now vacant.

Mr.Sheldon hopes to have news for the council in the not too distant future that the sale can proceed.

Elections

Chair – outgoing Chairman Mr.Emery was thanked for his work over the past year. Mr.Barnes proposed Mr.Emery take the chair again for the coming year, this was seconded by Mrs.Desborough, and unanimously agreed.

Vice-Chair from the Chair, Mr.Emery proposed Mrs.Cole, this was seconded by Mrs.Desborough.

Cemetery Officer – Mrs.Desborough proposed Mr.Cole, seconded by Mr Smith.

Tree Officer it was agreed to leave this until next meeting as Mr.Smart was not present.

Allotment Officer – Mrs.Cole proposed Mr.Barnes, seconded by Mr.Cole.

Rights of Way Officer from the Chair, Mr. Emery proposed Mrs.Desborough, seconded by Mr.Smith.

Re-cycling Officer although Mr.Hawkins was not present he had indicated he would be willing to carry on with this post. Mrs.Cole proposed this be the case, seconded by Mr.Cole.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March, 2004 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising:

Highways – letter from Mr.Davies saying he would arrange for a dropped kerb at 21 in the new footpath in Park Road.

E-mail communication from Paula Cuthbertson concerning meeting with councillors to discuss the speed reduction measure – May 27th was suggested as a date. Clerk to arrange,

Verge cutting despite Clerk writing to two firms, Agriplant at Bourne and DJ & JM Green with plans – no other quotations have been received. It was therefore proposed by Mr.Cole, seconded by Mrs.Desborough council accept the estimate from Wayside & Wildlife in the sum of £725.00 for five cuts with two extra within the village itself.

Concerning the Westfield Road hedge – Mr.Bennett from Wayside will do a light cut for £25.00 providing he got the verge job. It was decided to ask him to do this work and to write to Crouch Growers informing them what action had been taken and asking if they wished to make a contribution towards costs.

Cemetery the light bracket has been replaced.

Memorial - Mrs.G.Fox for ashes plot.

Trees and Footpaths - concerning the flooding which occurred in East Street in the past – Chair had asked Clerk to write to County Council to see if they would clear the dyke. However they referred council back to earlier correspondence about a water test to see which way the water was flowing. Since no serious flooding has happened since, it was agreed to keep an eye on the situation. The area is kept tidy by resident of 12 East Street up to Mr.Risebridgers – but the farmer concerned fails to tidy the part in between. It was reported the dyke at the back of the pit on the right of way is partly filled in because it is being ridden over by motor cyclists. The dyke would appear to be responsibility of Environment Agency and it was agreed to keep an eye on the situation here too.

Mr.Cole reported the car park needs spraying – Clerk to ask Mr.Waters.

Police Report Officer Nick Baines was present. He gave a brief outline of the background to his attendance at meeting – he explained he hoped in future to come to possibly 3 of our meetings and Community Support Officers would be attending some of the other ones.

He said one of the main problems in Manea was the anti-social behaviour of youths. Police were trying to help improve the quality of life for residents of Manea. In March and April Manea had only 8 crimes.

Incidents must be reported to police even if they do not attend then he can say that incidents are reported in Manea – why has no officer been attending the scenes. He acknowledged there were problems with the main control switchboard. He will give details of numbers where messages can be left so that this can be put in the next issue of the “Manea Connects Magazine”.

Playing Field - there has been some vandalism – the store shed door has been taken off – 5/6 youths were seen on CCTV around the area and in the outside toilets – seats have been broken and toilet rolls burnt. Officer Baines will ask someone to come and give advice on setting out CCTV to get the best out of it.

Mr.Emery said one of the sensors on the lights bear the back corner is not working – to ask Mr.Yardy to look at it.

Pavillion - Clerk asked permission to arrange for the annual electricity testing on the items to comply with risk assessment.

Warden Unit – Mrs.Desborough said she had spoken with Sue Beal – there is grant funding – this may fit in with Fenland Council’s housing scheme – there is a video available giving details – to put notice in Village Magazine to see if anyone is interested in participating.

Pit Negotiations - pleased to see progress is being made at last. A business plan needs to be drawn up. A risk assessment should be undertaken. Clerk to ascertain cost of this. To also find out how much the insurance would be since Cornhill have made certain stipulations on their cover.

Planning

C.Barnes – residential development land SE of 9-15 High Street – A site meeting had been held on 6th April with Mr.Emery, Mr.Risbridger, Mrs.Desborough, Mr.Cole and Mr.Smart present – following observations made on returned application:

Plot 3 seems very close to village development boundary

Would prefer 6/7 smaller dwellings on site rather than 5 large properties

Queried whether the asbestos farm buildings would be taken down to accommodate plot 1

Were very concerned that visibility was not good at access. Access seems restricted – was hedge/dyke to be part of roadway?

R.Hawkins – erection of 2 chalet bungalows with linked garages – site was viewed at this meeting – agreed to support application.

P.Gumbley – renewal of permission for 4 dwellings at 96 Westfield Road – supported

Mr.D & Dr A McMurray – conversion of part double garage to living accommodation – 54 High Street. Clerk and Mrs.Cole declared non-pecuniary interest as Dr.McMurray is school governor. Application supported
Property Dept – FDC – formation of vehicle access – 32c Station Road – supported

T& S Services – erection of steel workshop-/store at 27 Westfield Road – Mrs.Cole declared interest and left room during discussion – application supported.

Approvals/Refusals – by FDC

Mr.Linney – 20 Station Road – max 2 dwellings approved

Mr.Crout – extensions to bungalow – Old Bedford Bank approved

Erection of 7 3xbed houses involving demolition of warehouse – Station Road – refused – out of development boundary.

Finance

Receipts

Rents	280.00
1 st half precept	<u>5743.50</u>
	£6023.50

Payments

Powergen sports area	30.19	
Bank of Eng loan	95.40	
Mill Hill petrol	8.00	
CALC fees	398.95	
Donation – Manea Connect Comm	25.00	Proposed Mr Emery
J.Waters salary	112.75	Seconded Mrs.Cole
M.Short new areas	53.40	
J.Boardman cleaning	42.72	
I.Cook – sal,post and phone	<u>238.46</u>	
	£1004.87	

Audit – Clerk gave details of audit timescale and said Mr.Cundell had agreed to act as internal auditor again.Audit would be advertised from 1st -29th June. Audit return would be available for signature at June meeting

Correspondence

CALC various letters and bulletin

Flood Action Newsletter

CCC Archaeological events in area

FDC – asking for locations for two new litter bins – the High Street – either near Post Office or Rose & Crown was suggested and in Westfield Road near secondary school bus stop.

Camlearn – newsletter

FDC working partnership letter – Mrs.Karen Gee will be coming to our May meeting to meet councillors.

Crime & Disorder meeting minutes

FDC housing strategy – showing 35% of new developments will have to be affordable housing.

Fenland Rural Sports – minutes of meeting of 29th March

Cambs CC – Governor Support explained with new constitutions of governing bodies a representative from minor authorities no longer needed – we can suggest a community governor representative. Mrs.Barnes is currently parish council representative until her term comes to an end.

Mr.Emery gave brief details of an audit seminar he had attended for council chair persons at Fenland Hall. The correspondence between District and parishes had improved and should continue to do so. Planning was one of the main issues – district council did not always listen to comments raised by parish – this seemed to be with all parish councils and not just Manea.

Date of next meeting – Monday 17th May 7.00 p.m. Visitor Mrs.K.Gee.

Date of June meeting – Monday 21st June annual inspection at Playing Field 6.30 p.m.

Date of July meeting – Monday 26th.

Signed..... Dated