

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting 21st March, 2005.

Visitor: Ms Karen Gee our Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council came to the beginning of the meeting. She spoke about the opening of the "One-Stop" shops and the large volume of telephone callers experienced recently. Officers will be looking at ways of making telephone calls easier for customers. Ms Gee also talked about the roll-out of the new brown bins which is continuing, and may cause problems for some residents over the lack of space to store more than one wheelie bin. Ms Gee will visit again in the summer.

Apologies were received from Mr. Risbridger, Mr. Jolley and PC Braines. All other councillors were present.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th February, 2005 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising:

Highways letter from Traffic Management giving feedback from residents of Westfield Road concerning the proposals for waiting restrictions at the junction of Glebe Close and the entrance to the track to aid visibility exiting the junctions. Five replies were received, they referred to the condition of the track at the rear of the properties and saying it was unfair to expect residents to park there. It was commented that it was a hot spot for vandalism. They also mention the land opposite Westfield Road having planning permission. Traffic Management conclusion is that the short length of double yellow lines is inappropriate and not totally necessary and they feel they would wait until the development opposite is finished and its impact realised. They will monitor the situation. Mr. Emery said the back road is in reasonable condition apart from the first 5 dwellings. If this were repaired and people parked at the rear it would alleviate the problems with parking along the front. There is the safety aspect of parking in front of the houses, visibility is very poor and since the parish council pointed all this out to Traffic Management it was felt we should not be held responsible if an incident occurs. The property opposite has had permission for some time and it may be distant future before any development actually occurs. The council feels to do nothing is not the answer to the situation. Copy of letter sent to a resident in High Street concerning the speed restriction measures. This says they have taken account of the resident's dissatisfaction and have decided to abandon the idea. They have put in a new gully and this will mark the end of the scheme in Manea., The Council commented that they were happy with the scheme as originally planned and one complaint from one resident should not in their opinion stop the completion of the scheme. Speeding in the High Street is a major cause for concern.

Winter gritting - Chairman spoke of an incident when a resident slipped in School Lane during the recent icy conditions and broke her leg. A query was raised with the Highway Dept as to why all the roads in Manea were not gritted. It was explained this was a rural village and only the main road was gritted.

Highways advise that if parish council purchased grit bins and placed them in roads, they would fill them, residents could then spread the grit in bad conditions. It was felt this would not be a solution as the grit would be taken and the situation abused.

A complaint has been received that the residents from Hibblings Row speed out of their estate road across the pavement. There are no markings, it was agreed to ask if these can be put here and also to send a letter to all residents asking them to be aware of their speed when they enter and exit their estate.

The name sign for Orchard Way needs replacing, and also the "No vehicle turning" sign has not been erected at Witcham Farm – clerk to write.

Street Lights the problem with the light at 37b Westfield Road was cabling and has been repaired by EDF Energy. Mr.Emery mentioned the three street lights in Station Road between 50 and the garage which lean backwards.

Councillors will monitor and it will be discussed again.

Playing Field – quotation from Groomfields for this year's cuts at £67.67.

Mr.Smart proposed we accept this, seconded by Mr.Cole.

Electrical testing of fixed services and equipment in the pavilion needs to be undertaken this year. To seek quotes from Mr.R.Yardy and Elecheck.

The Gala Committee have asked if the PA system could be checked over. To ask either Mr.N.Angel or ACE Communications if they can do this.

Chatteris Town Youth Football have asked to hire the pitch for 4 matches at a total cost of £80.00

Verge Cutting Clerk has asked Mr.R.Fowler if he would like to quote, Mr. N.Dewsbury of Wimblington and Wayside & Wildlife. Only one has been received from Mr.Bennett of Wayside & Wildlife. The price remains the same as last year £725.00 He mentions the spoil left on the verges in Station Road. It was decided to ask the Highway Dept if this could be looked at and also to write to Manea & Welney Drainage who cleared the dykes and left the spoil. Mention was also made of the hedge in Westfield Road, saying a light cut later in the year would keep it clear of the verge. Mention was also made of the vehicles parked again on Wimblington Road corner, cutting up the grass. Clerk to write to Highways. Mr.Hawkins proposed we accept the quote from Wayside & Wildlife, seconded by Mrs.Desborough.

A complaint was raised about the dog mess along the Town Lots roadway which is used by the parents and children going to Strawberry Patch Pre-School and also this is access to the school playing fields. It is a right of way and used extensively by dog walkers. To write to the dog warden asking if something could be done about the mess, copies to County Farm Officer and Rights of Way Officer.

Pit Negotiations nothing has been heard from Mr.Costain or Mr.Shelton this month todate.

Planning - Approvals – land N of 90 Station Road 3xbed dwelling
7 x 4 bed dwellings 9-15 High Street

FDC – land N of 14a High Street – application withdrawn

C.Upchurch – residential development 0.185 ha land west of 28 School Lane – this falls outside the development boundary and therefore in line with policy council could not support it

J,Rutterford – 2 story extension to 4 Station Road – this already has permission but applicant has changed siting of some windows – Mr.Emery declared his interest in this application - supported by councillors

Hazelmere Homes – 13 houses and associated parking land S and W of 25 Station Road – this has been resubmitted because the original architect wrongly surveyed the site. Council still remains concerned about the parking as the site is opposite the primary school which already has horrendous parking problems. They wonder if there are sufficient parking spaces for the size of the development. The open space also remains a concern – they would like a written assurance this will not fall to the parish council to upkeep once the development is complete.

Mr.A.Hilton – 2 x 3 bed semi-detached houses on land west of 38 Westfield Road - councillors are unsure about the access which appears to be from the side track which leads to the rear of Westfield Road houses – who has ownership of this track – there should be access from the front.

J,Keil – erection of conservatory – 28a Station Road – supported

Mr.& Mrs.Perry – 2 story rear extension to 6 Westfield Road – supported
KMR Developments (E.Anglia) Ltd 3 3xbed terraced houses at 2a Park Road – supported

KMR Developments – erection of 3xbed detached house with parking on land west of 2a Park Road supported

Patrick Tennant Ltd – erection of 2 x 4 bed detached houses on land north of 36b High Street – council expressed concern about the access to the site. They also note the plot is very small for a development of 2 4xbed dwellings, especially bearing in mind a recent application on a small plot was refused.

Mr. & Mrs.D.Pressland – erection of 4 bed detached dwelling on land south of 5 High Street- Mr.Barnes declared his interest as a neighbour to the site – supported by council

Mr. & Mrs.Hayes – erection of rear extension to 28 School Lane – Mr.Emery declared his interest in this application –supported by council

Allotments – Mr.Barnes explained to councillors about the “single farm payment” (the former IACS farm subsidies) which will in future go with the tenant of the land and not the allotment land itself. In the short term this may mean that if land becomes vacant council may not be able to continue with the rent at £70 per acre because there will be no farm subsidy going with it. It may therefore mean a reduction in the council’s assets. However in the long term, after 2012 this will be phased out , so will not cause a problem.

Rights of Way – information given to Mrs.Desborough to study and report back

Finance

Concurrent functions grant given as under:

Cemetery	1681
War Memorial	56

Public Conveniences 205
 Play Equipment 220
 Car park 128

With £700 for street lighting

Receipts

Re-cycling credits 175.39
 Memorial fees 150.00
 Ashes plots Newell 300.00
 £625.39

Payments

Alfred McAlpine	light column	558.13
Cambs CC cont for speed measures		798.00
Powergen	sports 26.86	
	Pav <u>259.59</u>	286.45
I.Cook sal and postage		203.81 proposed Cllr Emery
J.Waters salary		114.25 seconded Cllr Hawkins
M.Short new areas		43.92
M.Short caretaking		336.00
Inland Revenue tax due		151.71
Anglian Water cem	21.97	
	Field <u>32.50</u>	<u>54.47</u>
		2546.74

Correspondence

Defra & Deputy Prime Minister – clean neighbourhoods/local leadership booklets
 FDC – rural sports forum
 Thanks for donations from Citizen Advice/Victim Support
 Standards Board – Code of conduct review booklets
 CALC – best kept village/training/conference/Fenland Strategy Partnership
 RSPB ouse washes information
 Environment Agency – letter about illegal waste dumping – Mr.Cole will look at the dyke in question
 Cambs ACRE – affordable housing letter
 FDC – options Fenland housing – letter
 BBC – asking if there were any derelict houses for a DIY programme
 Cambs CC – bus stop changes – Mr.Emry reported the bus did not come last Monday leaving people stranded – clerk to write
 Information about a photograph competition – to put in post office
 Change of licence of Ship Inn to Frank Toth

Date of Parish Assembly – Monday 25th April at 7.00 p.m.

Signed Dated

MANEA PARISH ASSEMBLY

22nd March, 2004.

Present: All nine councillors were present together with Mr.P.Jolley, District Councillor and Ms Susan Candlish, Rural Housing Enabler. There were no parishioners present.

Visitor Ms Candlish spoke briefly on affordable housing in villages. She said local people are priced out of the housing market. She explained about housing association properties and identifying a local site with local people having the first refusal. This could possibly be with shared ownership or rented accommodation. There followed a short question and answer session. Ms Candlish will be leaving her post but her successor will be in touch with council in the future.

Minutes of the Assembly held on 22nd April, 2003 were read, confirmed and signed.

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report Mr.Emery said it would seem that another year had rushed past with the village still growing. Development on the Matthew Homes site is reaching conclusion. Several new building sites are in the pipeline. The introduction of a site meeting for planning applications seems to be working well. The Playing field and cemetery are in their usual good condition, thanks to the Caretakers. We still have a few problems with the CCTV but it does seem to be keeping vandals at bay at present.

A grant of some £15,000 for various speed reduction measures has been given. It is hoped this will solve some of our problems.

Concerning the pit, Mr George Shelton is the new man in charge at the Environment Agency and he promises a quick solution to our purchase. We will await the outcome.

Plans are in the early stages for a new village hall, thanks to Mr. Jolley. These should be available shortly.

There are also proposals for a new building on the playing field from the Gala Committee.

Mr.Emery thanked the clerk and councillors for their support over the past year.

Village Hall Committee Mrs Bath submitted a written report saying the hall had had another busy year with several weddings and bookings from youth or child activities. There had been a problem with noise but this was most likely because of the hot summer and the doors being open during an event. She wrote of the steps being taken to build a new hall and hoped to report more next year.

Educational Foundation Report Mrs.Allen submitted a written report saying that in April 2003 ten students had been given grants, together with the school and playgroup. A letter had been sent to the school congratulating them on the development of the new playing field.

In November 2003 interest received was very low and money had to be moved from the deposit account. Thirteen students and the school and playgroup received grants. Mrs.C.Kerr had come to the end of her term as school governor and therefore could no longer represent them on the foundation committee.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed...S.Emery..... Dated25th April, 2005

These minutes were read, confirmed and signed at the Parish Assembly held on 25th April, 2005.

