

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting – 16th March, 2006.

Apologies were received from Mr Risbridger and Mr Cole.

Present: S.Emery;G.Hawkins;A Desborough;M Archer;C Barnes and W Cole-Palmby. Mr S Smart was absent.

Visitor Peter Vale – Divisional Traffic Engineer

Chairman outlined the background to the speed reducing measures in Manea. Mr Vale explained he had only been in post since November 2005. He said there was no funding left in this financial year. However Mr Hawkins said he understood there was a large amount of money left – Mr Vale had not heard about this – and he said the County financial systems had closed down for extensive re-coding before the end of the financial year.

He spoke of the measures that had been put in place in Manea by his predecessors, and the fact that the 3 proposed “build outs” in High Street had not been put in, the one that is there is really not effective.

He said rumble strips are not put within 200 metres of a dwelling. He spoke of the interactive signs and said money will be available in the new financial year to repair them.

There are three funds for traffic management – Safer routes to schools’ jointly funded minor improvement and the October list funding. He will add Manea to the October list funding, for traffic calming but warned that this will be expensive and there is a very long waiting list.

He said there was really nothing further that he could do at this moment in time.

Boots Bridge was briefly discussed – Mr Vale had a plan of all the signs that were in place and he could see no reason why drivers were not aware of the junction. The white lining has been renewed.

The County Council cannot erect a stop sign because the criteria at Boots Bridge is not met. He could not see any justification for re-introducing a 50 mph speed limit. Major resurfacing work is to be done to the Sixteen Foot Bank in the summer and the Accident Prevention Section at Shire Hall are looking at the junction to see if anything further could be done as far as they were concerned.

Planning –

S Oakman/P Taplin extension to 88 Westfield Road – approved
M Hedges – 3-bed detached house on land E of Rose Cottage, Fallow Corner Drove – councillors made the same observation as on the outline application – the plot is very small and the dwelling was very close to the boundary.

Manea Pit - Clerk has heard from Environment Agency that at long last we can proceed with the purchase. There was some discussion on the way ahead – it was agreed the pit has great potential but expert advice is needed to get the best out of it and what grant funding is available. A whole meeting will need to be dedicated to this. Mr Archer wondered if the village should be consulted before the purchase was made.

The Clerk said that the council must be seen to get “best value” for the village. They must be seen to be acting in the best interests of the community.

In the meantime Clerk has asked for written confirmation of the purchase price and details of any stipulations the Environment Agency will put on the purchase.
Clerk will look into obtaining information about funding and the way to proceed with realising the potential of the asset.

Date of next meeting – Monday 27th March at 7.00 p.m. Chairman gave his apologies in advance – Mrs Cole-Palmby Vice-Chair hopes to be present, to take the meeting.

Signed Dated