

**MANEA PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2006.**

**Apologies** were received from Mr Cole, Mr Risbridger and Mr Smart.

**Commemoration** A minutes silence was held in memory of Councillor George Hawkins who passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2006.

**Present** there were no parishioners present, but Mr Sears, Fenland District Councillor was at the assembly.

**Minutes** of the assembly held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were read, confirmed and signed.

**Chairman's Report** - Mr Emery opened his report with the usual statement that the village continues to grow, which he hoped would be a means to providing a better train service to the village. Despite the petition which was sent to various train operators and groups the same excuses are given for failure to have more trains stopping at Manea.

There is always work for the highway maintenance crews. At long last Annabelle Avenue and the walkway to School Lane have been adopted. Unfortunately the speed restriction measures have not been completed. Highway Officers have advised there is no funding left for Manea.

Both the cemetery and playing field are in good order, thanks to the caretakers. The new tarmac on the cemetery path was an excellent job of work, and with thanks to a grant we were able to have a new roof on the pavilion.

At long last we have been given the go ahead to proceed with the purchase of the Manea Pit at the original asking price. Grants will be needed for improvements and the village will need to be consulted before we purchase.

It is hoped a new youth club will be formed shortly. A disco has already been organised to raise funds and we have been informed there is funding for a leader for 12 months.

Thanks were given to the clerk and all the councillors for their support over the past year.

Everyone was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of George Hawkins. He will be greatly missed by the council and the village and all who knew him. Sincere condolences have been sent to his wife Ann.

This year no report has been submitted from the Manea Educational Foundation.

**Village Hall Committee Report** - Mrs Clarke reported that unfortunately 2005 had been an expensive one for the hall. Costs have escalated and a replacement oil tank has had to be purchased. Income seems to have fallen but they are striving to keep above water. Bookings for the year look healthy but a regular Tuesday booking has been lost.

The Drop In Centre every Wednesday is popular and attracted some media attention. Little progress has been made in the building of a new village hall. Funding is the main problem but Mr P Jolley has been invited to join the committee to form a sub-committee solely to move the project forward.

Mr Barnes gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Clerk for their work over the past year.