

**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2007.**

**Apologies** were received from Mr P Jolley.

Present: Mr S Emery, Mr D Cole, Mr K Risbridger, Mrs A Desborough, Mr M Archer, Mrs B Bridgement, Mrs W Palmby.

The outgoing Chairman welcomed the new councillor, Mrs Bridgement and congratulated our new Fenland District Councillor Mr Archer.

All councillors present signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. A register of members interests was given out to all and the new code of conduct.

Election of Officers.

Mrs Palmby took the Chair and asked for nomination for Chair – Mr Risbridger proposed Mr Emery, this was seconded by Mrs Desborough. All were in agreement. Mr Emery accepted the position.

Other Officers:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Vice-Chair	Mrs Palmby	Mr D Cole	Mr M Archer
Cemetery Officer	Mr D Cole	Mrs Desborough	Mr Risbridger
Footpath Officer	Mrs Desborough	Mr Archer	Mr Cole
Tree Officer	Mrs Desborough	Mr Risbridger	Mrs Palmby
Re-cycling Officer	Mr Risbridger	Mr Archer	Mrs Palmby
Allotment Officer -	it was agreed to leave this position until the next meeting.		

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007 were confirmed and signed.

**Matters Arising:**

*Highways* – letter from Highway Supervisor saying the contractor will tidy up the plannings at the junction of Straight Road/Purls Bridge road East Street – he will chase up the uncompleted repairs and will note the quality of future repairs.

Bus Stop – Mr Vale has been to look and has sent e-mail suggesting it is the children who will not wait behind the railings, rather than an extension to the railings being needed. The hedge behind the railings badly needs cutting and Mr Vale has said he would contact Mr Mallott about this. He also wondered if our CPSO would be able to look into this. Clerk contacted Leanne Cracknell and she has spoken with the deputy at Cromwell College who did say that he would speak with the children and they would send letters of apology to the council for their behaviour. However to date these have not been received and the children still wait in the road. She will speak with the College again, in the meantime Clerk to contact Highways to ask again if they would be able to contact the owner about cutting back the hedge.

It was also reported that the kerb work outside “Smallacre” Station Road and Strawberry Patch, Park Road, to stop water running into their properties has not been done – clerk to write again. Mrs Palmby mentioned the hedge outside Dunvegan House, Westfield Road is badly overgrown right over the footpath in places. Clerk to write to the owner, Mr Stone.

E-mail from Mr C Burton, County Farms concerning the potholes at the bottom of East Street – saying they are not their responsibility but that of the Highway Division and he has sent them a copy of Clerk’s complaint. He walked past the buildings and down the track to the sewage works, but despite repairs being needed he has not agreed a plan of expenditure this year and even then cannot guarantee he will be able to spend any money on this. It feels it should be Anglian Water who uses the road with heavy lorries should be the substantial contributor and will speak with them. He noted the board at the woods is missing and wonders if council know where it is – Mr Emery said the board was dislodged by the Anglian Water lorries and did lie on

the ground for some time but is not there now – he will look around to see if he can locate it.

Letter from Mr S Payne of 42 Westfield Road concerning a dropped kerb in front of his property to allow access for vehicles. Clerk has spoken with Mr Vale and he suggests the resident contacts Mr Wilson of the housing dept for permission to put in such a kerb, and also the planning development service as he will need planning permission. Clerk to reply accordingly. Mr Payne mentioned yellow lines at either end of the council houses – and Mr Emery reminded councillors that a year or so ago a meeting was held in Westfield Road with Mr Thomas Emmett from the Highway Division about this – Clerk to contact them to ask for an update.

*Police* - CPSO Cracknell reported an increase in crime in the early hours and said patrols would be in the village at these times. Until the mobile unit is able to visit Manea she will come in the village at certain times and be available to residents. She hopes more people will subscribe to e-cops newsletters.

*Verge Cutting* Mr Sears has indicated he will be able to continue verge cutting in Manea at a total cost of £780. It was proposed by Mrs Palmby, seconded by Mrs Desborough this be accepted.

*Open Space* e-mail from Mr Ollier saying he will erect a sign about no kite flying on the space near Chestnut Meadows when the site is completed.

*Vacancy* – letter from Electoral Services Manager saying we are in order to co-op the ninth councillor without the need to advertise the vacancy – therefore Mr Archer nominated Mr Barnes, this was seconded by Mr Cole. Mr Barnes has indicated he wishes to continue as a councillor. All were in agreement.

**Street Lights** letter from Mr Chambers of 25 Edwards Way asking for a street light at the rear of their property – clerk to reply unfortunately street lights are footpath lighting only and it is out of council's jurisdiction to provide lights at the rear of residential properties.

Two dark areas were mentioned to bear in mind for this year's new light – Wisbech Road and Westfield Road.

Letter from Cambs CC saying FPC13 seems to be missing! However Mrs Palmby has investigated and it is there near 39b Westfield Road, although there are two poles with FPC13 on, one does not have a bracket and the other has the recently renovated bracket on.

**Playing Field** - shed door – Mr Disten has said this will cost in the region of £60-£70 – and Chairman has asked him to proceed with this – Mrs Palmby proposed the action taken out of meeting be approved, this was seconded by Mr Cole.

The condition of the surface of the field was discussed – Mr Barnes was intending to carry out work on this after the gala – but the football club feel it would be better done sooner rather than later – they feel mole-draining would be appropriate – Clerk to obtain quotes for this work for the June meeting.

Mr Cole mentioned the grass cutting in the playing field – in the corner near the lock-up and around the play equipment – it was suggested meeting Mason Bros and asking if they could undertake this work for us, since we do not now have an assistant caretaker.

Letter from Mrs Goodman of Charlemont Drive concerning Mr Maurice Short picking up the rubbish, saying she felt he should not be doing this as he was a pensioner – clerk to reply that in fact Mr Short is employed by council as caretaker and one of his tasks as such is to keep the play areas free from litter. However the ROSPA inspection report also mentions litter. It was felt though that if the grass cutting work is done by Mason Bros it would leave Mr Short more time to spend keeping the litter down. Clerk to reply to Mrs Goodman.

**Manea Pit** letter from Solicitors saying they are waiting for answers to queries from the Environment Agency.

Mr Archer brought to the meeting some queries from our new councillor, Mr Jolley who was unable to be present owing to being away on holiday. Mr Jolley is concerned that the council is purchasing a leasehold and not the freehold – and would like the surrounding areas defined. It was agreed the parish council is purchasing the pit for the benefit of the village of Manea. The purchase of the lease is for 999 years which is the only offer available by the Environment Agency. Mr Jolley is concerned that when the purchase money and legal costs are taken out of council funds there should be a contingency. It was agreed these costs will amount to some £60,000 and Clerk said it was indeed prudent the council retains at least £20,000 or 12 months running costs of the council as a contingency fund. Mr Jolley feels the Solicitors should come and talk over the purchase implications with the council. Councillors agreed that the Solicitors do have full information and Mr Shelton from the Environment Agency has met with councillors on at least two occasions and fully explained all the conditions and implications of the purchase to them. To have the Solicitor visit a council meeting would prove very costly.

### **Planning**

Mr & Mrs Jakes – extension to 15 Station Road – this was supported  
KMR Developments – 2 x 2 bed houses at 4 School Lane – Mr Archer said this application had been discussed at Fenland Council and as such he declared his interest. Mr D Cole also declared an interest in the application.

After discussion it was agreed to make observation that the parish council has a policy of not supporting back-land development, as this application is, although it does in all other respects comply with planning regulations. It was felt that in the light of future planning framework policy the parish council's policies should be reviewed – to put this on the agenda for next meeting.

E-mail from Mr Tim Mills re- the development at Purls Bridge with the full approval stipulations – these do indicate the development should only be used as holiday accommodation and should not take on the appearance of a residential estate, Mr N Brown has responded to a query about change of use permission for properties in Acorn Lane and Carpenters Close for use of the houses for special needs children – this is not necessary as numbers would not put either to being over the use as a dwelling. In terms of car parking he said the requirement to provide this was not fulfilled and an Enforcement Notice is being service and council will be kept updated in the matter.

Bungalow 2a Park Road – Clerk has not yet received a reply about concern over parking provision and the siting of the new building.

Approval – 42 Station Road – two storey extension.

**Cemetery** – the unused part will now be cut by Mason Bros. Groomfields have split the costs for cutting to £57 for the playing field and £22.81 for the cemetery – it was agreed it would be cheaper and better for the cemetery to be cut by the caretakers, Mason Bros.

Mr Cole reported they are doing an excellent job and the cemetery is looking better each time he visits.

**Burial** Mrs Emmie Pope

### **Finance**

Report from Internal Auditor:

The accounts are sound however one invoice for electrical work arising from vandalism was settled by a third party and ought to have gone through the council books.

Mr Cundell made the following points concerning the Pit purchase:

He could find no clear evidence of council undertaking risk assessments or a business plan in terms of

Financial risk of ongoing commitments following initial purchase of site

Health & Safety risk assessment with regard to public safety

Management risk assessment and business plan on how the site will be managed other than a reference to a steering group being suggested to oversee the development of the site and grant funding applications.

Mr Emery said the Angling Club pay a public liability insurance of £200.

The clerk will look into producing a business plan.

Quotes will be obtained for a health & safety assessment.

Receipts

Rents	1139.00
Memorial	200.00
Football Club	299.23
E Pope burial	450.00
VAT reimbursement	1200.03
Recycling credit	<u>132.71</u>
	3320.97

Payments

Playground Safety – ROSPA inspection	91.65
Cambs CC school hire	126.00
Ringway light 9 Georgina Close	560.66
Mill Hill petrol	11.00
E Mason – cemetery	412.43
J Boardman cleaning	11.64
I Cook sal/internet	252.61 Proposed:Mr Emery
Cambs CC pension	<u>73.49</u> Seconded Mrs Desborough
	1539.48

**Correspondence**

Educational Foundation Report

COPE newsletter

HVC newsletters

Standards Board – further information re: new Code of Conduct which Clerk  
Has downloaded model for Parish Councils and personalised.

Chatteris/Manea neighbourhood police panel

FDC – delivering equality in services

FDC – civic ball invitations

Whittlesey Town Council – name of Chair/ViceChair

**Date of next meeting** - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June – meet at playing field at 6.30 pm for inspection.

Signed ..... Dated .....