

**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.**

**Present** – Mr Emery, Mr Jolley, Mr Risbridger, Mr Cole, Mr Archer, Mr Barnes, Mrs Desborough, Mrs Palmby.

One resident – Mr M Crompton

Letter of resignation has been received from Mrs B Bridgement. Following short discussion, it was agreed to ask her if she would re-consider, and if this is negative – to thank her for her assistance during her short time on the council.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August and the Finance Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> August, were confirmed and signed.

**Matters Arising:**

*Highways – Westfield Road hedge* Mr Cole reported this has not been cut back – Clerk to contact Highway Supervisor again.

*Pump Corner posts* e-mail from Mr Marshall saying he thought council had paid for repainting these in the past. Mr Emery said he had had a verbal quote of £100 to repaint them – council to purchase paint. However feeling of council was that they were on the highway and therefore the responsibility of their department, especially in view of the financial constraints of the parish at this time. Clerk to write accordingly.

Mention was made of the footpath in Wisbech Road near 7-10 – where an elderly resident fell recently injuring her ankle – clerk has made Highway Supervisor aware that the surface needs looking at urgently.

*Playing Field – swings* – Mr Oliver has looked at them and will send a written report and invoice shortly.

Chairman said he has received a complaint that the safety tiles are very slippery – this is mainly due to the overhanging trees. It was agreed they need trimming back – Mrs Desborough will contact FDC Arborculturalist for advice.

There has been some damage to the outside toilet door – which has been reported to police and a crime number given – it was agreed when the police have looked at it repairs can be made.

The CCTV monitor in the pavilion needs looking at – Clerk to contact Mr Yardy.

*Sports Area* safety surfacing – despite attempts clerk has received no further quotes for re-painting. The grant application has been submitted – Clerk has been asked for Child Protection and Equal Opportunities policies – to look into this as council does not have them at present. Use of the sports area was discussed – although there is little income it is extensively used by youngsters. Mr Jolley feels the surface is at present dangerous – if funding is spent on re-painting it was agreed council should look into keeping the area locked with keys available from volunteers, although council would have overall responsibility for booking and fee taking. Clerk will try to obtain further estimates – put on agenda for next meeting.

*Open Spaces* - Mr Archer had plans and drawings for the proposals for the two open spaces in Rutland Way and Williams Way. There is to be a consultation display in the village hall for residents to put their views on these proposals. Matter will be updated at next meeting.

*Footpaths* - e-mail from Kate Day, Countryside team saying cutting should commence shortly.

**Manea Pit** -Mr Crompton had circulated a list of queries concerning the pit lease purchase – he asked if council had taken into account the funds that would be needed for the project and asked for an open meeting to discuss these concerns with the village community.

Mention was made of the cost of upkeep of the playing field – and how much it would cost to maintain the pit. Discussion followed – Mrs Palmby said the council needed a good business plan in place which could then be put to the village . Clerk to ask the Solicitors to contact the Environment Agency asking for further time for council to consider the purchase. The Health & Safety report is to hand which could prove costly – all these matters to be discussed at a pit meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**War Memorial** - Estimate for repair from Wm Kent – in sum of £1.50 per letter plus travel from Long Sutton – Clerk has counted the bad lettering and estimates a cost of between £250/£300 depending on the number actually needing repair. Mr Emery proposed we proceed from the chair, seconded by Mr Archer.

In the meantime Clerk to look on internet to see if any grant funding could be available.

### **Planning**

FDC – dates for planning awareness meetings in October, December and February were given – some councillors confirmed they would be attending the sessions.

Application re 28/28a Station Road has been withdrawn.

M Barber – bungalow on land North of Orlando, Dairy Yards – this application is outside the village development boundary and cannot be supported.

P Baxter – 2 x 2 bed detached houses with garages on land west of 38 Westfield Road – the applicant shows no front access to the plots from Westfield Road – he only shows access over the side road which is believed to be property of FDC since it gives access to the garages at the rear of the council houses. Council cannot support the application in this event.

### **Finance**

#### *Receipts*

M Meeds 2 x graves	450.00
Kents memorial fees	470.00
J Stacey burial	65.00
G Guy burial	<u>65.00</u>
	1050.00

#### *Payments*

Applied Technical – pit survey	992.88
Mason – august fees cemetery etc	822.35
Mill Hill Garage petrol – field	10.00
I Cook sal.post.internet	288.61
Cambs CC pension	73.49

Inland Revenue – tax	208.23
Notice Board repair	<u>25.00</u>
	2420.56

Proposed Mrs Palmby

Seconded Mrs Desborough.

Detailed costs were to hand for the cemetery – it was agreed an eye should be kept on these and the work done – councillors will hold brief inspection of the cemetery this weekend.

*Precept submission –*

The revised costings were discussed, taking into account letters from the Manea United Football Club, the Manea United Strikers Football Club and the Gala Committee.

The Gala asked council to write again in January with a specific request for funding – which it was agreed to do. Mr Archer declared an interest being a member of the gala committee. Mr Jolley asked how the gala committee came to split from the parish council – this was explained by the chairman that it all happened in the late 1990's because of a change in audit regulations, and the gala committee at the time being reluctant for their accounts to go to the district auditor. Councillors were disappointed things had got to this stage when the council had to ask the gala for funding, as originally the gala funds were donated directly to the parish council for the upkeep of the playing field. Lengthy letter from Manea United Football Club – culminating with them asking if could would re-consider the fee of £40 per match be reduced to £30. They indicated they were considering moving to another venue for their long term future matches.

Similar letter from Youth Football team (Manea Strikers) asking council to re-consider their £10 match fee since they were a youth team and they hoped councillors would support the youth of the village.

Councillors discussed the letters and it was agreed that the playing field costs still have to be found – it was decided to write to both clubs saying council appreciate their views but the parish has to pay its way and we therefore reluctantly confirm the costs as per our original letter to them both, and hope they do appreciated our reasons for this action. The council will take steps to ensure that in future the pavilion is cleaned every week and look to improve facilities. We would hope they will re-consider moving away from the playing field.

It was proposed by Mr Emery, seconded by Mrs Desborough to submit a precept figure of £16500 for the financial year 2008/09, this will represent an approximate 20% increase on last year.

*Insurance* - only one estimate has been received so far – from Allianz Commercial in the sum of £2312.35 – to wait for the estimate from Suffolk Acre before making a decision.

### **Correspondence**

Volunteer Centre – acknowledgement of donation

Mental Health Trust – unfortunately they were unable to attend the meeting but sent various brochures and leaflets for councillors

Training for youths – information

FDC – acknowledgement of small grant application

COPE newsletters

FCVS newsletters

Cambs Rural Forum Conference  
NHS annual public meeting  
FDC – meeting concerning allocation of land on 9<sup>th</sup> October  
e-mail concerning biodiversity surgeries – relating to the Manea pit – clerk to reply with updated information on the pit purchase  
Tree- Georgina Close – chestnut tree has a disease and needs to be taken down –  
WI – concerning the planting of a Christmas tree on the open space opposite the school. – Power for the lights will be from resident at 2 School Lane – council asked if they would reimburse expenses – clerk to look into permissions from FDC/Hazelmere Homes. Discussion on possible 3 way split for cost of a larger tree with Gala/Council/WI  
K Howell – asking for a skate park in Manea – Clerk to acknowledge his letter – will be discussed again at next meeting.

Mr Archer informed councillors refuse wheeled bins have been placed on the field and are emptied by FDC at no cost to council.

Date of next meeting – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007.

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