

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting 22nd October 2007.

Apologies were received from Mr Barnes and Mr Risbridger (Holiday).
Present: Cllrs Emery, Cole, Archer, Jolley, Mrs Desborough and Mrs Palmby, together with PCSO L Cracknell and a colleague.

PCSO Cracknell reported that the mobile police station visits on a regular basis. Speed checks have been successfully carried out in the village. She also gave details of various activities she has been undertaking within the village.

Minutes of the meetings held on 24th September and 2nd October, 2007 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Vacancy – Mrs Bridgement has confirmed she does not wish to continue – therefore the vacancy will be advertised.

Highways – unfortunately Manea was not successful in the bid for funding for Wisbech Road footpath – in the jointly funded minor improvement scheme. At this point Mr Archer mentioned several dark areas around the village needing street lights.

Letter received from Mr Jon Reeves concerning the condition of the Purls Bridge Road surface which is deteriorating badly due, he believes to the trees planted along the highway verges. Mrs Desborough had previously visited this area with FDC tree officer who did not want to see the trees taken down.

Clerk to send copy of letter to Highways and Tree Officer for comment.
Wisbech Road – resurfacing – this did not last a week – and pot holes began to form in several places from the rail crossing to Bonds Farm Corner – Clerk did report this to Highways and letter has been received saying they will close the road again for remedial works. However council to write to the Area Maintenance Engineer to say that having waited so long for the major repairs, councillors were very disappointed with the standard of the work carried out.
E-mails from Highway Supervisor – pump corner posts – he will add this to list of minor repairs, but funding is limited and the list long! Mr Emery said the person who offered to repaint them locally, felt this would be best done in the spring.

Concerning the Westfield Road hedge – Mr Marshall has sent letters and phone calls to Maurice Crouch but had received no replies. He asked if council had a contact – Mr Archer said he had a telephone number he would send to Clerk.

Playing Field - Mr Oliver has dismantled and inspected the swings and all seems to be in order.

Moles have been found in the play area and Clerk has reported these to the mole catcher – he has attended but Mr Cole reported they are still working there – Clerk will contact Mr Allen again.

Trees- in front of field – Mrs Desborough has left a message for FDC tree officer but he has not replied – will contact him again.

CCTV – the recorder in the pavilion was completely broken – Mr Yardy found a replacement video recorder for £300 – since this was the last one at the

supplier, as they are being replaced with CD digital recorders – and council has recently purchased 7 new tapes – Mr Yardy has installed this video recorder. Mr Archer proposed this action taken out of meeting be approved, seconded by Mr Cole.

Mr Jolley mentioned council funding – and suggested the contingency needs to be increased for the next financial year to take account of any unscheduled/emergency expenditure such as this.

Grass surface – Groomfields have undertaken the spiking at a cost of £157.50. However this is only a limited interim measure and comprehensive work needs to be done to the field surface in the spring.

Manea Football Club have given fixtures for October – 3 home games – Clerk to invoice £120.00 However they did not say how many matches were played in September – Clerk to enquire since, as per the original letter of charges, this was to begin on 1st September, following finance meeting in August.

Cleaner - has begun work – the pavilion was not in a good state and it has taken her some 23 hours to clean it satisfactorily. She asks for 3 hours per week during season to keep it clean and tidy, this was agreed at £6 per hour.

Sports Area - clerk has been unable to obtain any further estimates for the re-painting.

Work has been completed on the flood lights and the invoice received and a copy sent to the insurers for settlement.

Mrs Palmby and Clerk have downloaded a copy of FDC Equal Opportunities Policy and Mrs Palmby offered to look through this for council.

War Memorial - Wm Kent have indicated the re-lettering should be done before 11th November. Clerk has grant application forms and has taken photographs of the work needed.

Cemetery - the surface just inside the old gate has broken up – Mr Emery and Mr Cole will look at this and report back to next meeting.

Following an inspection of the cemetery – it was agreed it looks so much better – a lot of the work has been done and it was agreed to ask Mason Bros not to undertake any extra work, now apart from 10 hours maintenance per month from 1st November until the parish council let them know they want the grass cutting to begin again. However if Mr Mason feels this should begin in late February, early March to let council know, so that it does not get too long to cut.

Open Spaces Mr Archer reported that following the open meeting the Hutchinson Close scheme was rejected by residents and the Williams Way scheme was approved with a small majority. Work will begin on the drainage at Williams Way shortly. The funding for Thanet Rest is ring-fenced and will remain for Manea. Clerk to write to Matthew Homes, the developers to ask if the funds can be spent on another play facility for the village.

Skate Park – Mr Archer said a meeting is to be set up with from Fenland Council, youngsters from the village, parish councillors and Nicky Cox, Youth Worker to look into the provision of a skate park in Manea, and see what support there is for this from the village. A site for this was discussed. Some of the Thanet Rest funding could go towards this project and some to refurbishment of the sports area. Councillors will look at the playing field to see where a suitable place for this could be.

Open Space – 25 Station Road – Clerk has received the plans from Hazelmere for this area – but they are not deemed suitable by Fenland Council and a meeting is to be held with the developers and Mr Ollier to discuss the plan. Parish Council felt the site should be left almost as it is with only some tidying to lift the canopy on existing trees and perhaps another seat, possibly in the middle. They felt a separate sign for “Dick’s Garden” from the warning notice for no ball games. Clerk to advise accordingly. Letter from WI saying they would fund the tree themselves but would appreciate assistance with the electricity for the lights and the cabling etc. Clerk to remind FDC we need a decision on whether this can be planted from the developers as soon as possible.

Planning

Parish Council’s comments on the new framework documents to be forwarded to Fenland Council. Mr Risbridger had written a letter with his views which was read to council.

It was agreed the following be submitted:

- Section 106 monies for leisure should be handed over to Parish Council to use where they feel it best, rather than Fenland District Council.
- Starter business units are needed – these being smaller units rather than on a large site. Work places, not necessarily with homes attached.
- Manea should have “key village” status – as it has shops, transport links, railway.
- More affordable housing in the village with houses to rent/share purchase
- Warden Control – a small scheme of purpose built bungalows.

Mr Jolley suggested the permission for development in Westfield Road, opposite the council houses be taken out of the framework since this has been given some 17 years and no development has taken place on the site. After discussion councillors felt they could not support this at this time but would bear it in mind.

- M Grainger – 2 houses involving demolition of outbuilding on land NE of 36 Westfield Road – supported
- G Dutton-Gupta – work on tree with preservation order – supported
- R & N Leach – erection of conservatory at 78 Charlement Drive – supported

Manea Pit - Mr P Clark- Bioiversity Officer at Cambs County Council has suggested holding a surgery to offer help with the way forward on the pit – dates in November were put forward, 7th, 13th, 14th 20th and 21st. To invite Mr Cliff Carson and Mr Jon Reeves to this meeting.

Mr Emery and Mr Cole met with Mason Bros and they have provided an estimate to undertake work to bring the pit area up to health & safety standard – in the sum of £1417.17p.

Mr Barnes has drawn up a draft business plan for the development of the pit. Mr Jolley has also drawn up a business plan and both were not dis-similar in their costings. Discussion followed on the merits of both plans.

Letter from Mr Risbridger concerning the pit was read to council. It was agreed Clerk will contact Environment Agency to enquire whether they intended collecting the rent from the Angling Club.

Bus Stop - Mr Archer has been approached about this from villagers – he will look into funding possibilities.

Finance

Receipts

Donation – kite flying	10.00
Land rent	<u>140.00</u>
	150.00

Payments

Public works – loan	95.40
Manea School hire	72.00
Mason – cemetery/field	629.21
D Allen – mole clearing	25.00
G Fowler cess pit empty	60.00
M Oliver look at swings	53.46
Londis – cleaning goods	76.90
R Yardy – CCTV/flood light repairs	2178.50 proposed: Mr Emery
I Cook – sal/phone/internet	292.98 sec. Mrs Desborough
Cambs CC – pension	73.49
Mrs A Ryman cleaning	145.99
Ridgeons notice board	<u>20.47</u>
	3723.40

Clerk mentioned the hours worked – these have increased because of the extra meetings – to discuss at next meeting

The photo-copier is at the end of its life – to seek estimates for replacement

Correspondence

FCVS – contact details for approval

Standards Board – have been informed council adopted new Code of Conduct

DEFRA information

FDC – new licencing policy

Cambs ACRE – membership details and introduction letter from new Rural Housing Enabler

Victim Support – asking for donation – let on table

Local Council – update information – this can be sent on regular basis for subscription fee – left on table

CCC - review of passenger transport – taking place

Mr Emery had been asked if minutes could be put in notice board but this is not practical – however to ask if they can be put in the Manea Surgery for residents to read.

Date of next meeting – 26th November at 7.00 p.m.

