

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

27 OCTOBER 2008 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Cole, Mrs Desborough and Mrs Palmby.

Apologies: Councillors Barnes, Buckton, Jolley and Risbridger.

The minutes of the meeting of 22 September 2008 were confirmed and signed.

M12/08 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

(1) Acorn Lane (minute M2/08 (1))

It was noted that an update had been received from Steve Robshaw, one of Fenland District Council's Planning Enforcement Officers, regarding the planning enforcement situation at this site.

The Local Planning Authority has decided that the surfacing works to the access road, although not in accordance with the planning condition, are sufficient for discharge of the planning condition and, consequently, Fenland District Council has withdrawn its enforcement action.

Members decided that Fenland District Council (FDC) be informed in writing of the Parish Council's concern regarding the stance taken by FDC.

(2) Castle Care (minute M2/08 (2))

Members were informed, via an update from the Clerk and the comments made by local residents during the Open Forum, that Fenland District Council (FDC) has given Castle Care until 28 November 2008 to submit a planning application for the change of use of 4-6 Acorn Lane and that FDC will take appropriate enforcement action in the event that no such planning application is received by that date.

Parish Council members are aware that the amenity of nearby residents continues to be affected adversely by the current use of these premises and is keen to assist them. Members are, however, aware of their limitations in this regard; the powers to address the issues being held by the Police and FDC. The Parish Council will ensure that it responds appropriately when consulted upon the planning application.

Members decided that the current situation be noted.

(Councillor Emery declared his personal interest in this item of business, by virtue of his wife being an employee of the company)

(3) Open spaces (minute M2/08 (3))

Station Road – the Clerk reported that he had made the necessary contact with Mr I Hunt, the Legal Services Manager at Fenland District Council, who had given a commitment to investigate the matter and, thereafter, give advice to the Parish Council as to the most appropriate manner in which to progress the matter. However, no further contact has since been made with the Clerk.

Members decided to note the information reported and to request the Clerk to make further contact with Mr Hunt in an effort to achieve the further response that he had promised.

(4) Highway and drainage issues (minute M2/08 (4))

- a) School bus stop, High Street – members are aware that the County Council has not yet implemented the revised pick-up point. Members referred to the fact that some of the pupils who wait for the school bus to Chatteris often stand on the public highway, creating a difficult situation for motorists and their own safety.

Members decided that the Clerk should write to the Principal of the Cromwell Community College regarding this pupils' behaviour.

- b) Highways – the Clerk reported that the drainage matters referred to the County Council had been addressed.

The Chairman referred to the poor condition of the footpath along Station Road, from the approach to the Wimblington Road junction as far as Charlemont Drive.

Members decided that this matter be drawn to the attention of Rod Marshall, of the County Council's Highway Division, for investigation/resolution.

- c) Sewage Treatment Works – The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Anglian Water, to seek assurance that the sewage treatment works possesses the necessary capacity to support the needs of the village, but no response had been received.

Members consider that the situation discussed at minute M2/08 (4) (e) is unchanged and, consequently, decided that a further letter be sent to Anglian Water, requesting a response to the concerns raised in the previous letter from the Clerk.

(5) Community Access Point (computer) in Church Room (minute M3/08)

Members are of the view that further discussion of this matter is required, to maximise the likelihood of the initiative's success/value.

Members decided that this matter be placed as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

(6) CPALC membership (minute M10/08 (7))

The Clerk reported the receipt of membership information from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC).

The annual membership fee for 2008/09 is £523.18 but CPALC is prepared to offer membership for the remainder of 2008/09 for 50% of the annual fee, ie £261.59.

Members consider that membership should be obtained, for the remainder of 2008/09, as they are of the opinion that without such membership, the views of the Parish Council will not be represented in "wider" decision-making that could impact upon residents of the parish. Furthermore, the Parish Council would not be able to access the training courses that CPALC offers to clerks and councillors.

Members decided that

- (1) membership of CPALC be obtained for the remainder of 2008/09, for the sum of £261.59;

(2) the value of such membership be assessed during the period to 31 March 2009, so that a decision can be made as to whether annual membership for 2009/10 should be taken.

M13/08 Allotments

Further to minute M4/08, members re-considered the proposal to seek planning permission for two acres of land at The Twenties for new garden allotments, in the light of an increased level of public interest/demand since the proposal was agreed originally. Members are now of the opinion that planning permission should be sought for the whole four acres. It was noted that the current agricultural tenant of this land is Councillor Barnes, who is happy to make the land available when required.

Members are aware that the potential allotment holders are anxious for the proposal to be effected.

Councillor Archer reported on his discussions with an officer of Development Services at Fenland District Council concerning the planning issues relating to this proposal. He explained that, provided that no structures (eg sheds) are erected on site, the proposed allotments can be "pegged out" and put into use in advance of planning permission being obtained. He added that plans/maps of the proposal will need to be produced and that a cheque for the application fee will be required.

Members decided that Councillor Archer will obtain the necessary plans/maps etc, to enable him and the Clerk to complete and submit the required planning application. Approval of payment of the application fee is contained within minute M18/08. In addition, a tenancy agreement will need to be issued to all of the new allotment holders.

(Councillor Archer declared his personal interest in this item of business, by virtue of being a member of the Allotments Association)

M14/08 Cambridgeshire NHS – Community Based Health Services in South Fenland

Further to minute M10/08 (10), members received a presentation from Jessica Bawden (Director of Communications, Public Engagement and PALS) and Susan Last (Head of Public Engagement and PALS) on the Listening Exercise (which runs from 1 October to 14 November 2008) being undertaken by Cambridgeshire NHS in respect of its Review of Health Services for South Fenland Residents.

Members were informed of the key facts in terms of delivering health care for Fenland residents, including age patterns of residents, location and types of care available currently etc. One of the key aims of this exercise is to address the imbalance of service delivery to Fenland residents when compared to the rest of Cambridgeshire.

Members were pleased to hear that this exercise would not result in a threat to the future of Doddington Hospital.

The presentation detailed Cambridgeshire HNS' aims for achieving better outcomes for patients and gave examples of the types of services that could be developed.

The purpose of the Listening Exercise is to seek the views of interested parties on 4 options, as detailed to the Parish Council, for the delivery of NHS services in ways that are considered to be in the best interests of the local community. The perceived advantages and disadvantages of each option were explained by the presenters.

It was noted that formal proposals will be developed following conclusion of the Listening Exercise and be made available in early 2009.

Members asked a number of questions of the presenters, to which they received satisfactory and meaningful responses.

Members decided, unanimously, having considered the advantages and disadvantages of each of the service delivery options, to support Option 3, as presented at the meeting and detailed in the consultation document, as the most appropriate means of not only securing the future of Doddington Hospital but also ensuring the most effective method of delivering health care facilities for the local community.

M15/08 Playing Field

- (1) Car Park sign – Further to minute M6/08, the Clerk sought members' wishes, for the purpose of obtaining a quotation, on the size, colour, wording, material for the proposed sign.

Members decided that a quotation be sought for a metal sign of approximately A3 size, with black lettering on a white background with wording "Car Park; please use when available" and a directional arrow (pointing left to right).

- (2) Safety surfacing – Further to minute M6/08, Councillor Cole reported on a particular chemical that is capable of removing algae and moss from safety surfacing.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from a resident of Williams Way relating to the dangerous condition of the safety surfacing. Councillor Archer stated that he had received similar concerns from the parents of other users of the play equipment and made the point that the Parish Council should take very seriously its responsibility to maintain this area in a safe condition.

Members decided that Councillor Cole would arrange purchase a supply of the chemical to enable the surfacing to be cleaned. It was decided also that consideration be given at some future date to the possible replacement of the current surfacing material.

- (3) Works to trees – The Clerk reported that he had received no response, to date, from the two companies which had been invited to submit quotations for the works identified at the last meeting. A quotation has been provided by another contractor which has undertaken similar work at this site in the past. In addition, members made the point that Peterborough Tree Services Ltd has not yet undertaken the works to the conifer hedge (quotation was accepted at Parish Council meeting on 18 August 2008).

Members decided that the tree works matter be deferred until the next meeting, to give additional time for the receipt of quotations, and that Peterborough Tree Services Ltd be requested to undertake the works to the hedge as a matter of priority.

- (4) Charitable use – Members considered a request from Mrs Lovegrove (as detailed in the notes of the Open Forum) for use of the playing field on 7 June 2009, free-of-charge, for a charitable fundraising event.

Members decided that the request be approved and that the Clerk be requested to confirm the situation in writing to Mrs Lovegrove.

M16/08 Manea Pit

Members received the minutes of the Manea Parish Sub-Committee meeting of 29 September 2008.

Councillor Archer presented cash in the sum of £48 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets, as reported at the Sub-Committee meeting (minute SC2/08 (1) refers), for banking by the Clerk.

Members decided that the content of the minutes be noted.

M17/08 Planning applications/appeals

Members considered the following planning application and decided to submit to Fenland District Council the comments set out (in italics) below:

Erection of a 4-bed detached house with balcony to rear and integral double garage on land north-east of 14A Station Road, Manea - F/YR08/0934/RM.

Object to the application. The Parish Council deems this proposal to constitute backland development and it has a policy of opposing such development. Also, it considers that approval of this proposal would result in overlooking of existing residential properties.

In addition, members received notification from Fenland District Council, firstly, of the withdrawal of an appeal against the District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for the erection of 9 terraced houses at International House, Station Road, Manea (applicant: J Daniels) and, secondly, the subsequent re-submission of that appeal.

Members noted that re-submission of the appeal provides the Parish Council with the opportunity to submit a representation to the Planning Inspectorate.

Members decided that they had no comments to make to the Planning Inspectorate on this appeal.

M18/08 Finance

The Clerk reported on the Parish Council's income and expenditure since the last meeting, as follows:

Income

Clingo	Marshall burial	£125.00
Turner	Goude burial	£350.00
Manea Youth Football Club	50% share of funds at time of club wind-up	£204.29
Carp Syndicate members	Four membership fees at £100	£400.00
Fenland D.C	Recycling Credits	£60.91
Fenland D.C	Precept – second instalment	£9,000.00
Manea UFC	Use of playing field for 4 matches in September 2008	£160.00
E Barnes	Allotment rent	£180.00
P Lawrence	Allotment rent	£180.00
Total Income		£10,660.20

Expenditure

W Emery	Retirement gifts for I Cook	£236.00
T R Savage	Works to playing field	£998.75
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £71.92), Broadband/telephone and other expenses	£355.02
Fenland District Council	Planning application fee	£335.00
G A Diston	Repairs to rocking horse	£134.00
MHB Services	Lamp column provision	£611.94
Public Works Loan Board	Re-payment premium	£95.39
CPALC	Subscription to 31/03/09	£261.59
Total Expenditure		£3,027.69

Members decided, upon a proposal from Councillor Emery, seconded by Councillor Archer, that the income of £10,660.20 be noted and that the payments totalling £3,027.69 be authorised. Members decided also that the sum of an invoice from Peterborough Tree Services Ltd, for works to trees at the playing field, be challenged in writing by the Clerk.

M19/08 Correspondence

- (1) Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on the making of byelaws.

Members decided that Councillor Mrs Desborough would read the document and determine whether or not it would be necessary for the Parish Council to respond to the consultation exercise.

- (2) Fenland Road Safety Campaign.

Further to minute M10/08 (11), members considered a request from the organiser of this campaign for an invitation to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Members decided that the request be approved and that the Clerk be requested to agree a suitable date with the requester (possibly January 2009 meeting).

- (3) Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Speedwatch Initiative.

Members noted the details of this initiative, which, in summary, invites groups of Parish Councils to purchase speed monitoring equipment (£3,000 per kit) and for local people to monitor the speeds of vehicles. The Parish Council is aware that Wimblington Parish Council may be interested in participating in this initiative.

Members decided that

- (1) Cambridgeshire Constabulary be informed that Manea Parish Council is interested in this initiative in principle on the basis of participation on a shared arrangement with other Parish Councils;
- (2) this matter be discussed further at the next meeting.
- (4) Parish Council Expenses 2009/10 – information required by Fenland District Council.

Members decided that this matter be deferred until the next meeting.

M20/08 Manea Parish Plan review

At the request of Councillor Archer, members discussed briefly the current status and appropriateness of the Parish Plan, in the light of the emerging proposals for enhanced neighbourhood engagement in Fenland.

The Chairman explained the manner in which the current plan, produced in 2002, had been developed and reminded members that the Parish Council had considered, at an open meeting held on 13 March 2007, progress against the actions contained within the plan and, as a result, had decided that the plan should be subject to a formal review in 2010.

The Clerk reported receipt of a request from Cambridgeshire ACRE for a representative to attend a future meeting to explain the current situation applying to Parish Plans and to provide details of available funding for the production and development of such plans.

Members decided that this matter be the subject of an agenda item for the next meeting and that Cambridgeshire ACRE be invited to send a representative to that meeting.

M21/08 Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvements 2009/10

The Clerk reported formal notification from Cambridgeshire County Council that the Parish Council's bid for highway improvement works under this scheme had been unsuccessful.

Members expressed their disappointment, particularly as it appeared from the County Council's scoring methodology that the scheme bid could have been successful if it had scored one additional point.

Members decided that the Clerk should inform the County Council of the Parish Council's disappointment in this matter and make the following comments:

- at least one representative of the Parish Council (ideally the Chairman or the member who is also a member of Fenland District Council) should have been informed of the date and time of the assessment panel's visit to the site and been given the opportunity to attend, to explain and clarify the nature of the bid and to answer any questions from the panel in that regard;
- the Parish Council feels that the assessment of the bid took into account out-of-date information in relation to traffic movements/volumes;
- the County Council should have suggested potential options to vary the scheme.

M22/08 Street lighting

Councillor Mrs Palmby reported on the non-operation of some of the street lamps in Bedford View and the positioning of a new lamp column adjacent to 39D Westfield Road, which causes vehicular access difficulties for the occupiers of that property.

Members asked the Clerk to write to the developers of Bedford View and Cambridgeshire County Council, as appropriate, requesting that the necessary investigations/action be taken to remedy the issues.

(The Chairman agreed to this item being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the difficulties to be addressed as a matter of priority)

M23/08 Manea Cemetery – Memorial bench

The Chairman reported receipt of a written request from the son and daughter of the late Harold and Gwen Fox for permission to install a wooden memorial bench in Manea Cemetery in memory of their parents. The requesters are happy to provide details of the proposed bench and desired inscription.

Members decided that the request be approved in principle, subject to agreement being reached in relation to the exact location of the bench within the cemetery. In this regard, it was agreed that the requesters be invited, in writing by the Clerk, to meet with the Chairman on site to agree the arrangements.

(The Chairman agreed to this item being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the request to be determined without undue delay)

M24/08 ICT provision for Parish Council

The Clerk reported on two sets of estimated costs that he had obtained in recent weeks (from national retailers) in respect of purchasing the ICT hardware and software necessary for the most effective administration of the Parish Council's activities.

On the basis of the lower estimate, it is anticipated that the total cost of purchasing the necessary ICT would be less than £840 (including VAT).

Members decided that the Clerk be authorised to purchase the hardware and software identified from the retailer which offered the lower total cost.

(The Chairman agreed to this item being discussed as a matter of urgency to avoid undue delay to the Clerk being provided with the necessary technology to be able to manage the activities of the Parish Council in the most efficient manner)

M25/08 Future meetings

Members decided that

- (1) the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on 24 November 2008, commencing at 7.00 pm, in the Village Hall;
- (2) a further meeting be arranged for 15 December 2008, commencing at 7.00 pm, in the Village Hall
- (3) a decision be made at 24 November 2008 meeting in respect of the venue(s) to be utilised for future meetings;

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

Signature:.....(Council Chairman).

Date:.....