

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

15 DECEMBER 2008 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Archer (from 7.35 pm), Barnes, Buckton, Cole, Mrs Desborough, Jolley, Mrs Palmby and Risbridger.

The minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2008 were confirmed and signed.

M39/08 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

(1) Open spaces (minute M26/08 (1))

Station Road – the Clerk reported that he had written to the Chief Executive of Fenland District Council (FDC), in the manner agreed at minute M26/08 (1), on 29 November 2008 but had received no reply.

The Clerk read to members the content of the letter that he had sent to FDC.

Members expressed their serious disappointment and concern regarding Fenland District Council's apparent desire to ignore communications and correspondence from Manea Parish Council. Some members expressed the hope that it would be possible for this situation to be resolved without the need to enlist the support/assistance of the local press or other external agencies.

Members decided that a letter be sent to Councillor G Harper, the Leader of Fenland District Council, expressing the Parish Council's disappointment and concern that the Chief Executive had apparently ignored the letter sent on behalf of the Parish Council and seeking Councillor Harper's support, perhaps by way of a meeting with Parish Councillors, to resolve the situation.

(2) Highway and drainage issues (minute M26/08 (2))

School bus stop, High Street – the Chairman reported receipt of a letter of from the occupier of 15 High Street, Manea regarding the disturbance that she experiences as a result of Cromwell Community College pupils waiting outside her property to catch the school bus. In the letter, she suggested an alternative pick-up point, with the aim of providing a solution to her current difficulties.

Councillor Archer reported that he would raise the matter with an officer of the County Council's Education Transport Section, to seek to reach a situation whereby a safe pick-up point for pupils can be identified which does have the potential to result in disturbance to village residents.

Members decided that the current position be noted and that Councillor Archer would report back to the next meeting on his discussions with the County Council.

(3) Street lighting (minute M26/08 (3))

The Clerk reported that the contractor engaged by the Parish Council to install the new lamp column adjacent to 39D Westfield Road had undertaken the necessary works to re-locate the lamp column to a position which no longer causes vehicular access difficulties for the occupiers of that property. The contractor does, however,

claim that the lamp column had been installed in the correct position originally and, consequently, will be submitting an invoice to the Parish Council in respect of the re-location works.

Members decided to note the current position and to consider the financial issue in the light of receiving an invoice from the contractor.

(4) Community Access Point (computer) in Church Room (minute M29/08)

Councillor Mrs Palmby informed members that four keys additional keys to the church room had been cut and issued to those local residents and councillors who had agreed to be key holders. She reported also that one local resident (Mrs J Payne) had offered to run a club, to assist villagers in using the Ancestry module installed on the computer.

Members acknowledge the need to be responsible for the security issues use relating to the use of this facility.

Members decided that the current progress situation be noted and that Councillor Archer will produce and circulate posters around the village to publicise the availability of this facility and the contact telephone numbers of the key holders.

(5) 32 High Street, Manea (minute M37/08)

The Clerk reported that, as a result of writing to 32 High Street, Manea, the occupier of that property had made telephone contact regarding the matters raised within the letter.

The occupier of the property confirmed that he had made the necessary contact with the relevant local authorities concerning obtaining the necessary consents in relation to his creation of an access from the rear of the property. The occupier also informed the Clerk of his belief that the hedge adjacent to 32 High Street is not in his ownership. He stated that he would be happy to cut back the hedge if could be proved that ownership of the hedge was linked to the ownership of 32 High Street; however, the hedge had been trimmed previously by a private contractor and, consequently, it is likely that the hedge is on land adopted by the Local Highway Authority.

Members decided that

(1) the situation described by the occupier of 32 High Street be noted;

(2) Rod Marshall, of the County Council's Highways Division be requested to arrange, in the interest of public safety, for the hedge adjacent to 32 High Street, which currently overhangs the public footpath, to be cut back.

M40/08 Fenland District Council Draft Housing Strategy 2008/11

Members considered the draft Housing Strategy, prepared, for consultation purposes, by Fenland District Council for the period 2008 to 2011.

Members consider that the strategy seems logical and appears to address the needs of the community in terms of housing provision. In response to specific consultation questions, the Parish Council does not feel that there is anything missing from the proposed direction of the strategy or that there is any element within the draft that requires further explanation.

Members decided that the Clerk be authorised to complete and return the formal consultation feedback form, in the manner discussed, on behalf of the Parish Council, by the consultation deadline of 17 December 2008.

M41/08 Allotments

Further to minute M30/08, members considered the latest position in relation to the proposal to seek planning permission for approximately four acres of land at The Twenties for new garden allotments.

Councillor Barnes informed members that he had been unable, since the date of the last meeting, to obtain digital maps of the allotments site but would endeavour to do so by the next meeting.

The Clerk presented a draft Tenancy Agreement that he had produced, having regard for the document utilised by the Parish Council for its agricultural allotments, best practice agreements used by other local authorities and the rules of the Manea Allotment Association.

Members decided that

- (1) digital maps of the Twenties be obtained by Councillor Barnes, for the purpose of validating the measurements obtained recently;
- (2) no planning application be submitted until the measurements of the site area can be clarified;
- (3) the draft agreement produced by the Clerk be assessed by Councillor Barnes, with a view to approval of the document by the Parish Council at its next meeting.

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

M42/08 Playing Field

- (1) Safety surfacing – Further to minute M31/08, the Chairman reported that he had undertaken one spraying treatment of the safety surfacing but, given the current damp weather conditions, it is likely that further treatments will be necessary. He reported also that the gates to the play area have been locked, to prevent access to the area, in the interest of public safety.

Members decided that the current situation be noted and that the safety surfacing be treated again with the cleaning chemical as soon as suitable weather conditions prevail;

- (2) Car Park – the Chairman reported that Mr M Eshelby (as the former Chairman of the Parish Council) and he had both signed, on 1 December 2008, in the presence of a local solicitor, a Statutory Declaration in relation to the piece of land currently forming a car park in Park Road, Manea.
- (3) Proposed Skateboard Park – Councillor Archer reported on his recent meeting with the Arboricultural Officer of Fenland District Council regarding possible locations within the playing field for the proposed skateboard facility.

The conclusion reached was that siting a skateboard facility beneath trees should be avoided.

As a result of Councillor Archer's report, discussion ensued in relation to possible locations within the playing field and a number of suggestions were made by members. It was felt that these options could not be considered fully unless they had been viewed and assessed by members on-site.

Members decided that options for siting of the proposed skateboard facility be placed as an item for the agenda for the next meeting and that, prior to the date of that meeting, members would meet on-site to examine the feasibility of the options that had been suggested.

M43/08 Manea Pit

Members received the minutes of the Manea Parish Sub-Committee meeting of 9 December 2008.

Councillor Barnes, as Chairman of the Sub-Committee, explained the improvement works that are planned for undertaking on 29 and 30 December 2008 (minute SC12/08 (3) refers).

In addition, members discussed briefly the Sub-Committee's proposal in relation to junior membership of the Carp Syndicate (minute SC12/08 (2) refers) and sought assurances that suitable conditions would be imposed upon such membership to ensure the safety of these members, e.g. junior members below a certain age to be accompanied by an adult member.

Members decided that the content of the Sub-Committee minutes be noted.

M44/08 Planning applications

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

Erection of single and two-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 2 Wisbech Road, Manea - F/YR08/1048/F

Raise no objection to the proposal.

In addition, members considered details of a revision (in terms of the details of the access track serving the application site) to planning application reference F/YR08/0805/O.

Members decided, given the minor nature of the revision to this application, that they did not wish to add to the comments which were submitted as a result of their discussion of the development proposal (to which they raised objection) at their September 2008 meeting.

M45/08 Finance

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

Income

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------|
| Mrs J Bishop | Purchase of cremated remains plot | £200.00 |
| Mrs M Thorpe | Carp Syndicate membership for Mr Goude | £100.00 |
| Total Income | | £300.00 |

Expenditure

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------|
| D Cole | Reimbursement for purchase of cleaning fluid for safety surfacing | £23.77 |
| A Ryman | Wages | £48.00 |
| T Jordan | Salary (less income tax of £73.29), Broadband/telephone and other expenses | £337.49 |
| E-on | Electricity for playing field | £33.78 |
| E-on | Electricity for pavilion | £157.46 |
| Manea Village Hall Committee | Hire of meeting room on 24/11 | £7.50 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| Inland Revenue | Clerk's Income Tax (Sept., Oct. And Nov., 2008) | £217.13 |
| UK Signs and Promotions | Signs for Car Park, Play Area and Access Road to Allotments | £105.00 |
| Sears Brothers Ltd | Verge and grass cutting | £947.89 |
| Total Expenditure | | £1,878.02 |

Members decided, upon a proposal from Councillor Emery, seconded by Councillor Mrs Desborough, that the income of £300.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £1,878.02 be authorised.

M46/08 Castle Care, Acorn Lane, Manea

Arising from the discussion at the Open Forum, members noted local residents' understanding of the current planning situation etc in relation to these properties and decided that a letter be sent to Fenland District Council's Developments Manager requesting that both the current planning situation be clarified and the Parish Council be kept updated by the Local Planning Authority of all developments relating to the planning situation at 4-6 Acorn Lane, Manea.

M47/08 Correspondence

(1) Cambridgeshire ACRE and Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association Network.

Members received invitations for the Parish Council to become a member of Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Playing Fields Association and decided that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting

(2) Manea Educational Foundation.

Members considered a request from the Foundation for a member of Manea Parish Council to fill a vacancy on committee, which allocates grants to young students within the village.

Members decided that Councillor Buckton be appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee of the Manea Educational Foundation.

(3) Cambridgeshire County Council's Parish Plans Partnership 2009/10.

Members decided that Councillor Mrs Desborough would study the information and inform the members of the Parish Council, at the next meeting of any relevant issues for the parish or actions that members should consider.

(4) Cambridgeshire County Council's Village Benefits Advice Service.

Members agreed that copies of the leaflet be circulated around the village; for example, on the Parish notice board and the doctor's surgery.

(5) Fenland District Council's Wind Turbines Policy.

The Clerk reported details of this consultation exercise, which concluded formally on 8 December 2008. He explained that, following liaison with Fenland District Council's Strategic Planning Manager, it had been agreed that the District Council would take into account representations submitted by the end of December 2008.

Members decided that, given the complexity and size of the document, it would not be feasible to consider the matter in detail at the meeting and, consequently, agreed that any representations made by Councillor Archer, in his capacity as District Councillor for Manea, would be deemed to represent the views of the Parish Council also.

(6) East Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Development Framework.

Members decided that, although they could not see how any proposals for the strategic development of East Cambridgeshire District would impact upon the Parish of Manea, Councillor Archer would examine the proposals within the document and respond to the consultation direct in the event that he discovered any proposal(s) which could have an impact upon the Parish of Manea.

M48/08 Future meetings

Members decided that

- (1) the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on 19 January 2009, commencing at 7.00 pm,
- (2) future meetings in 2009 be held on 16 February, 23 March and 20 April, all commencing at 7.00 pm;
- (3) the venue for future meetings of the Parish Council be the Village Hall, Station Road, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.40 pm

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

Date:.....