

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting – Monday 25th February, 2008.

Apologies – were received from Mrs Desborough and Mr Cole. All other councillors were present.

Welcome to our new member – Mr Mark Buckton – who signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and accompanying documentation.

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2008 were confirmed and signed,

Matters Arising:-

Highways – letter from Highway Supervisor agreeing with comments regarding condition of East Street and has requested urgent costings for repair. The gully has been cleared but he suspects it has filled again with the mud from the track. The pothole at Byall Fen Road has been repaired. Letter from Area Maintenance Engineer regarding Wisbech Road – he has requested a meeting with Contractors to discuss remedial work prior to surface dressing later this year. Councillors were still not happy with the surface and will monitor the situation. Mr Risbridger asked about white lining – Clerk to enquire when this will be done.

Verge Cutting 2008 season – Sears Bros have offered to undertake this work again at a similar price and since councillors were pleased with the verges following the last season it was proposed by Mr Risbridger, seconded by Mr Jolley we accept the offer.

Drainage - letter from Middle Level – the matter was discussed at the recent drainage board meeting and they confirm their network of watercourses are in good order and the issue seems more for highway and planning. It was agreed the matter should be noted on all planning applications, also to make comment on the sewerage system.

Playing Field – update on action plan – the safety tiling was discussed – Mr Emery said to re-seal them would take several tubes of mastic – following discussion it was agreed to ask Mr Short to give them a good brush and Mr Emery to fill in the gaps with sand – to get signs “Beware slippery surface” erected. The trimming of the big tree and removal of 2 conifers was agreed – clerk to obtain quotations.

Future running of playing field was discussed – it was felt this should be a separate committee possibly linked with the Pit Committee. Mr Barnes said he believed it should be made up of councillors and not representatives from other bodies – he said there were three issues:

The day to day running of the field

Applying for grant funding

Undertaking the physical work

Mr Jolley agreed someone would need to be in overall control of what happens on the playing field.

To discuss this at meeting on 10th March.

Mr Archer enquired about small goal posts – it is believed these belong to the football club – there was concern about their safety.

The Surgery have asked if they can use the field on 10th May for a kite flying session again – this was agreed – for a donation.

They also want to use the field on 8th June for a Dog Show – Council has concerns about dog mess being left – to allow them to hire the field provided they give assurance it will be left in good condition – and they do not allow any dog fouling on the field – Mrs Palmby proposed a fee of £50 – this was seconded by Mr Barnes. Following short discussion all agreed with this. It was decided to set a scale of fees for the field when the new committee is set up.

Quotations for grass cutting were to hand – Groomfields in the sum of £58.99 per cut, currently on a 10 day cycle – it was proposed by Mr Jolley, seconded by Mr Archer this be increased to every 7 days for June, July, August and September, with allowances made for very hot dry weather, all in favour of motion.

Litter – in and around the field – Mr Archer has recently undertaken litter clearing and broken glass from around the play equipment. The Surgery has offered to put together a youth work party whom they will pay to pick up the litter – this was felt an excellent idea – clerk to write to Mrs Carson with thanks accepting offer.

Sports Area – re-quote from Anglia Midland for moss cleaning and repainting sports area surface. Discussion followed – Mr Emery would rather spend money in interim and find out what future use could be made if improvements were done to the area. Mr Jolley disagreed he felt it should wait until the new committee is set up to see what funds are available for new artificial surfacing so that more usage could be made of the facility. To see what Section 106 funding is available.

Mr N Brown and Ms E Grimma would like to come to talk to councillors about Section 106 funding – suggestion of 10th March for initial 30-45 minutes followed by meeting about Manea Pit.

Street Lighting - light at Glebe Close – to be done in approx 8 weeks

Light at 21-27 School Lane – move will be done by developers

Manea Pit – e-mail from Mr Shelton of Environment Agency saying he needs council to commit to completion of the purchase before end of this financial year as it was a planned disposal . If this it not possible he is going to approach the Valuer for revaluation and if council cannot then proceed it will be put on open market.

Council has funds for purchase – they wished to maximise the use of these for grant funding to undertake the improvements they hoped to do. However following discussion it was agreed to respond confirming we would be able to complete by end of financial year – we are awaiting return of the engrossment of the Lease for signing from Solicitors. Council has mandate from village and Mrs Palmby felt we should comply with this and proceed with the purchase. All were in favour of this proposal, except Mr Archer who was against the decision.

Nothing has been heard from the Biodiversity Officer following his visit – Clerk to contact him again.

Memorial - E Mason (ashes yet to be interred)

Correspondence

Manea Gala – donation of £750 – only condition was that they would not be charged for use of field for 2007 gala - agreed
FVCS – notification of possible survey of services
Norfolk CC – waste minerals information
Cambs CC – countryside issues
Neighbourhood Watch – to include in Manea Magazine to see if scheme can be set up again in village
WRVS letter asking for donation – to collect requests together and deal at one time.

Mr M Oviatt-Hann – Tree Officer to come to talk about trees in Purlis Bridge Road – to ask to May meeting.

Mr Archer informed council that Manea has been designated a key village. To put a parish council contribution in the Manea Connects Magazine – with update on the progress on the pit lease purchase.

Next meetings

Monday 10th March 7.00pm
Council – Monday 17th March

Signed Dated

