

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting – 28th January, 2008.

Present: - All councillors, together with 2 parishioners, Mr Savage and Mr Bridgement.

Minutes of the meetings held on 26th November and 17th December were confirmed and signed.

Vacancy - 2 letters of application for co-option to the vacancy were read to the meeting – from Mr Mark Buckton of 31 Teachers Close and Mr Nigel Collins of 40 Williams Way. Following brief discussion Mr Jolley proposed Mr Buckton for co-option, seconded by Mr Archer. All members were in agreement with the decision. Clerk to write to respective applicants and Electoral Services Manager.

Open Forum Mr Savage spoke to council about the public consultation on the purchase of the Manea Pit held on 21st January. He said the council now had overwhelming support from the village to proceed and offered to assist with the running and costs involved in both the Manea Pit and the playing field.

Matters Arising from the above Minutes:-

Highways –

Letter from Mr C Bedford – Area Maintenance Engineer saying he had no issue with council verbally contacting our Highway Supervisor directly but it would be helpful if calls were made through the Contact Centre so they were recorded.

Concerning Wisbech Road – the situation is being monitored but a site inspection last December highlighted no concerns with the work. However councillors were not happy with the standard of work carried out and Clerk to reply they still felt it was not satisfactory, particularly at Bonds Farm Corner where it is already breaking up.

Letter from Highway Supervisor – about East Street – he had looked at the blocked gully and says he believed it was working – he was concerned at the damage caused by the heavy vehicles and was preparing heavy patching work for this year.

Councillors reported that the gully is still blocked when there is heavy rain, probably because the road is breaking up – the condition of East Street is now extremely bad and needs urgent attention as it is fast becoming a safety issue. Clerk to write.

Mrs Palmby reported a pot hole in Byall Fen Drove between the last property and the corner where there is a field with horses – Clerk to write.

Mr Cole said there had been two more accidents at Boots Bridge, caused it is believed by vehicles coming over the Bridge without giving way to those travelling along the Sixteen Foot Bank. Clerk will inform Mr Vale.

Pump Corner – Mr Oliver has repaired the damages post but says two more need work – he had suggested taking them out and up to his workshop but it was felt they could be welded in situ with a mobile welder – Mr Emery will see him about this.

Playing Field – The inspection Action Plan was re-visited – work to put rubber stopper on gate – still to be done; Mr Emery will check the bolts have been filed on the sign near the entrance; concerning the litter/broken glass – it was agreed to have a work party in the interim but discussion took place on whether a separate committee should be formed to run the playing field – this to be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr Barnes wondered if Mason Bros could undertake some of this work in the long term.

Work still needs to be completed on the safety tiles; Clerk to order 3 new seats for the junior swings – proposed Mr Archer, seconded Mr Cole.

Sports Area – council has been awarded grant of £1000 towards cost of repainting – discussion on whether council is looking at new artificial surfacing – suggested asking Mr Ollier if the Matthew Homes 106 funds could be used for this purpose – it

has been agreed by the Developer it can be used for another project in Manea. Mr Barnes felt the surface should be re-painted in the meantime until the council has an idea what income would be generated if it were re-vamped and upgraded.

Street Lighting e-mail from Fenland Council Engineers with photograph showing FPC2 in Glebe Close is not working and needs replacing with a new column- they estimate the cost being £1200 not including any additional cabling work by EDF Contracting. Mr Cole will look at it and contact clerk but it was agreed if it does need replacing it should be done.

Mr Emery reported the light at Orchard Close is still not working and has been out for 6 weeks. Clerk to report again.

GHC Ltd – light between 21-27 School Lane needs re-positioning because of planning application – this was agreed.

Open Space – 25 Station Road – Chairman gave a brief report of the site meeting with Hazelmere Homes concerning the work to be done – it is hoped this will begin shortly.

Re-imburement of electricity costs to Mrs Beeken for Christmas Tree – proposed by Mr Risbridger £25 donation, seconded by Mrs Palmby

Memorials - C Stacey

J Hammond –

Emmerson & Son also sent details of the fixing methods now used. Mr Cole reported that when this company erected the memorial for Mr Hammond they drove off the roadway onto the wet grass causing wheelings and a mess – Clerk to write to the company concerned.

Mr Risbridger mentioned the graves in the old part of the cemetery – enquiring how long they should be retained – Council policy is 99 years but it was felt that whilst there are descendants in the village they should be left. The Council needs to be aware of their safety – Mrs Palmby will look into the legal requirements for this.

Mr Emery reported Mr J Barber's plaque has tilted and asked permission for this to be put on a paving slab – this was agreed, he declared his interest in this matter.

Manea Pit –

Discussion followed on the public consultation meeting held on 21st January where following the paper vote the results were:-

121 in favour of council purchase

26 against the purchase

With 9 spoilt papers.

Chairman said he had received some complaints about the flyers circulated around the village prior to the meeting by Mr Archer – who took this action on his own behalf. Mr Archer felt the meeting was biased towards the purchase with those against being given little or no time to make their feelings known. Mr Barnes agreed with this statement. There was concern that the Independent Chairman, for the consultation, Dr Hirson had not been agreed by the councillors. However all agreed the council must now move forward and act upon the mandate given by the village for the purchase of the lease.

Clerk has received an e-mail from Mr Clark, Cambs CC Biodiversity Officer who has visited the pit and is preparing a management plan identifying options for grant funding. He hopes to confirm availability of this funding by the summer of this year. It was agreed to meet with him in February to discuss this.

A statement was made that the whole council must be aware of any meetings arranged and they should not be undertaken by individual councillors without prior agreement.

It was proposed by Mrs Desborough, seconded by Mrs Palmby that the council proceed now with the signing of the Lease – subject to minor amendments to the last draft. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and 1 against – the motion was carried.

To ask representatives from the RSPB, Angling Club and Gala Committee to a meeting with the Biodiversity Officers on 18th February. It was suggested writing to Fenland Council asking them if they would be able to consider any grant funding also.

Planning –

Olivia Design & Development – 4 x bed house plot 7 land SE of 9-15 High Street- Mr Barnes declared his interest and left the room during discussion. Mr Jolley also declared an interest – the application was supported

I Stimson- erection of garage – Mr Archer declared his interest – The application was supported.

Leigh Property Investments – 3 x 2 and half storey 5 bed houses with detached garages and 3 x 2 half storey 5 bed detached houses with integral garages on land south of 21-27 School Lane – Concern was expressed about the surface water which cannot now get away on the village roads – Clerk to also write to Middle Level about this problem. Concern was also expressed at the visibility splays. The 2 and half story proposals are not in keeping with the surrounding properties and could be over-bearing. To also ask if any 106 funding was linked to this application and if so could it be available for facilities in Manea.

Finance

Letter from FDC saying £1000 had been approved towards the surface of the sports area.

Receipts

2 nd half concurrent grant	1740.00
Burials and memorials	775.00
Football Club	120.00
Graves and memorial	525.00
Football Club	320.00
Wayman burial	125.00
Strikers Youth Football	<u>170.00</u>
	3775.00

Payments

Viking – paper, envelopes, ink	136.49
Mrs Ryman – pavilion cleaning	156.00
I Cook – sal, phone, postage	313.35
Cambs CC pension	75.11
Cambs CC grass cutting	<u>1404.04</u>
	2084.99

Proposed: Mrs Desborough

Seconded Mrs Palmby

Correspondence

CCC Parish footpath partnership – left on table

Wildlife Trust newsletter

Police – neighbourhood watch leaflets – information will be included in Manea

Connects Magazine

CPRE – planning seminar information

CCC – trading standards information

FVCS – newsletter

Norfolk CC – waste minerals information

FDC – validation list letter

COPE newsletters

Biodiversity Conference notification

Other Business

Mr Archer mentioned he had received a complaint about the condition of the Town Lots roadway - unfortunately no one accepts responsibility for the overall maintenance of this right of way.

Mrs Palmby mentioned the dog fouling in Westfield Road - an ongoing problem.

Date of next meeting

Monday 25th February 7.00 p.m.

Signed Dated