

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting – 28th July, 2008.
Notes of public forum

Some 12+ parishioners and Mr Crompton were present. Mr Crompton asked where the minutes of the sub-committee meeting were on the website – Clerk said she would speak with the host manager and ensure the website was brought up to date.

Mr Crompton asked whether the bins for the playing field – as mentioned in the minutes of an earlier meeting had been purchased. It was agreed to look into this.

Acorn Lane and the enforcement order was raised - Correspondence had been received from Principal Planning Officer saying the Enforcement Team have now been able to contact the owners – the Officer has visited the premises on a number of occasions and is continuing to pursue the matter and will update council directly when he has information.

Residents explained they have been experiencing extensive trouble with the Castle Care home in Acorn Lane – there have been many instances of noise, bad language from one particular resident – occasions when one of the young female residents went missing for some 3 hours, despite the assurances of Castle Care when they visited the council meeting that there would be 24 hour 1 to 1 care – they have contacted the police 7 times in the past 14 days – telephone calls to Castle Care Manager have received little support and assistance – they have merely been told to contact the police - It would seem the staff do not appear to have the ability to control the one particular female resident. There is also a young male at the home, together with another young female.

OFSTED are looking into the complaints.

Councillors asked residents to log all complaints.

Letters will be written to FDC planning Dept, Castle Care, Social Services, Environmental Dept at FDC and Ofsted by council in support of residents complaints.

Concerning planning permission for change of use – Principal Planning Officer has expressed a without prejudice opinion that it is likely planning permission would be required but this has not been received yet – they are currently investigating the position.

Mr Barnes said in his opinion these types of home should need change of use permission.

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Present Mr Emery (Chair), Mrs Desborough, Mr Archer, Mr Cole, Mr Risbridger, Mr Jolley, Mr Buckton, Mr Barnes and Mrs Palmby, together with one resident.
No apologies.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June - Mr Archer had asked for a slight amendment to the wording concerning the fishing fees – this was done and approved.

Mr Archer challenged the wording of the content of the open forum report, saying he wanted it changing concerning the declaration of interest by Mr Emery. Clerk said the notes reflected her interpretation of events at the open forum and that she had spoken with the Monitoring Officer at FDC and he advises the open forum does not be minuted – notes only are taken for the benefit of councillors not present and as a reminder of the content. They are not verbatim notes – and do not constitute part of the minutes – these begin when the meeting proper starts. Mr Archer wished his challenge be recorded and said he would speak with the monitoring officer himself about this. Mr Buckton asked if all present agreed the minutes of the meeting itself were a true and accurate account of the meeting, with the slight amendment to wording as approved – it was agreed and the minutes signed.

Matters Arising:

Acorn Lane – letter from Principal Planning Officer expressing her without prejudice opinion on the intended use and confirming it would be likely to require planning permission as it could only be deemed as falling within use class C3 ie dwelling if the number of residents did not exceed 6 and the carers/cared resided as a single household. No application for change of use has been received and they are investigating the position.

The position concerning the access road - the enforcement team have managed to contact the owner and have visited the premises on a number of occasions in order to determine whether a change of use has occurred – they are continuing to pursue the matter and will contact council directly when they have an outcome.

Following the public forum it was agreed council will support residents in their complaints by writing to the Planning Officer about the recent happenings, also to contact Mr Richard Cassidy to see what can be done to prevent the continued noise and unacceptable behaviour of one of the young residents. To write to Castle Care homes to say they have failed to comply with their assurances regarding supervision of residents and to support the residents again in their complaints. To send a copy to OFSTED, Social Services.

To ask Enforcement Team if they are yet in a position to report their findings to council.

For the information of members only – letter from Monitoring Officer saying the conduct of Mr Emery had been reported to the Standards Committee by e-mail from Mr Crompton and by letter from Mr & Mrs Forster from Hiblings Row.

Parking e-mail from Highway Supervisor saying the lorry causing problems with parking in High Street will be removed – this was confirmed and no longer occurs.

Highways jointly funded minor highways 09.10 bidding round – for the benefit of parishioners who read the minutes Clerk explained the process for submitting a bid for funding for highway improvements – it is not a grant – nor is it match funded – the council bid for funds under a points system which is scored by officers of County and District following site visits. Members of the Fenland Area Joint Committee consider the results after the evaluation process and select the successful schemes – Mr Jolley asked that a representative attend that meeting to support Manea's bid. Clerk went on to explain that when formulating the original bid it was realised it would need expanding to exceed the parish contribution of £1 per elector. She needed further instruction from the council before submitting the bid – which was done at the June meeting and forwarded on 24th

June – in plenty of time before the closing date for bids of 18th July. The Clerk has always been fully aware of the process for jointly funded highway bids and indeed the Parish Council submit a bid every year and have been successful in obtaining some £15,000 towards speed restriction measures in 2005/6.

Mr Risbridger asked if consideration could be given to a ward allocation of streets and footpaths in and around the village to individual councillors so they took responsibility for checking on their condition and reporting needed improvements/repairs. He will draw up a delegation plan for discussion at the next meeting.

Open spaces e-mail from Emma Grimma saying she hopes the £31,000 will be released to parish council shortly. She is trying to contact Mr Phillips about a replacement Christmas tree and will inform council when the open space at 25 Station Road has been handed over and can be taken over by this Parish Council. Clerk to write to Hazelmere Homes to ask if this could be completed soon.

Vacancy for Clerk - 3 applications have been received to date. Chair asked if councillors would like to submit questions for the interview panel. He suggested a panel of 4 councillors, 2 male, 2 female. Mr Emery suggested himself as Chair, Mrs Palmby, as Vice-Chair and asked Mr Buckton if he would take part together with Mrs Desborough, who all have recent experience of interview techniques. This was agreed – following the closing date all applications will be discussed by the panel for short-listing and Mr Buckton will put together an interview format.

Rutland Way open space - Mr Emery reported Mr R Sears has spoken with Roddens and an agreement has been reached for the open space to be completed with fencing near Mrs Lawrence's bungalow and tree, hedge planting.

Cemetery Mr Cole spoke about the workmanship of the new fence – it was agreed a better job could have been done with the erection. The contractors have now been paid.

Allotments Mr Barnes gave an update on the two meetings held to date – some 20+ people attended the first meeting and even more the second one. They are forming themselves into an Allotment Association to self govern the allotments. To start in October – when the crop is cleared the land will be ploughed prior to conversion into 25m x 10m plots. Discussion on rent to be charged - £20 per allotment if council administer the agreements and collection – but will be re-visited if association guarantee the payment of rents and council has little administration to do. Confirmation has been received planning permission is needed for change of use from agricultural to small allotments – and also if a shed is erected by tenants.

Concerning livestock it was agreed the council would not permit this on the allotments. Provision of water had been discussed at the meetings – will not be supplied by council – water butts would be a solution for tenants. All structures would not be permanent – no footings would be put in – they would be set on disposable slabs only.

Street Light - the site for the new light was agreed as Westfield Road – between 39d and 41 was suggested as this is a dark area.

Parish Sub-Committee - minutes of the meeting of 7th July were circulated for information. A draft agenda for members was also given.

Mr Buckton had prepared a document showing a structure for the council and management of the pit and playing field. He envisaged a three year strategy for the pit development with the sub-committees reporting back to the council at regular intervals. To have two separate sub-committees one for the pit, one for the playing field.

Mr Emery suggested that the sub-committee only look after the pit development in the interim as the pit is a major project – short discussion – a vote was taken on this suggestion with 8 being in favour of the responsibility for the playing field being done by the parish council in the short-term, Mr Barnes abstained. Mrs Palmby felt more people were needed on the sub-committee to manage the field – to look into bringing more people into assist with the running of the playing field – Mrs Desborough offered to sit on the field sub-committee, as did Mr Jolley, Mr Emery and Mrs Palmby.

To be discussed again at next meeting when it is hoped the field sub-committee can be expanded to take over the running of the playing field.

Manea Pit - all is completed, We have a copy of the Lease and Solicitors have sent the Idemnity Access Schedule. It was agreed to retain a copy but to send the original back to them for retention in our deed box.

Car Park - a draft Declaration of ownership for signature in front of a Notary Public by Mr Emery has been received together with an estimate of the fees involved – these being in the region of £300-£350 Mr Emery said he has spoken with the past Chairman, Mr M Eshelby and he is also willing to sign a Declaration. Proposed by Mr Jolley, seconded by Mrs Desborough we proceed with this action. An undertaking has to be taken to send any deeds subsequently found relating to the car park to the Land Registry.

A plan was included which has to be confirmed – it was agreed the land to the right of the car park, edged red should also be included.

Planning

Manea School – e-mail from Cambs CC Development Control saying the comments council made on the response to the school extension have been taken as an objection to the application – It was agreed to reply the council fully support the application, the comments were never intended to be an objection although the council remains concerned about the parking at the school.

Mr Archer asked if application numbers could be put on the agenda so councillors could look at the application on FDC website before the meetings.

T Skoulding – erection of 3xbed chalet bungalow land SE of Es-Cana, Wisbech Road –

Mr Emery declared his interest in this application and left the room.

To support provided the overlooking window situation has been resolved and there should be a treatment plant rather than septic tank because of recent problems in the village.

Mr & Mrs Harrison – erection of 3 bed chalet bungalow with garage on land N of Fen View Wisbech Road – Mr Emery declared his interest in this application also and left the room.

To support but to add the observation concerning sewerage as before and to ask if the access roadway could be looked at.

A White extension to front and side of 44a High Street – Mr Emery declared his interest in this application also and left the room.

To support the application.

Finance

Receipts

Re-cycling credits	131.04
Concurrent grant	1955.04
Sports area lets	48.00
Surgery – hire for dog show	50.00
Dack & Co – idem fee + interest	<u>561.73</u>
	2745. 81

Payments

B Short toilet repairs	25. 50
Viking ink	77.31
Suffolk Acre pit insurance	48.33
G Fowler cess pit	65.00
Cambs CC school hire	91.00
Archant Herts advert	202.69
M Short half yr playing field	380.00
A Ryman – cleaning	80.98
I Cook, sal,phone,internet	328.10
Cambs CC pension	87.20
Dack & Co legal fees pit	1600.00 - paid out of meeting for completion

Archant Herts 2nd advert _____ 202.69 proposed Mr Emery
3188.80 seconded Mrs Desborough

FDC councillor's report Mr Archer reported there had been a shake-up within Fenland planning department – it is hoped the parish council's views will be considered more in future.
Mr Archer asked if declaration of any interest in items on the agenda could be made at the beginning of each meeting – agreed.

Standing Orders - Mr Archer asked for consideration to a change in the term of office of the Chair/Vice-Chair brought forward from the May meeting. He asked if this could be limited to 2 years which he felt would benefit the progression of the council, and bring the parish into line with the local town council. Mr Emery said he had spoken with several neighbouring council's and they did not follow this procedure. Mr Archer made this a proposal, Mr Jolley seconded this proposal, A vote was taken on the motion – 3 votes for and 4 against – motion lost and standing orders remain as they are at present.

Correspondence

CCC – post office closures papers + notes of the briefing meeting held at Fenland Council offices earlier in July.

COPE information

FDC – housing strategy meeting – 19th September – Mrs Desborough said she would attend.

Environment Agency – letter about road flooding closure notifications

CCC – childcare assessment information

FCVS newsletters

Manea Bus Service – there had been concern that the bus service was being withdrawn – Clerk contacted Cambs CC and they replied saying that rather than being withdrawn the bus service was being improved with more buses being run into and out of March and now a service from Manea to St. Ives – Mr Archer had circulated the timetable around the village.

Set in Stone – memorial for Mrs S R Miller –

Manea Gala letter – Tilley fire engine will be housed with Mr Jolley – this is owned by people of Manea.

They will purchase speakers to put on poles near pavilion and donate to Parish Council so they can come under out insurance cover.

Essex & Suffolk Water – notification of stakeholder meeting on 16th Sept – Mr Archer and Mr Buckton to attend.

Date of half yearly finance review – Wed 13th August

Date of next meeting = Monday 18th August.

Signed Dated

