

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

26 APRIL 2010 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Buckton, Cole, Mrs Desborough, Jolley and Risbridger.

Apologies: Councillors Archer and Mrs Palmby.

In attendance: Four parishioners attended the Assembly.

The minutes of the Annual Assembly of 2009 (held on 20 April) were confirmed and signed.

MA01/09 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Council

The Chairman expressed the opinion that the municipal year 2009/10 had been another successful year for Manea Parish Council and made the following comments in relation to that situation and to plans for the future:

- Due to the bad winter, the village roads are in a poor condition and the Parish Council will need to ensure that the Local Highway Authority addresses the situation as a matter of priority.
- The repairs to the drainage system in East Street are now complete and, hopefully, this road will be resurfaced in the very near future.
- The cemetery is in excellent order, thanks to the efforts of the maintenance contractor.
- The standard of grass cutting to the playing field has left a lot to be desired during the last two years but it is anticipated that this should now improve with a new contractor in place for 2010.
- Work on the front fence at the village plying fields has improved the appearance of the area immensely.
- A new skate park will be introduced this year, thanks a grant of £35,000 being awarded recently for this project and a total sum of £16,000 held within the Parish Council's accounts.
- Plans are in progress for a new pavilion on the field and planning permission will soon be sought.
- Open meetings with the community have been a success, with discussions on the village hall, pavilion and general amenities around the village.
- Work on the pit has been immense: the fishing platforms are almost complete; the walkways and general habitat have also been improved; the fish stock has been increased. The Parish Council has received positive feedback from both the Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency, with offers of help if needed. The Chairman expressed his considerable thanks to all those individuals who had given hours of selfless work. The Sub-Committee is investigating the possibility of seeking grants towards the costs of establishing a community orchard and woodland on land adjoining the pit.
- The open space opposite the school will be adopted by the Parish Council as soon as possible and an electricity supply has already been provided on site.

- A joint meeting of Parish Councils was held at Welney in February; this was very positive. All local councils seem to be experiencing similar problems. Manea Parish Council will host the next joint meeting in the summer.
- Unfortunately, a valued member of the Parish Council has moved on this year due to work commitments. Chris Barnes tendered his resignation in January to work abroad. His input as Sub-Committee Chairman and all round "good egg" will be sorely missed.
- The community of Manea was very successful at the "Pride of Fenland" awards held at Fenland Hall recently. Our "Dinner Ladies", The Allotment Committee, the village of Manea as a whole, two good neighbour awards, and the village's excellent nurse, Belinda Carson, who does a tremendous job wherever she goes, all won awards for their group and section – well done to you all!
- Cambridgeshire ACRE is looking at opportunities to develop an affordable housing scheme in the village; this has the full backing of the Parish Council; it would benefit the village considerably.

The Chairman concluded that, in general, a very successful year with a bright future and a lot of hard work ahead. He expressed his thanks to the Parish Council Clerk, Terry Jordan, and to every member of the Parish Council for their support over the last year and the work that they have put in to making Manea the best place to live in Fenland.

Members noted the Chairman's Annual Report, endorsed his comments and decided that letters of congratulation be sent to those organisations and individuals within the village which had received Pride of Fenland awards recently.

MA02/09 Annual Report from Manea Village Hall Committee

The Clerk read to members the Annual Report of Manea Village Hall Committee.

The report detailed: the decorating and improvement works that had been undertaken at the Village Hall; some of the activities and events for which the hall had been the venue; the Village Hall's financial position as at 31 December 2009.

Members decided that the contents of the report be noted.

MA03/09 Annual Report from Manea Educational Foundation

The Clerk read to members the Annual Report from Manea Educational Foundation, which detailed the manner in which the Foundation operates – i.e. awarding grants twice annually to students in Further and Higher Education – and the individual grants that had been awarded between April 2008 and November 2009.

Members decided that the contents of the report be noted.

MA04/09 Annual Report from County Councillor Harper

The Clerk read to members an Annual Report produced by County Councillor Harper. The report from Councillor Harper informed attendees at the Assembly that:

- The average speed cameras on the Forty Foot Bank, for which Councillor Harper had been campaigning, have been installed, given a certificate of use and will be connected to the electrical supply and tested very soon.
- The County Council is working hard to repair the damage caused to roads by the extreme winter weather. Some 1,200 potholes were repaired throughout the County in April. However there are many more to be repaired. Councillor Harper invited parishioners to report any unidentified potholes to him.

- One of the big issues facing the County Council is delay in the opening of the Guided Busway.
- Under the "Floods and Water Management Act of Parliament 2010" the County Council becomes the 'Leading Flood Authority'; this places new burdens on the County Council's budget. Close working with the District Councils, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the various drainage boards is going on but economic circumstances do indicate the skills and resources required to service this new Act are not immediately available.
- The County Council is not immune from the serious economic situation in the county. A county with the population growth that Cambridgeshire experiences will require some serious financial management to weather the economic situation.

Members decided that the contents of the report be noted.

MA05/09 Issues raised by parishioners

(1) Manea Pit

One parishioner mentioned the inconsiderate parking by fishermen around Manea Pit and the need, in his opinion, for the provision of life aids around the pit.

In response to the first point, the Chairman stated that the concerns regarding this inconsiderate parking are an item on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting which follows the Annual Assembly and gave an assurance that the Parish Council would take into account the comments made by the parishioner when dealing with that item of business.

In response to the second point, Councillor Buckton, in his capacity of Chairman of the Manea Parish (Pit) Sub-Committee, explained that the possible provision of life aids had been considered recently by the Sub-Committee but it had been decided, following a risk assessment and the operational practicalities of such provision, that such action would not be necessary or appropriate.

(2) Charlemont Drive, Manea – drainage/sewerage problems

One parishioner explained the drainage sewerage problems being experienced at Charlemont Drive, Manea.

The parishioner informed attendees that Anglian Water Services is aware of the situation and is working to assist residents overcome the current difficulties. He asked members of the Parish Council whether they thought that the Manea and Welney Internal Drainage Board (IDB) would be prepared to adopt the drainage culvert adjacent to the site.

Members decided that the Parish Council would lend its support to residents of Charlemont Drive in their dealings with Anglian Water and that Councillor Jolley, as a member of the IDB, would raise with the Manea and Welney Internal Drainage Board the possibility of its adoption of the drainage culvert.

Meeting finished at 7.30 pm

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

Date:.....