

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

23 AUGUST 2010 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Cole, Mrs Desborough, Jolley, Lockett, Mrs Palmby and Risbridger.

Apologies: Councillor Buckton.

The minutes of the meeting of 19 July and 5 August 2010 were confirmed and signed.

M45/10 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

(1) Request to purchase land at Bedlam Pit (minute M26/10 (1))

The Clerk reported on the valuation advice received, which indicated both a potential sale price for the land and a possible income by way of lease.

Members decided, having considered the valuation advice, that the land be retained by the Parish Council and that advisory signs, saying "No Entry...by Order of Manea Parish Council" be obtained (by the Chairman) and erected at the site.

(2) Open space at Station Road/Jolley Close, Manea (minute M32/10)

The Clerk reported on the latest position in relation to transfer of ownership of this piece of land to Manea Parish Council by way of gift from Fenland District Council.

The Clerk informed members that

- he had provided the necessary information to the solicitors engaged to act on behalf of the Parish Council in this matter;
- the transfer of this land, by way of gift, had been approved recently by the Planning Committee at Fenland District Council;
- the solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council have confirmed that they are ready to effect the land transfer as soon as the necessary documentation is received from Fenland District Council.

Members decided that the current situation be noted.

(3) Street Lighting (Minute M34/10 (8))

The Clerk reported the response from Fenland District Council on the exact nature of the works required and the costs involved in replacing the lamp bracket.

The response from Fenland District Council detailed the breakdown of the total cost of approximately £885.00 plus VAT.

Members recalled, from discussion at the joint meeting of local councils held on 11 August, that another Parish Council in Fenland had identified a contractor which was able to provide street lighting at a lower cost than that quoted by Fenland District Council (FDC) and members are of the view that the possibility of identifying a lower cost should be examined.

Members decided that the Clerk would seek information from the Clerk to the Parish Council which had identified a less costly means of providing replacement street lighting regarding the contractor that it engages to provide this service and that the Clerk would then seek a comparative quotation for this work from that contractor. If the alternative contractor is unable to offer a lower price, the quotation provided by FDC for replacement of the defective lamp bracket be accepted.

(4) Neighbourhood Engagement Structure in Fenland (Minute M34/10 (9))

The Clerk reported that the arrangements upon which the Parish Council had been consulted at minute M34/10 (9) had been approved, without amendment to the proposals within the consultation document, by the Cabinet at Fenland District Council on 12 August 2010.

Members decided that the information be noted.

(5) Neighbourhood policing issues (minute M36/10)

The Clerk reported that PCSO Marie Barnes was unable to attend the meeting but that she had provided, by e-mail, an update on the issues discussed at minute M36/10.

The Clerk reported, on behalf of PCSO Marie Barnes, that

- the Constabulary had not detected, since the last Parish Council meeting, any breaches of the parking restriction on Westfield Road
- it is not possible for the Police to provide CCTV warning signs due to reductions in budgets but Miss Barnes could purchase some for the Parish Council, at a cost of £10 each
- no incidents of criminal damage have been reported to the Police since the last Parish Council meeting.

Members decided that

- (1) the information from PCSO Marie Barnes be noted;
- (2) not to request the Police to purchase CCTV warning signs for the Parish Council;
- (3) Councillor Lockett would submit a letter to the Fenland Citizen newspaper regarding the recent incidents of vandalism and littering in the village, making the point that the Parish Council intends to operate a zero tolerance approach to such matters;
- (4) PCSO Marie Barnes be requested to investigate what appears to be an abandoned, untaxed car parked opposite the Church.

(6) Golden Age Fair (minute M38/10)

Immediately prior to the meeting of the Parish Council, members had received a presentation from District Councillor Cotterell on the manner in which Golden Age Fairs operate.

Members decided to note the information reported by Councillor Cotterell and that the date of the Golden Age Fair is now 27 October, instead of 20 October 2010.

(7) Manea Parish Plan (minute M41/10)

Members decided that discussion of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

M46/10 Playing Field and play area issues

- (1) Future development of facilities – further to minute M18/10 (1), Councillor Jolley suggested that it would now be appropriate to meet on-site with the architects engaged by the Parish Council, to finalise the details of the planning application for a new pavilion.

Members decided that Councillor Jolley would make the necessary arrangements.

- (2) CCTV – further to minute M28/10 (4), the Clerk reported a letter from the contractor which had installed the new CCTV recording equipment at the multi-sports area, in which the contractor identified other electrical and lighting repair works that the Parish Council may wish to have undertaken.

Members decided that the contractor be invited to submit a quotation for the electrical and lighting repair works identified.

- (3) Skateboard Park – further to minute M17/10 (2), members discussed generally the progress on construction of the skateboard park.

Members expressed some concern regarding the quality of the concrete surfacing and also that the anticipated funding of £10,000 from Fenland District Council had not yet materialised.

Members decided that the final payment to the contractor would not be made until the Parish Council is satisfied that the construction works have been undertaken to the satisfaction of members and that Councillor Archer would discuss the funding situation with the Leader of Fenland District Council.

M47/10 Planning application/appeal

Members considered the following planning application and decided to submit to the Local Planning Authority the comments set out (in italics) below:

Erection of 2 x 3-bed semi-detached and 1 x 2-bed detached houses with associated parking, involving demolition of existing dwelling, at 8 to 10 East Street, Manea – F/YR10/0527/F (applicant: Mr Merrymac Farms).

Object to the application, on the basis that the drainage/sewerage system on East Street is inadequate to accommodate any further development; the Parish Council recommends to the Local Planning Authority that no further development be permitted on East Street until the existing problems associated with the drainage/sewerage system have been resolved.

The Clerk reported the outcome of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of Fenland District Council's refusal of planning permission for the erection of a single-storey dwelling at Orchard Lodge, The Old Dairy Yards, Manea (application F/YR09/0666/F refers). In summary, the Inspector dismissed the appeal on the basis that the development would be contrary to Policy H3 of the Fenland District-wide Local Plan and that there are no material considerations which would justify a departure from that policy.

Members decided that the decision of the Planning Inspectorate be noted.

M48/10 Manea Pit

Members received the minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting of 4 August 2010.

Members considered the recommendation of the Sub-Committee (at minute SC15/10) that a number of life jackets be purchased, in the interests of health and safety, to be worn by any persons who are undertaking works in the immediate vicinity of Manea Pit.

Councillor Emery explained the reason why the additional fish to be purchased would now not be Ide (minute SC 16/10 refers).

In relation to the decision of the Sub-Committee (at minute SC16/10) not to offer concessionary fees for Carp Syndicate membership to disabled anglers, members considered the purchase of a copy of the British Disabled Angling Association Access Guidelines for Fisheries, at a cost of £20.00.

Councillor Emery reported that, further to minute M28/10 (1), "No Swimming/Deep Water" signs had been acquired and subsequently erected within Manea Pit.

Councillor Emery reported also on an offer from the Environment Agency to provide, free-of-charge, 500 fish in October/November 2010 for the ponds at Manea Pit, subject to works being undertaken to link two of the ponds. The estimated cost of these works is £500, which could be found by utilising the sum agreed for the purchase of additional fish (minute M8/10 refers).

Members decided that

- (1) the contents of the Sub-Committee minutes and the updates given by Councillor Emery be noted;
- (2) the Sub-Committee be authorised to purchase two life jackets and to put in place operational arrangements in relation to user access to these when purchased;
- (3) unless the document can be downloaded from the website of the British Disabled Angling Association (BDAA), a copy of the BDAA Access Guidelines for Fisheries be purchased;
- (4) the Wildlife Trust be consulted upon the proposal to undertake works to the ponds and subject to no objections being raised, the works be arranged.

M49/10 Finance

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

Income

J Lawrence	Allotment rent	£180.00
Cambridgeshire County Council	Cutting of highway verges	£791.65
Kent Memorials	Memorial for cremated remains plot - Cundell	£80.00
Kent Memorials	Memorial for cremated remains plot - Allen	£80.00
Manea United FC	Use of playing field	£200.00
Various (via I Fost)	Fishing fees (less printing expenses etc)	£519.80
Carp Syndicate	1 x Junior membership fee	£50.00

A Clingo	Interment of cremated remains of R Cundell and P Allen	£250.00
Total Income		£2,151.45

Expenditure

Clever Curves Ltd	First stage payment for skateboard park	£21,150.00
Clever Curves Ltd	Second stage payment for skateboard park	£20,885.63
Manea Community Car Scheme	Community Car Scheme donation	£25.00
E.on	Electricity for open space	£3.30
E.on	Electricity for sports area	£18.51
Fenland CAB	Outreach service: April to June 2010	£120.00
Richard Yardy 2002 Ltd	DVD Recorder at playing field	£622.75
RPM Desgn and Print	Deep Water signs	£58.75
P Thompson	Repairs to roundabout	£65.00
Manea PCC	Hire of Church Room on 19/07.	£15.00
R Harrison	Works to re-construct car park	£13,218.75
Russell Fowler	Construct roadway at pit	£4,051.40
Cole Properties (Manea)	Materials for pit	£115.15
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£53.21
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £108.40), Broadband, telephone and other expenses	£534.27
Total Expenditure		£60,936.72

Members decided, upon a proposal from Councillor Emery, seconded by Councillor Mrs Palmby, that the income of £2,151.45 be noted and that the payments totalling £60,936.72 be authorised;

M50/10 Correspondence

- (1) Cambridgeshire County Council's winter service – gritting arrangements for 2010/11.

The Clerk reported on the results of the County Council's review of its winter gritting service, which has taken into account the difficult winter conditions during the 2009 and 2010 seasons. The Clerk detailed the gritting activities which were examined as part of the review.

Members noted particularly that the precautionary gritting routes include all A and B roads, links to A&E hospitals, roads adjacent to fen drains and the majority of bus routes.

The deadline for the submission of comments on the County Council's proposals is 10 September 2010.

Members decided that the County Council be informed that the Parish Council supports the approach to winter gritting suggested in the consultation letter but asked the Clerk to draw the County Council's attention to the fact that the bus route which serves Manea has been revised by very recently and to request that the winter gritting arrangements be extended to include this additional length of highway.

(2) Cambridgeshire County Council's Library Service.

The Clerk reported a briefing document prepared by the County Council in relation to its current review of library services, which will need to achieve a reduction in the total level of expenditure on this service of £2,215,000 over the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 (this includes the reductions of £216,000 in the mobile library service considered at minute M34/10 (2)).

The briefing details the aims of the review, which are to:

- seek positive and innovative outcomes which will benefit customers and embody best practice and modernised services
- achieve the required budget savings in a way that minimises the impact upon frontline service delivery
- ensure the long-term sustainability of services which are fit for purpose and meet community needs
- support staff and customers through the change process.

The briefing states that County Councillors are clear that their main aim is to protect library services as much as they can while making the savings required by the Government.

The report detailed the current public consultation process, which commenced on 9 August and concludes on 30 September 2010.

Members decided that that the situation be noted.

(3) Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association newsletter: Summer 2010.

The Clerk reported receipt of the latest newsletter.

Members decided that the document be circulated amongst members of the Parish Council.

(4) Community Grants.

The Clerk reported details of the Fenland District Council Community Grants scheme for 2011/12.

The scheme enables community groups to apply for funding towards the cost of community projects from a total budget of £100,000. The grants will be awarded by the four new Neighbourhood Forums, each of which will be allocated a grant pot of £25,000.

To enable a grant application to be successful, it must support outcomes within the District Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; the Clerk explained to members each of the five themes within the strategy.

The closing date for the submission of applications to Fenland District Council is 8 October 2010.

Members decided that the details of the grants scheme be noted and that they would "spread the word" to community groups within the village.

(5) Improvement works to the playing field and Manea Pit.

The Clerk reported an e-mail from a resident of the village, congratulating the Parish Council on the recent works undertaken to provide additional waste bins at the playing field and an access roadway alongside the pit. The e-mail also paid tribute to the efforts of the Street Pride Group and others in improving areas around the village.

Members decided that the content of the e-mail be noted.

M51/10 Items for Press Release or news stories

Members decided that the matters currently to be the subject of Press Release or news story for public attention are

- the recent incidents of vandalism in the village
- litter on the playing field
- the lack of support from Fenland District Council regarding planning enforcement issues in Manea (minute M52/10 below refers)
- the drainage/sewerage problems in East Street (minute M54/10 below refers).

Members decided further that the manner in which these matters would be drawn to the attention of the local press would be via letters from Councillors Archer and Lockett.

M52/10 Planning enforcement issues

Some members expressed concern at what they felt to be the lack of support from Fenland District Council (FDC) in relation to a number of planning enforcement issues reported to FDC in recent months. A number of the issues relate to caravans being used for residential purposes.

Members decided that Fenland District Council be requested to provide a report on the progress situation in respect of every planning enforcement case recorded in the parish of Manea.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable members to be kept up-to-date on the latest situation)

M53/10 “Building local homes for local people” – Housing Needs Survey

Further to minute M136/09, members enquired of the Clerk whether he had received any information from Cambridgeshire ACRE regarding the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk informed members that he had received no such information from Cambridgeshire ACRE.

Members decided that the Clerk would ascertain from Cambridgeshire ACRE the latest position in this matter and report to the next meeting thereon.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable members to be kept up-to-date on the latest situation)

M54/10 Drainage/sewerage problems in East Street, Manea

Members discussed the drainage and sewerage problems being experienced currently by a number of residents of East Street.

Members acknowledge that the improvement works undertaken by Anglian Water recently have resulted in fewer properties being affected by the currently drainage problems but consider that it is unacceptable that any properties are affected in this way.

Members decided that letters expressing the Parish Council's concerns and members' desire for a solution to this unacceptable situation be sent to Anglian Water and the Member of Parliament.

M55/10 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council has been scheduled for 20 September 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm

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

Date:.....