

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

18 APRIL 2011 – 7.00 pm.

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Lockett.

**In attendance:** 22 parishioners attended the Assembly.

The minutes of the Annual Assembly of 2010 (held on 26 April) were confirmed and signed.

### MA01/10 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Council

The Chairman expressed the opinion that the municipal year 2010/11 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:

- Through the combined efforts of members of the Parish Council, the Manea Street Pride group and the Community Payback Team, the environment and facilities within the village continue to improve.
- The playing field and the cemetery are in excellent condition, thanks to the efforts of the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor. However, the extent of littering at the playing field is disappointing.
- The skateboard park was introduced last year and has proved very popular with young people in the village.
- It is hoped that planning permission for a new pavilion will be granted in the very near future and the process of submitting grant applications, for funding of the project, is underway.
- Improvements at Manea Pit continue. The situation is now very impressive and receives positive comments from the community. The achievements at Manea Pit are a tribute to those who have worked tirelessly to deliver the improvements. The Sub-Committee has obtained (through an application prepared by Mrs Pat Smith) a grant of £7,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the costs of establishing a community orchard and woodland on land adjoining the pit. This project will enhance further the pit area.
- The process of the Parish Council seeking to adopt the area of open space at Jolley Close, with the support of Fenland District Council, continues.
- Manea Parish Council continues to participate in joint meetings of local councils and it hosted one of these meetings last September. Like the previous meetings, this was a very positive and productive experience.
- The garden allotments remain popular.
- Work on the development of a new community-led plan is about to begin, as a result of public support for this project.

- It is pleasing that the village sign is now back in place and thanks are due to Veronica Haldane and Phil Bridgement respectively for re-painting and re-instating the sign; it has been restored to its former glory and stands proudly on the village green.
- Sadly, the long-serving Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Wendy Palmby, resigned her membership of the Parish Council in March 2011. Mrs Palmby was a member of Manea Parish Council for 12 years and held the position of Vice-Chairman for 10 of those years. The Chairman expressed the opinion that Mrs Palmby's participation in Parish Council business would be sorely missed and he gave thanks for her service to both the Parish Council and the people of Manea alike.
- The Parish Council is supporting the campaign to retain a Fire Station in Manea.

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 and hard work over the term of the current council. He wished councillors success in the local elections on 5 May 2011

Members noted the Chairman's Annual Report and endorsed his comments and sentiments.

#### **MA02/10 Annual Report from Manea Village Hall Committee**

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

The report detailed: the main users of the Village Hall; some of the activities and events for which the hall had been the venue; some of the maintenance issues relating to the current building and the ambition to provide a new Village Hall and car park; the Village Hall's financial position as at 31 December 2010.

Members decided that the contents of the report be noted.

*(Councillors Archer, Emery and Jolley declared their respective personal interest in this item, by virtue of membership of Manea Village Hall Committee)*

#### **MA03/10 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 once annually (in June) to students in Further and Higher Education – and the number of individual grants that had been awarded since the last Annual Assembly.

Members decided that the contents of the report be noted.

*(Councillors Archer and Emery declared their respective personal interest in this item, by virtue of membership of Manea Educational Foundation)*

#### **MA04/10 Issues raised by parishioners**

##### **(1) Charlemont Drive, Manea**

A representative of the residents of Charlemont Drive informed members that the adoption of the various elements of the estate is still to be resolved and wondered if the Parish Council would be able to update him on the situation.

The resident also suggested that, because of its “remoteness” from the centre of the village, Charlemont Drive would benefit from directional signage at the entrance to the village and business signage at the entrance to the estate and enquired as to whether this is a matter that could be addressed by the Parish Council.

The resident informed members that those living at Charlemont Drive are very grateful for the support given by the Parish Council to seek to resolve the estate adoption issues.

Members decided that

- (1) the comments of the local resident in relation to the adoption issues be noted and invited him to raise these during the Open Forum element of the Parish Council meeting which follows the Assembly;
- (2) the residents of Charlemont Drive be encouraged to raise the signage issues with the relevant bodies, i.e. the Local Highway Authority and the Local Planning Authority.

**(2) Land west of Hutchinson Close, Manea**

A resident of Teachers Close, Manea made a representation to the Parish Council in relation to its consideration, at minute M106/10, of a possible proposal for the residential development of land to the west of Hutchinson Close, Manea. As part of the representation, she presented a petition (containing 41 signatures) of opposition to the residential development of that site.

Through the representation, the local resident

- (1) suggested that the Parish Council should have informed local residents of this possible residential scheme
- (2) questioned how the infrastructure of the village (including water and sewerage facilities and the road network) would be able to support additional development of this scale
- (3) expressed concerns regarding the disturbance that would be caused to nearby residents during the construction period
- (4) questioned how the local services (such as the school, the doctor’s surgery and the emergency services) would be able to cope with the additional demand likely to be generated by this proposal
- (5) asked a number of questions regarding the detail of the scheme (such as house type and size and the time scale for the development to be undertaken) and why previous proposals to develop this land had not been granted planning permission
- (6) asked the Parish Council not to lose sight of the fact that Manea is a village and to not support development proposals that would have an adverse impact upon its character as a rural village; it should not be allowed to evolve into a small town
- (7) requested the Parish Council not to support a planning application for the residential development of this land on the grounds that it would have a detrimental impact upon the quality of life of nearby residents.

At the conclusion of the representation, the local resident presented the Parish Council with a pack of documents (including a letter, petition and a list of the questions that she asked of the Parish Council during her representation).

Members and the Clerk, as appropriate, responded to points made, issues raised and concerns expressed by the local resident.

Through the responses, it was made clarified/explained that

- the Parish Council had not considered a formal development proposal (at minute M106/10); it had merely responded to an enquiry from a developer on its views in relation to open space/recreation provision and a financial contribution for the improvement of village facilities – as opposed to the provision of a larger area of open space and no financial contribution) - in the event of a planning application being submitted
- as far as the Parish Council is aware, no planning application for the residential development of land west of Hutchinson Close has, to date, been submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). When/if this happens, nearby residents will be consulted by the Local Planning Authority, Fenland District Council, and not by the Parish Council
- any planning application submitted which proposes the residential development of land west of Hutchinson Close would be determined by Fenland District Council, as Local Planning Authority, and not by Manea Parish Council. The Parish Council would, in the same way as local residents, merely be consulted for a view on the application.
- Issues such as the ability of the infrastructure of the village to accommodate such a development and the impact of the proposal upon residential amenity would be matters to which the Local Planning Authority should have regard in determining the application
- any questions as why previous planning applications for the development of this site had not been granted would be best directed to the Local Planning Authority
- in the absence of a planning application, it is not possible for the Parish Council to respond to questions relating to house types, scheme layout etc
- the Parish Council would take into account all material planning considerations (including impact upon nearby residents and the character of the village), when considering, as a consultee, any planning application for the residential development of land west of Hutchinson Close.

In addition, it was suggested to the local resident that at the time of submission of any planning application for the residential development of this site, a copy of the petition (plus individual letters of objection from residents) be sent to the Local Planning Authority.

Members decided that the issues raised by the local resident and the existence of the petition be noted and that the Clerk would acknowledge formally the Parish Council's receipt of the pack of documents to which the resident referred in her representation.

### (3) Parish Council communications

Some parishioners expressed the view that they are not always aware of the activities and projects being undertaken or pursued by the Parish Council; one example given was a lack of knowledge regarding the proposal for a new pavilion.

Councillor Buckton responded to the comments made by informing attendees of the means by which information is made available by Manea Parish Council, including via the Parish Council's website and the arrangements now in place to inform the community of the activities and projects of the Parish Council through the Manea Matters publication.

Councillor Buckton stated that the Parish Council would be happy to hear the ideas of local people as to how information could be made available more widely within the village.

Members decided that the comments made by parishioners be noted and Councillor Buckton's response to those comments be endorsed.

**Meeting finished at 8.00 pm**

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

Date:.....