

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

17 JANUARY 2011 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillors Cole and Lockett.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 December 2010 were confirmed and signed.

M103/10 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

(1) Open space at Station Road/Jolley Close, Manea (minute M91/10 (1))

The Clerk reported that the situation had not changed since that reported at minutes M67/10 (1), M79/10 (1) and 91/10 (1).

Members decided that the current situation be noted.

(2) Manea Parish Plan (minute M91/10 (2))

Members discussed briefly the arrangements for the meeting scheduled for 23 February 2011.

Members decided that Councillor Archer would produce publicity material for circulation around the village and that all members would seek to encourage villagers' attendance at the meeting.

(3) Highway issues (minute M91/10 (3))

The Clerk reported that he had requested the Local Highway Authority (LHA) to re-fill the salt bin as a matter of priority but that he had received an e-mail from the LHA which had been sent to all Parish Councils stating that, to conserve salt stocks during the adverse weather conditions, salt bins would not be re-filled until early in the New Year.

Members mentioned the need for carriageway repair works at various locations within the village, as follows:

- Park Road – various locations
- High Street – in the vicinity of the church
- In the vicinity of Pump Corner and Orchard Close
- Wimblington Road/Station Road junction.

Members decided that

(1) the information regarding the re-filling of salt bins be noted;

(2) the need for carriageway repair works at various locations within the village, as set out above, be brought to the attention of the Local Highway Authority.

(4) Joint meeting of local councils (minute M91/10 (4))

The Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail from the Clerk to Welney Parish Council stating that, because Welney Parish Council wishes to consider, at its next meeting (on 10 January 2011), the responses received from Parish Councils in relation to its suggested changes to the structure and organisation of future joint meetings, it had decided to postpone the next joint meeting of local councils. The Clerk to Welney Parish Council will inform the participating local councils of the outcome of that council's discussion at its meeting on 10 January 2011.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted.

(5) Charlemont Drive, Manea (minute M91/10 (5))

The Clerk reported a response from Fenland District Council in relation to its adoption of the open space at this estate.

Fenland District Council (FDC) states that it is currently trying to ascertain the land ownership of the open space as there is uncertainty as to whether or not the land was vested in the Crown when the developer wound-up the company. As soon as FDC has this information, it will be able to provide a timescale for the land adoption process.

The Clerk reported that he had not, to date, received a response from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding adoption of the footways, carriageways and street lighting.

A resident of Charlemont Drive who was in attendance at the meeting thanked the Parish Council for its support in this matter and made the point that residents of the estate are keen to be part of the village community.

Members decided that the current situation be noted.

M104/10 Denver licence variation and the Abberton Scheme

Further to minute M100/10 (3), members received a presentation from Will Robinson and Sarah Pinkerton of Essex and Suffolk Water on the Denver licence variation and the Abberton Scheme.

Mr Robinson explained how Essex and Suffolk Water meets the demand for water resources within its area and the ways that the company seeks to reduce both consumer demand and water loss. He detailed the proposals for the Abberton reservoir extension and the Denver licence variation.

Mr Robinson informed members of the effects of the licence variation in relation to:

- water flows entering The Wash
- dredging activities at King's Lynn
- Ouse Washes biodiversity.

In addition, members were informed of the conclusions of the Environmental Assessment which had been undertaken in relation to this scheme.

Mr Robinson stated that the Environment Agency will advertise the licence variation in early 2011 and the consultation period is expected to operate between March and September 2011.

Further information is available via the following website link: <http://www.eswater.co.uk/additionalwater.aspx>

Mr Robinson and Ms Pinkerton responded to members' questions.

Members decided that the information presented by Mr Robinson and Ms Pinkerton be noted.

M105/10 4 Acorn Lane, Manea

Further to minute M92/10, two representatives of Castle Care - Lee Jones, Operations Director, and Shelley Whiting, Regional Operations Manager – attended the meeting to discuss incidents associated with behaviour of children residing at 4 Acorn Lane and to give assurances that this property can be operated in a way which does not impact adversely upon the well being of the local community.

Mr Jones informed explained the role that Castle Care, a company which has been in operation for in excess of 25 years, performs across its 43 sites in England and Wales; Castle Care provides residential care for young people who have suffered from poor parenting and have, consequently, made bad choices and are thereby likely to pose a risk to society. Castle Care seeks to divert these young people from negative behaviours into becoming responsible members of society. He stated that Castle Care provides education as well as accommodation for these young people.

Mr Jones explained that the company had decided to open a premises in Manea because the nature of the village provides a stable environment for such young people.

Mr Jones expressed the opinion that it is not acceptable for youngsters' bad behaviour to "spill out" of the building into the community. He added that the young person who was responsible for the incident which took place in November 2010 (minute M/10 refers) has been both subject to the criminal justice system and transferred from 4 Acorn Lane to another Castle Care property elsewhere in England. He stated that Castle Care wishes to be a good neighbour and to integrate within the community.

Members were informed that the operations of Castle Care are overseen by Ofsted and that, when inspected, Acorn Lane achieved the highest inspection rating of Outstanding.

Ms Whiting stated that she would be happy to establish a discussion forum involving residents of the village and representatives of Castle Care and she undertook to arrange a series of bi-monthly meetings. She undertook also to send a letter to residents living in the immediate vicinity of 4 Acorn Lane, providing contact details for the Home Manager.

Some members mentioned a number of anti-social behaviour incidents in the village which were linked to the occupants of 4 Acorn Lane.

Mr Jones and Ms Whiting responded to members' questions and concerns.

Members decided that the information presented by Lee Jones, Operations Director, and Shelley Whiting, Regional Operations Manager at Castle Care, be noted and that the suggestions made by Castle Care in relation to developing a dialogue with local residents, as outlined above, be supported.

(Councillor Emery declared his personal interest in this item of business, by virtue of his wife's employment by Castle Care, and handed over chairmanship of the meeting for this item to the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs Palmby)

M106/10 Land west of Hutchinson Close, Manea

Members considered a request from Poppyfields Investments for members' views in relation to open space/recreation provision and a financial contribution towards the cost of a new pavilion for the village in relation to a proposed residential development scheme (for approximately 45 properties) on land west of Hutchinson Close, Manea. The plans for the development are currently being finalised by the applicant's architect and the developer expects to submit an application for outline planning permission in the very near future.

Members support the developer's approach in terms of open space provision and a financial contribution in relation to this proposal; the financial contribution could be utilised as match funding for a grant under Fenland District Council's Rural Capital Grants Fund.

Members decided that

- (1) Poppyfields Investments be informed that Manea Parish Council supports the suggested approach regarding open space/recreation provision and a financial contribution, at the level indicated by the developer, in relation to a proposed residential development scheme (for approximately 45 properties) on land west of Hutchinson Close, Manea;
- (2) an application be submitted to Fenland District Council, at the appropriate time, for monies from its Rural Capital Grants Fund towards the cost of a new pavilion for the village.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the Parish Council to reach an opinion on the issue at the earliest opportunity)

M107/10 Playing Field and play area issues

- (1) Dogs – Further to minute M95/10 (1), Councillor Buckton reported on the current position in relation to his production of the wording to be used on the advisory signage.

Members decided that the current progress position be noted.

- (2) Moles – Councillor Emery informed members that moles are currently causing damage to the playing field and he sought members' agreement to action to address the situation.

Members decided that Councillor Emery would arrange for mole control measures to be undertaken.

- (3) Dyke alongside the playing field – Councillor Emery suggested that arrangements be made for clearance of the debris from this dyke.

Members decided that quotations be invited from the three local contractors suggested to undertake the necessary dyke clearance works.

- (4) Car Park – Councillor Emery reported that he had arranged for minor remedial works to the surfacing of the car park, as described to members, to be undertaken.

Members decided that the information reported by Councillor Emery be noted.

M108/10 Planning applications

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

- (1) Erection of single-storey extensions to garage and rear of existing dwelling at 88 Charlemont Drive, Manea – F/YR10/0929/F (applicant: Mr J Furnell).

That the application be supported.

- (2) Erection of a two-storey dwelling, involving demolition of existing dwelling, at Rosemary Cottage, New Road, Manea – F/YR10/0933/F (applicants: Mr and Mrs R Tolfree).

That the application be supported.

In addition, members were asked, by the applicant, for their views in relation to a planning application (reference F/02014/10/CM) which has been submitted to the County Council (as the Local Planning Authority for this type of proposal), by Nicholas Farms, for the construction of irrigation reservoirs at Lyons Farm, Wimblington.

Members noted that that the applicant had taken on board comments made by attendees at consultation meetings held in the village and had, consequently, amended the application to change the entrance point to the site.

Members decided that the applicant be informed of their support for the application; members are mindful that, as the application site lies within the parish of Wimblington, it is possible that Manea Parish Council would not be consulted formally on the application by the Local Planning Authority.

M109/10 Manea Pit

The Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail from a resident of Manea regarding the riding of ponies along the footpath at Manea Pit, which is beginning to cause some damage to the surfacing.

Councillor Risbridger read to members a statement in which he expressed his concerns regarding loss of the “bird feeding station” on the land at the eastern end of Manea Pit.

In his statement, Councillor Risbridger proposed that the Parish Council:

- re-plants this area with tall grasses and herbs and that the land be allowed to flourish throughout the summer months to become once again a winter “bird feeding station”;
- plants carefully selected trees in individual small clearings within the tall grasses to allow both trees and grasses to flourish.

Councillor Emery mentioned the recent donations of bird feed from The Pet Shop (at March) and Fengrain, as well as the work carried out by Councillor Cole and his family to help support the bird life at Manea Pit during the adverse weather conditions during December 2010.

The Clerk reported a letter from a resident of the village in relation to a recent incident of fly-tipping, involving the duping of waste oil, at Manea Pit. The resident suggested that the Parish Council should prepare a contingency plan, which would include, among other matters, a published contact number for a person to whom such incidents could be reported by the public.

The Clerk informed members that the Rapid Response Team at Fenland District Council had removed the oil drums, upon his request.

Members decided that

- (1) anyone seen, by members of the Parish Council, riding ponies along the footpath at Manea Pit would be requested, by that member, not to do so again; members are keen to keep to a minimum the number of advisory/warning signs around the Pit area;
- (2) the statement from Councillor Risbridger be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration;
- (3) letters of thanks be sent to The Pet Shop and Fengrain;
- (4) their appreciation of the work carried out by Councillor Cole and his family be placed on record;
- (5) the content of the letter from the local resident be noted; they do not consider it necessary at this time to prepare a contingency plan but a contact telephone number for the reporting of dumping incidents will be included in the notice board at Manea Pit; members may wish to re-visit this decision if further such incidents occur.

M110/10 Finance

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

Income

Fenland District Council	Concurrent functions Grant – second payment	£1,985.00
Total Income		£1,985.00

Expenditure

Anglian Water	Water for cemetery	£67.43
Anglian Water	Water for pavilion	£253.54
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Annual subscription	£35.00
E Mason and Son Ltd	Grounds maintenance: August to November 2010	£3,031.12
Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 09/12/10	£35.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£69.19
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £81.30), Broadband and other expenses	£384.19
M Short	Second half-year Caretaking wages	£390.00
Cambridgeshire County Council	Salt bin	£109.28
Total Expenditure		£4,374.95

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 December 2010 (in the total sum of £43,003.94).

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Mrs Desborough, seconded by Councillor Emery, that the income of £1,985.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £4,374.95 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 December 2010 be noted.

M111/10 Correspondence

(1) Great Poppy Party Weekend.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter, with enclosed brochure, from the Royal British Legion (RBL), in which the RBL is encouraging individuals and groups across the UK to hold Poppy Parties over the weekend 10 to 12 June 2011 in celebration of the British Legion's 90th birthday.

Members decided that the letter be referred to the Royal British Legion Club in Manea.

(2) Local council elections 2011.

The Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Fenland District Council (FDC), enquiring as to whether or not the Parish Council would require the issue of poll cards for contested seats in the May 2011 local elections.

The Clerk informed members that he had requested from FDC details of the estimated cost of poll cards for a Manea Parish Council election and that FDC had responded that such information would be provided when known.

Members decided that it would require poll cards in the event of a contest for seats on Manea Parish Council as part of the local elections on 5 May 2011, the estimated cost of such cards being reported to members, by the Clerk, when provided by FDC.

(3) Victim Support – request for financial assistance.

Further to minute M87/10 (3), the Clerk read to members of a letter of thanks from Victim Support, expressing its gratitude for the financial assistance provided to the organization by Manea Parish Council.

Members decided that the organisation's appreciation of the financial assistance given by the Parish Council be noted.

(4) Chatteris and District Neighbourhood Forum.

The Clerk informed members of the date, time and venue for the next meeting of the Chatteris and District Neighbourhood Forum; i.e. 16 February 2011, commencing at 7.00 pm, at Manea Village Hall.

The Clerk provided members with copies of the publicity poster for the event, for the purpose of "spreading the word" to Manea residents.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and they would seek to ensure that villagers were made aware of the event.

(5) Water main renewal – Station Road, Manea.

The Clerk reported a letter from Anglian Water, informing the Parish Council that the company will be undertaking works along Station Road, from Wisbech Road to the High Street, to lay a new water main and to transfer the service connections. The works, which are being undertaken because of the poor condition of the existing main, are expected to be carried out between January and June 2011.

Anglian Water has given an assurance that it will keep disruption to a minimum and maintain accesses to properties along the affected stretch of road.

Members decided that the information regarding this scheme be noted.

(6) Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust.

The Clerk provided each member with a copy of a consultation document detailing the Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust's proposal to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

The consultation period runs between 5 January and 30 March 2011.

Members decided to receive the document and to consider individually any responses that they may wish to make in response to the consultation exercise.

M112/10 Items for Press Release or news stories

Members considered whether there are currently any matters affecting the parish which would benefit from the issue of a Press Release or the production of a news story.

Further to minute M101/10, Councillor Emery reported on his discussions with the Secretary of Manea Matters regarding the possibility of using that publication as a means of publicising Parish Council matters. He informed members that the Parish Council could be allocated, on a regular basis, the inside back cover of the publication for a fee of £90 for the next three issues; the deadline for receipt of editorial copy for the next edition of Manea Matters is 18 February 2011.

Members decided that

- (1) no matters have arisen since the last Parish Council meeting that would benefit from being the subject of Press Release or news story for public attention;
- (2) the Parish Council would accept the offer of Manea Matters, i.e. purchasing space in the next three editions for the sum of £90.00, and that Councillor Buckton would produce an article for the next edition of the publication.

M113/10 School bus pick-up point in Westfield Road, Manea

Some members expressed concern regarding the fact that the size of the bus pick-up point on Westfield Road is inadequate to accommodate the number of children needing to use that facility to travel to and from the Cromwell Community College at Chatteris. Consequently, these young people "spill" onto the public highway whilst waiting for the school bus.

Members decided that Councillor Geoff Harper, as the County Councillor for Manea, be requested to seek to achieve an increase in the size of the waiting area available.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the situation to be addressed at the earliest opportunity)

M114/10 Social housing – nomination rights

The Chairman reported an application from a resident of Manea, on behalf of her and her partner, for the Parish Council to recommend the couple for tenancy of one of the properties in Manea to which the Parish Council has nomination rights, on the next occasion that the tenancy for one of these properties becomes available.

Members decided that the Parish Council would refer the details of this application to Cambridge Housing Association, the landlord of the properties to which the Parish Council has nomination rights, when next asked to make a nomination for tenancy.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the issue to be considered at the earliest opportunity)

M115/10 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council has been scheduled for 14 February 2011, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Church Room, Park Road, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm

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

Date:.....