

MANEA PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF MEETING

16 APRIL 2012 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Buckton, Cole, Risbridger and Woodard.

Apologies: Councillors Archer, Mrs Berry and Mrs Desborough.

In attendance: 5 parishioners attended the Assembly.

The minutes of the Annual Assembly of 2011 (held on 18 April) were confirmed by attendees and signed by the Chairman of Manea Parish Council.

MA01/11 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman expressed the opinion that the municipal year 2011/12 had been another successful year for Manea Parish Council and he made the following comments in relation to that situation and to plans for the future:

- The environment and facilities within the village are well maintained and continue to improve.
- The playing field is well used by the community and the skateboard park which was introduced in 2010 has proved very popular with young people in the village.
- The Parish Council is working with the community to deliver four days of activities and events in June of this year to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- Planning permission for a new pavilion has been obtained and the process of developing a business plan, to support applications for funding of the project, is underway.
- The Parish Council is currently working towards achieving Quality Status.
- Work on the development of a new community-led plan for Manea is underway and the Parish Council has appointed two representatives to serve upon the group which is steering this initiative. A questionnaire, seeking views on a number of community-related issues, will be delivered to each household within the village in the near future.
- The Parish Council has forged strong links with Manea Youth Club and is providing funding in the 2012/13 financial year for the employment of a Youth Worker. In addition, the Parish Council is keen to see greater use of the Manea Youth Bus and is working with the youth club on ways to encourage its use.
- A local resident has introduced a Community Car Scheme for Manea and the Parish Council has made a financial contribution towards the operating costs of the scheme.
- The Parish Council is forging a partnership with Manea Community Primary School in terms of the school's use of the pit area as an outdoor classroom. With nature walks around the pit and the proposed creation of a pond-dipping area, it is hoped that the pit area will bring both enjoyment and an educational aspect to Manea Pit.

- Improvements at Manea Pit continue and a project to establish a community orchard and woodland on land adjoining the pit is underway.
- The Parish Council is a regular contributor to the Manea Matters publication, as a means of keeping the local community informed of the activities and projects being delivered by the council.
- The process of the Parish Council seeking to adopt the area of open space at Jolley Close, with the support of Fenland District Council, has been completed and an electricity supply has been installed at the site.
- The Parish Council continues to support the campaign to retain a Fire Station in Manea.
- A new Parish Councillor was co-opted recently, Mrs Ursula Berry, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation (due to work commitments) of Jeff Lockett.

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 every member of the Parish Council for their work during the last year and gave his special thanks to the Parish Council Clerk, Terry Jordan, for his hard work, advice and dedication to the role.

Attendees noted the Chairman's Annual Report and Parish Council members endorsed his comments and sentiments.

MA02/11 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service

Attendees received a presentation from a representative of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service on the latest situation regarding the future of Manea Fire Station and the recruitment of Fire Fighters.

It was explained that because of the recent uncertainty regarding the future of Manea Fire Station, the campaign to recruit Fire Fighters for that station had been put "on hold" during the last twelve months.

Although the future of the fire station is still unknown, a campaign for the recruitment of Fire Fighters is now underway. There is currently a difficulty, nationally, in recruiting retained Fire Fighters. The representative explained the selection criteria (which includes a requirement that such persons live and work within 5 minutes travelling distance of the fire station) and sought attendees' suggestions as to other methods – in addition to the local newspapers, leaflets, publicity in Manea Matters and an Open Day arranged for 29 April 2012 (12 noon – 4.00 pm) – which could be used to "spread the word" in Manea regarding the recruitment campaign. The Chairman of the Parish Council suggested that the Fire and Rescue Service may wish to contact Manea Football Club, the Karate Club and the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate.

Attendees noted the situation.

MA03/11 Annual Report from Manea Village Hall Committee

The Clerk reported that, because the Village Hall Committee's AGM does not take place until 25 April 2012, which is after the date of the Annual Assembly, the Annual Report from the Manea Village Hall Committee would be presented to 21 May 2012 meeting of the Parish Council.

Attendees noted the situation.

MA04/11 Annual Report from Manea Educational Foundation Trust

The Clerk read to members the Annual Report from Manea Educational Foundation Trust, which detailed the manner in which the Trust 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.

Attendees noted the situation.

MA05/11 Report on behalf of the Manea Allotment Association

The Clerk read to members the Annual Report from the Manea Allotment Association, which detailed a number of operational factors in relation to the allotments which it rents from the Parish Council, including:

- the fact that the allotments are managed by a committee which comprises seven members of the association
- the current level of occupancy of the 41 plots and the rents levied currently by the association, as well as measures taken by the association to find tenants for vacant plots
- the fact that the majority of tenants have invested quite heavily in their plots, erecting fences and sheds etc
- the association is affiliated to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners for insurance and support purposes
- tenants who fail to cultivate their plots are given the option of cleaning up their plots or vacating them
- the management committee provides advice to tenants regarding security of any tools and equipment stored on site
- one plot has been designated as a communal area, which is currently being used to store stable litter
- the committee intends to hold a social event on the site during the summer. It is hoped that as well as providing an opportunity for tenants to meet and socialise, it would promote a little friendly competition by providing a prize for the best kept plot.

Attendees noted the situation.

MA06/11 Manea Pit and the community orchard/woodland project

The Clerk read to attendees a report prepared by Councillor Archer, the Chairman of the Manea Parish Sub-committee, on the work of the achievements in relation to the Manea Pit and associated community orchard and woodland project.

The report makes the point that the sub-committee has continued to work hard to manage and maintain the facilities at Manea Pit on behalf of the Parish Council and the local community. The sub-committee has met on a monthly basis and regular work parties have carried out all the works necessary to improve and maintain this community asset. Not surprisingly, there have been difficulties in running a site which aims to meet the needs and aspirations of a very diverse cross-section of users and the sub-committee and the Parish Council hope that they are achieving the right balance.

The management and development of Manea Pit are undertaken in accordance with an approved management plan and the strategic plan, which are now being reviewed/updated by the sub-committee and the Parish Council.

The advice of the relevant authorities is always taken into account when undertaking works at the site.

The Parish Council obtained a Temporary Extraction Licence from the Environment Agency to raise the water level in the Pit. Due to the current drought conditions, the water level has dropped to a worrying level, putting the ecology of the site at risk. The Parish Council now has permission to raise the water level by 18 inches, which will protect the site.

A major undertaking carried out this year has been the creation of the community orchard/woodland. In years to come, this orchard area and the wildlife meadows included will be a fantastic addition to the facilities on the site. Councillor Archer expressed his thanks Pat Smith and her team for all their efforts on this project.

In his report, Councillor Archer commented that none of the achievements at Manea Pit would have been possible without the tremendous efforts of all the sub-committee members, past and present, and the volunteers who have given up numerous hours of their spare time. He expressed his thanks to everyone who has been involved for their efforts and support.

There will be another busy year ahead and the Parish Council always looking for more volunteers and sub-committee members to spread the workload. The Parish Council is seeking to attract sub-committee members from a wider cross-section of the community.

Attendees noted the information reported.

MA07/11 Report on behalf of the Manea Action Plan Group

Attendees received a presentation from Dianne Rowe, the Communications Secretary of the Manea Action Plan (MAP) Group, on the latest position regarding the production of a new community-led plan for Manea.

Ms Rowe explained the background to the production of a new community-led plan for the village and informed attendees that this process is being managed by a group of local community representatives. She provided details of how these volunteers were recruited and the actions that have been taken by the group to date in progressing this initiative; the starting point was to examine the action plan within the Village Plan 2002. The MAP Group is being supported by an officer from Cambridgeshire ACRE.

The MAP Group has very recently completed the production of a draft questionnaire, which it will “pilot” amongst families and friends of MAP Group members before producing a final version, for distribution around the village; the document will also be available for completion on-line. The MAP Group has obtained a total of £600 from local business as well as a donation of £250 from the Parish Council to cover the costs of printing the questionnaire.

Attendees noted the information presented.

MA08/11 Issues raised by parishioners

No resolutions for discussion at the Annual Assembly had been submitted by parishioners to the Parish Council Clerk in advance of the meeting and no issues were raised by of the parishioners in attendance at the meeting.

Attendees noted the situation.

Meeting finished at 7.40 pm

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

Date:.....