

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

13 AUGUST 2012 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Berry and Risbridger.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2012 were confirmed and signed.

M46/12 Members' Code of Conduct

Further to minute M33/12, the Clerk both reminded members of the need for them to submit completed Register of Member Interests forms to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council and reported on the process for publication of copies of the documents on the Parish Council's website.

The Parish Council's website host/administrator has stated that publication of the Register of Member Interests forms can be achieved by linking the documents to the respective councillor's contact details on the website and that publication of this information would result in no additional cost to the Parish Council.

Members decided the information reported by the Clerk be noted.

M47/12 Manea Youth Club

Further to minute M42/12 (5), members received a presentation from Mike Knaggs, Lead Youth Worker.

Mr Knaggs informed members that Manea Youth Club is operating very well and that he has been able to develop good relationships with the members of the youth club. Lisa Shepherd has been appointed as the funded level 1 youth worker and has proved to be very popular with attendees at Manea Youth Club.

On 19 May 2012 youth club members visited 'Adrenaline Alley' – a skate park in Corby; this was planned and organised by some of the club members; attendees travelled on the Manea Youth Bus. The trip was a great success, with discussions held during club afterwards highlighting the benefits of being part of a group, paying particular attention to the benefits of having the Youth Bus available to them.

Manea Youth Club is now in the final stages of setting up Manea Youth Committee. So far, five young people have shown a keen interest in being part of the group and are very keen to be involved in the planning and organising of future events for the club, as well as facilitating an opportunity for them to represent their club and young people of Manea.

A further trip to Sandalwood farm is being organised for the end of August. The aim of the trip is predominantly to highlight the benefits of group membership, team work and communication skills. Activities at the farm will be based around these themes, including helping to work on the pods which are currently under construction at the farm.

The Chairman reported that three members of the Parish Council had attended Manea Youth Club on 14 August 2012; it was noticed by those councillors that the majority of attendees were at the younger end of the scale. He mentioned that, as a means of seeking to gain an understanding of the needs of the older young people in the

village, a youth engagement event had been arranged for 23 August (commencing at 2.00 pm). Discussion topics would include the Manea Youth Bus and the Manea Action Plan. Mr Knaggs stated that the Youth Service would be represented at this event.

Members decided that the information reported by Mr Knaggs and the Chairman be noted.

M48/12 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Station Road, Manea (minutes M32/12 (1) and M35/12 (6))

Councillor Jolley provided members with a brief update on this matter. He mentioned that improved fencing had been erected at the site and that both the RSPCA (which would not be taking any direct action regarding the welfare of the animals living at this site) and Fenland District Council are providing support to the Constabulary.

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

(2) Manea Fire Station (minute M32/12 (3))

The Clerk reported that he had sent letters to both the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer, asking that they do not recommend or implement any proposals that would result in the loss of a Fire Station at Manea and informing them of the Parish Council's request that the Fire Authority investigates other options for achieving the minimal financial savings that could be derived from closure of Manea Fire Station; as a result, the Clerk had received responses from both the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer.

The Clerk read to members both of the letters, which are almost identical in terms of their wording.

In summary, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority (CPFA) is saying that in producing its budget for 2012/13 the service has prepared for the worst case scenario; the minimum level of saving would be £4.2 million, which could rise to £6.0 million if changes are made to the way in which the service receives its funding. It will not be until December 2012 that the service will have clarity from the Government as to the final financial settlement for 2012/13.

The CPFA makes the point that if the financial settlement proves not to be favourable, it will inevitably need to make cuts to front-line services; this may include closure of Manea Fire Station.

Councillor Jolley informed members that the indications at this stage are that the financial settlement for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority for 2012/13 will not be good and that, consequently, the CPFA may well find itself in the position of its worst case scenario.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk and Councillor Jolley be noted.

(3) Fenland Rail Development Strategy 2011-2031 and Manea Station (minute M34/12)

Members considered the dates and times offered by the Transport Development Manager at Fenland District Council for a meeting between Manea Parish Council and her, with the aim of discussing the strategy in greater detail and clarifying the opportunities for the Parish Council's involvement in the process.

Members decided that the meeting be held on 4 September 2012, commencing at 7.00 pm.

(4) Neighbourhood Forums in Fenland (minute M35/12 (1))

The Clerk informed members that, subject to agreement by Manea Parish Council, Chatteris Town Council is proposing that the first Chatteris and Manea community-led Neighbourhood Forum be held on 10 October 2012, commencing at 7.00 pm, at The King Edward Centre in Chatteris.

Members decided that Chatteris Town Council's proposal with regard to the first community-led Chatteris and Manea Neighbourhood Forum meeting be agreed and that the Clerks of the two councils would continue to liaise in terms of the arrangements for the event.

(5) Recycling banks in Manea (minute M35/12 (2))

Members stated that none of them had, since the last meeting, identified a suitable alternative location in the village for siting the textile and media banks.

Members decided that this matter be considered further at the next meeting.

(6) Trees in Manea Cemetery (minute M35/12 (3))

The survey document is still being circulated amongst members of the Parish Council.

Members decided that, following conclusion of the document's circulation amongst members, the Parish Council would consider the recommendations within the survey document.

(7) Maintenance issues (minute M43/12)

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received from Fenland District Council that it would undertake the necessary remedial works to the signage at Park Road and Festival Close, Manea and that Cambridgeshire County Council, as the Local Highway Authority, had re-instated the Give Way sign to the correct location.

The Chairman informed members of a meeting which had taken place - involving himself, Councillor Mrs Desborough (in her capacity as the Parish Council's Trees Officer), the Clerk and an officer of the Local Highway Authority (LHA) - at Purls Bridge Road on 7 August 2012, in connection with the Local Highway Authority's proposals to repair, subject to a successful bid for funding, the drought-damaged roads (which includes Purls Bridge Road, Manea) within Cambridgeshire. As the roadside trees appear to be a contributory factor to the poor condition of this road, the Highways Maintenance Team would, provided that the LHA Trees Officer considers it beneficial, like to remove some of the trees in association with any repair works.

Members decided that

(1) the information reported by the Clerk and the Chairman be noted;

(2) they would support the removal of some trees along Purls Bridge Road if necessary to achieve a solution to the poor road condition.

(8) Joint meeting of local councils (minute M44/12 (2))

Members decided that the following matters be forwarded to the Clerk to Littleport Parish Council as agenda items for the next joint meeting of local councils:

- Relationships between local councils and the principal councils

- The implications for local councils of the Localism Act 2011
- Planning policies.

M49/12 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 a three-storey 4-bed dwelling with balcony, involving demolition of existing dwelling, at Rosemary Cottage, New Road, Manea – F/YR12/0520/F (applicants: Mr and Mrs Tolfree).

That the application be supported.

- (2) Erection of 14 dwellings comprising: 2 x three-storey 5/6 bed, 1 x three-storey 5 bed, 5 x two-storey 4 bed and 6 x two-storey 3 bed with associated garages at land north of 55A Station Road, Manea – F/YR12/0555/F (applicant: Mr P Short).

That the application be supported.

(Councillor Jolley declared his pecuniary interest in this application, by virtue of possessing an option to purchase the site, and retired from the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting thereon)

Further to minute M152/11, the Clerk reported the submission of an appeal against Fenland District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for conversion of an existing public house into 2 x two-storey 3-bed dwellings at The Ship Inn, Purls Bridge Drove, Manea (application reference F/YR12/0150/F) and to consider the opportunity to submit a representation to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to this matter and informed members of the process for the Parish Council's submission to the Planning Inspectorate, if it wished to do so, of comments additional to those made previously to the Local Planning Authority.

The Clerk reminded members of the comments made by the Parish Council to the District Council in relation to this application, as set out at minute M152/11.

Members decided that no representation be made to the Planning Inspectorate.

M50/12 Police matters

PCSO Martin Bogunovic, who had recently transferred from the Wisbech and District policing team to the March and Chatteris team, introduced himself to members and made the point that he hoped to be able to attend all meetings of Manea Parish Council and that, where that proved not to be possible, he would produce a written crime update report for presentation at the meeting by the Clerk.

The PCSO informed members that the level of recorded crime in Manea is currently at a very low level; the only incident reported during the last month was the theft of a mobile telephone from the playing field. He mentioned that speeding through Manea had been agreed as a community priority at the most recent Chatteris and Manea Neighbourhood Forum meeting (which had taken place immediately prior to the meeting of the Parish Council) and that this would be addressed in part through the establishment and operation of a Speed Watch group in the village. He also proposes to develop a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Manea.

Members decided that the information reported by PCSO Bogunovic be noted.

M51/12 Reports from District and County Councillors for the parish

Councillor Harper, the County Councillor for the electoral division which includes Manea, was not present at the meeting. On this occasion, he had not produced a report, for reporting by the Clerk, on County Council-related issues.

Councillor Archer, the District Councillor for the Manea ward, reported that

- the District Council's proposed submission to the Boundary Commission had been approved at the July 2012 full Council meeting and the council would be informed by the Boundary Commission on 17 September 2012 if it will adopt the District Council's proposals as the basis for public consultation;
- a consultation exercise in relation to proposed changes to the Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme was launched today by the District Council. The consequence of the proposed change is that, with the exception of those persons of state pensionable age (who would still be entitled to the same level of benefit that they receive currently), recipients of CTB would see the level of benefit reduced by 20% with effect from April 2013. The consultation period concludes on 20 October 2012.

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

M52/12 Public open spaces

- (1) The annual RoSPA inspection report – this is still being circulated among Parish Councillors.

Members decided that the RoSPA report continues to be circulated among Parish Councillors, for their consideration between this meeting and the next, to enable a schedule of agreed works to be produced at the next meeting.

- (2) Skateboard Park - the Chairman reported that although repair works have now been undertaken to the skateboard park, not all of the issues mentioned in the RoSPA report had been addressed. At the Chairman's request, the Clerk had contacted the company which installed the equipment regarding the "outstanding" works. The response received by the Clerk was that the company would undertake free-of-charge any manufacturing defects but not works relating to wear and tear and vandalism.

The Chairman mentioned, further to minute M170/11, that the works to complete installation of the CCTV system at the skateboard park have been completed; consequently, it is necessary to provide CCTV "warning signs" at that location.

In addition, members were made aware of a request from users of the skateboard park for the provision of an additional waste bin in that vicinity.

Members decided that

- (1) the offer of the Chairman to liaise with the manager of the company's maintenance team in respect of undertaking the necessary repair works be supported;
- (2) the Chairman would, following the Clerk's obtaining relevant advice, procure the necessary CCTV "warning" signs;
- (3) the Clerk would contact Fenland District Council (FDC), enquiring as to whether FDC possesses a good second-hand bin that could be donated to the Parish Council, or, if not, asking for a quotation for the cost of FDC providing a new waste bin.

(3) Playing field - the Chairman mentioned that the field is now in need of spraying, to remove the weed growth.

Members decided that the Chairman and Councillor Cole would obtain quotations for the cost of the necessary spraying work.

M53/12 Manea Pit

Councillor Archer, the Chairman of the Manea Pit Management Committee, informed the Parish Council that, due to his unavailability on that date, the meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee scheduled for 25 July 2012 had been cancelled and that the meeting had subsequently been re-scheduled to 15 August 2012.

The opportunity had been taken to use the date of the cancelled management committee to undertake a "walk about" around the pit area, to assist in the production of a new management plan for Manea Pit.

In addition, Councillor Archer reported briefly on the actions of one member of the management committee and the potential difficulties that this had caused for that committee; he informed members that he would arrange for the matter to be discussed at 15 August 2012 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

Members decided that the information reported by Councillors Archer be noted.

M54/12 Financial matters

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

Income

March Funerals	Interment fee	£165.00
Total Income		£165.00

Expenditure

G Fowler	Cesspit emptying at pavilion	£70.00
E.on	Electricity for sports area	£6.41
E.on	Electricity for pavilion	£17.79
E.on	Electricity for village green	£5.39
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£63.94
Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 16/07/12	£7.50
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £78.26), Broadband and other expenses	£383.28
Total Expenditure		£554.31

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 July 2012 (in the total sum of £52,662.92), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months.

Members decided

(1) upon a proposal from Councillor Archer, seconded by Councillor Woodard, that the income of £165.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £554.31 be authorised;

- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 July 2012, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months, be noted.

M55/12 Consultation items

(1) Dog Control Orders for Fenland

Members considered, for the purpose of responding to the consultation exercise, Fenland District Council's proposed new policy approach to dog control issues in the district.

The proposals both update current powers to tackle dog fouling and propose new powers to control loose and nuisance dogs. There are four main proposals about which Fenland District Council is seeking feedback; these are:

1. Update powers to tackle dog fouling (a replacement of current powers with a potential Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 not £50 as is currently the case)
2. Dogs to be put on a lead when directed - to deal with loose and nuisance dog issues as they occur
3. Dogs to be kept on a lead in certain parks - (again where play areas or cemeteries are in use)
4. Dogs excluded from certain parks (mostly small children's play areas and some cemeteries).

Current proposals would make provision for powers 1 and 2 above to be used across the whole of Fenland, where appropriate. Powers 3 and 4 will only be implemented in parks and open spaces as described above.

In addition, the legislation which makes these provisions available may be adopted by Town and Parish Councils for use on their land.

Members decided that the proposals of Fenland District Council (FDC) be supported by Manea Parish Council and that the Parish Council would pursue with FDC the adoption of similar proposals for land owned by the Parish Council.

(2) Fenland Communities Development Plan - Core Strategy DPD (Further Consultation Draft) and Policies Map

Members considered Fenland District Council's emerging Core Strategy document and Policies Map that will form part of the development plan for Fenland; known as the Fenland Communities Development Plan. These documents will establish the overall framework for growth and development in Fenland up to 2031.

The documents include: a vision for what Fenland could be like in 2031; some objectives to explain what is trying to be achieved; a set of draft policies setting out what and how much development should take place.

Fenland District Council makes the point that the comments submitted through the consultation exercise it undertook between July and September 2011 (minute M64/11 refers) have been taken into account in producing this latest draft.

The Clerk reminded members of the content of the Parish Council's response to the previous consultation exercise, as set out at minute M64/11.

The document has also been updated to ensure that it is in line with the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012. One of the most significant changes to the Core Strategy is the

introduction of Strategic Allocations. These are the sites that will deliver the bulk of the growth in Fenland over the next 20 years.

The strategy focuses on the key issues and seeks to guide development, but not stifle it. It gives freedoms and flexibilities as to precisely where, how and when growth will occur; this will give local communities the maximum opportunity to get development exactly as they want it.

This latest consultation exercise concludes at 5.00 pm on 5 September 2012.

Members decided that the following comment be made to Fenland District Council as Manea Parish Council's formal response to the current consultation exercise: "Manea Parish Council supports the retention of Development Area Boundaries in rural communities, to provide a framework to shape the development/expansion of villages".

M56/12 Parish Council and community projects and initiatives

(1) Quality Parish Councils scheme (minute M42/12 (1))

Councillor Buckton informed members that the deadline for the submission of content for the next edition of the Manea Matters publication is later this week and he sought their suggestions as to content for the Parish Council's page in that publication.

Members decided that Councillor Buckton would include the following items in his submission to the next edition of Manea Matters:

- The Parish Council's purchase of Jubilee coins for the pupils at the Manea CP School
- The recent use by the school of the pit area as an outdoor classroom
- The importance of youngsters abiding by the safety rules relating to use of the skateboard park.

(2) Community-led plan for Manea (minute M42/12 (2))

The Chairman reported that the questionnaire has now been circulated around the village and that the deadline for return of completed documents is 8 September 2012. The Manea Action Plan Group is currently in the process of inviting quotations from companies to undertake the evaluation of the data obtained through the survey.

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

(3) New pavilion for Manea (minute 42/12 (4))

Councillor Jolley informed members that Sport England would soon be making funding available for sporting activities and facilities and it is possible that the new pavilion would be eligible for such funding.

Members decided that the information reported by Councillor Jolley be noted and that his offer to investigate this possible funding source be accepted.

(4) Manea Youth Bus (minute M42/12 (5))

Members noted the use of the Manea Youth Bus by the Manea Youth Club (minute M47/12 refers) and expressed the hope that it proves possible for this facility to be retained for the young people of Manea.

Councillor Archer made the point that the “use it or lose it” principle applies to the Youth Bus; Fenland District Council (FDC) is aware that other villages in the district would be keen to have this facility and unless its use by the young people of Manea increases, FDC may assign the project to another village.

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

M57/12 Correspondence

Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association Newsletter: Summer 2012.

The Clerk reported receipt of the latest edition of this newsletter.

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

M58/12 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council has been scheduled for 17 September 2012, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.05 pm

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

Date:.....