

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

21 OCTOBER 2013 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: None.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 September 2013 were confirmed and signed.

M69/13 Open Forum

(1) New pavilion for Manea

The landlord of the Rose and Crown public house at Manea informed the Parish Council of his concerns regarding the possible inclusion of bar facilities within the proposed new pavilion, which would, in his opinion, threaten the financial viability of the Rose and Crown. Closure of this public house would, the landlord suggested, result in a reduction in the employment opportunities within the village and the loss of a community facility (which currently raises funds for the Manea Silver Band, the Manea football team and the Friends of Manea School).

The landlord commented that an average of 26 public houses cease trading each week in the United Kingdom because of the ongoing reductions in the level of trade. He made the point that the Local Member of Parliament is supporting a campaign for the retention of public houses in rural areas. In addition, he suggested that the Parish Council should consider carefully its business plan for the proposed pavilion – it should be very clear on its likely operating costs and likely levels and sources of income - before deciding upon the facilities which could be offered.

Members decided that the comments of the landlord of the Rose and Crown public house be noted and that they be taken into account when discussing this matter (minute M71/13 (2) refers).

(2) Improved rail service for Manea

A resident of Manea expressed both her pleasure regarding Greater Anglia's proposed improvements to the rail service for Manea (minute M60/13 (2) refers) and the hope that this would be supported by appropriate bus services to and from Manea Station. She mentioned the recent withdrawal of a local bus service, which makes it more difficult to travel to Peterborough.

This resident also mentioned her concerns regarding the amounts of litter in certain parts of the village.

Members decided that the comments of the resident be noted.

(3) Charlemont Drive, Manea

One of the residents of Charlemont Drive thanked the Parish Council for the provision and installation of a dog waste bin at the estate (minute M31/13 (1) refers) and asked whether it would be possible to also have a

general waste bin, as people are putting general waste in the dog waste bin. He stated that Charlemont Drive Residents' Association would be happy to meet 50% of the cost of the provision and installation of such a bin.

Further to minute M60/13 (1), the resident suggested that his obtaining quotations for the provision of a notice board at Charlemont Drive be progressed no further until the spring of 2014.

The resident of Charlemont Drive enquired as to the possibility of a sign being provided at the entrance to the estate, saying something along the lines of "SLOW – Children playing"; he made the point that the estate, because it is a workplace homes development, attracts commercial traffic; residents of the estate feel that children living on Charlemont Drive are at greater risk from traffic than on "traditional" housing estates.

In addition, the resident handed the Clerk a letter regarding, in summary, the level of consultation undertaken by the Local Planning Authority in relation to planning applications (particularly application F/YR12/0936/F).

Members decided that

- (1) the comments of the resident be noted;
- (2) the Clerk would ascertain from Fenland District Council (FDC) whether it possesses any suitable second-hand waste bins which could be installed at Charlemont Drive and, if not, he would obtain a quotation from FDC for the cost of provision and installation of a new bin;
- (3) the resident of Charlemont Drive would provide quotations for the manufacture and installation of a notice board at the estate during the spring of 2014;
- (4) the Clerk would respond, as appropriate, to the letter from the resident of Charlemont Drive.

M70/13 Members' Code of Conduct

Further to minute M33/12, the Clerk reminded members of the need to inform the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council of any changes to the content of their Register of Member Interests forms.

Members decided the information reported by the Clerk be noted and acted upon.

M71/13 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Fenland Rail Development Strategy 2011-2031 and Manea Station (minute M60/13 (2))

The Clerk read to members a letter from the Transport Development Manager at Fenland District Council, seeking the Parish Council's comments regarding the provision, by the Hereward Community Rail Partnership, of a notice board in the village; the purpose of such a notice board would be to present information relating to rail services available via Manea Station. Members' views are being sought in relation to the type of information that would be displayed and suggestions as to a suitable location for such a board.

The letter from Transport Development Manager at Fenland District Council was accompanied by a photograph of a notice board which had been provided by a Community Rail Partnership at a station in Norfolk and examples of the type of information which would be appropriate for display on such a board.

The Clerk made reference to a Manea Two Hour Train Service meeting, which had been held in the village on 15 October 2013; he had provided members with copies of the notes of the meeting and an associated action plan in advance of the meeting of the Parish Council. He drew members' attention to one of the actions within

the action plan; this required the Parish Council to appoint a representative to attend meetings relating to the poster competition at Manea School (the theme of the poster competition is "travelling by train from Manea").

The Chairman expressed the opinion that Councillor Archer, because of not attending meetings of the group, Manea Parish Council is not being represented adequately on the Steering Group of the Community Rail Partnership and, consequently, the Parish Council should be represented by a different member of the council. Councillor Archer stated his acceptance of the situation, commenting that his work commitments often make it difficult for him to attend daytime meetings.

Members decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk be noted;
- (2) the Clerk would provide each member of the Parish Council with a copy of the letter and its attachments, for their consideration between this meeting and the next one; a decision in relation to notice board provision and content would then be made at the next meeting;
- (3) Councillor Mrs Berry be appointed as the Parish Council's representative to attend meetings relating to the poster competition at Manea School;
- (4) Councillor Archer be replaced as Manea Parish Council's representative on the Steering Group of the Community Rail Partnership by Councillor Emery; Councillor Mrs Desborough would act as substitute for Councillor Emery.

(2) **New pavilion for Manea (minute M60/13 (4))**

Members discussed further the need for the Parish Council to agree a business plan for the proposed new pavilion, acknowledging that it is necessary to demonstrate within the plan that such a facility would be sustainable financially. Members are aware that if the Parish Council is not able to demonstrate such sustainability, it would be unable to secure grant funding towards the cost of constructing and equipping a new pavilion.

One key element of potential income to be generated by use of the new building would be from bar sales. The Parish Council, therefore, needs to make a decision as to the extent of the bar facilities that would be provided; whether this would be through regular operation of a bar or merely providing a situation whereby occasional use could be operated in association with a particular event.

Members had regard for the comments made by the landlord of the Rose and Crown public house in relation to the detrimental impact that a regular bar at the pavilion could have upon the viability of the public house (minute M69/13 (1) refers).

Members commented that they are keen to minimise the impact that the use of the new pavilion would have upon the viability of existing businesses within the village. At the same time, they are conscious of the benefit of providing a community facility which is sustainable financially.

Councillor Fielding expressed the opinion that it would be possible for the new pavilion to provide the venue for a number of activities not currently taking place in the village and that the income which could be generated would provide the financial viability required by the pavilion; he expressed the view that the facility should not need to rely upon income from bar sales.

Members decided that

(1) the current situation be noted;

(2) Councillor Fielding would prepare a business plan for the proposed new pavilion, which the Parish Council would consider at its next meeting.

(3) Station Road, Manea (minute M60/13 (5))

The Clerk reported that the situation is unchanged from that reported at minute M60/13 (5); he would, however, continue to seek a response from the Local Planning Authority regarding this matter.

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

(4) Traffic calming measure on Station Road, Manea (minute M60/13 (6))

The Clerk reported that the situation is unchanged from that reported at minute M60/13 (6); he would, however, continue to seek a response from the Local Highway Authority regarding this matter.

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

(5) Street lighting on Station Road, Manea (minute M60/13 (7))

The Clerk reported that Councillor Woodard had identified the missing street lamp as FPC9; the Clerk informed members that the Parish Council had decided, in response to an enquiry from Fenland District Council as to whether the Parish Council would meet the cost (of £682.17) of replacing street lamp number FPC9 (minute M20/12 refers), that Fenland District Council (FDC) be authorised to arrange the required works to this street lamp. It appears, however, that FDC has taken no action in this regard. Consequently, the Clerk has reminded FDC of the need to undertake this work.

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

M72/13 Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT)

Further to minute M155/12 (2), members received a presentation from Jo Philpott, Manager of the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT), updating them on the services that FACT offers to the residents of Manea.

Ms Philpott reminded members that FACT is a not-for-profit organisation which offers: a door-to-door service for: people who are unable to access local bus routes due to age or disability; people living in rural locations with limited or no access to local bus routes; people without access to a car. She provided each member with a copy of a leaflet which details the services available to Manea residents.

Ms Philpott requested the Parish Council's assistance in promoting FACT's Dial-a-Ride service which serves Manea, (providing three pick-up times per day for six days of the week). She explained how the service operates – people need to become a member, at an annual membership fee of £10.00, and then they are able to travel free-of-charge on a timetabled route using a Fenland concessionary fares bus pass. She made the point that all of FACT's buses are wheelchair-accessible.

Ms Philpott informed the council that 39 members from Manea use the Dial-a-Ride service on a regular basis and that the age of the users ranges from 51 to 91 years; the main reasons for these members' travel are for medical

appointments and shopping in March. In addition to the daily Dial-a –Ride service, FACT also runs trips monthly to Peterborough and King’s Lynn and weekly to Wisbech.

In response to a question from a member of the Parish Council, Ms Philpott stated that, subject to it being a financially viable proposition, FACT would be happy to provide a service which would link with the improved rail service.

Members decided that

- (1) the information presented by Ms Philpott be noted;
- (2) they would “spread the word” within the village regarding the services offered by FACT to Manea residents;
- (3) a donation of £100 be made to FACT to support the Manea Dial-A-Ride service.

M73/13 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 one single-storey 3-bed log cabin for use as holiday accommodation and erection of 1.2m high post and rail fencing on land north-east of The Woodlands, Days Lode Road, Fodder Fen, Manea – F/YR13/0700/F (applicant: Mr R Fowler).

Object to the application, on the basis that

- *the access road is inadequate to serve the proposed development*
- *if approved, the development would set a precedent for other proposals of a similar nature.*

However, if the Local Planning Authority decides to grant planning permission, it should be subject to a condition restricting use of the cabins for holiday accommodation.

- (2) Erection of a two-storey side and single-storey rear extension to the existing dwelling, involving the demolition of the existing single-storey side and rear extension, at Cromerhurst Villa, Wisbech Road, Manea – F/YR13/0728/F (applicant: Mr and Mrs R A Eagle).

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of 43 dwellings (comprising of 7 x two-storey 4-bed dwellings with attached garages, 14 x two-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached garages, 4 x two-storey 3-bed dwellings with attached garages, 6 x two-storey 3-bed dwellings with detached garages, 2 x single-storey 4-bed dwellings with attached garages, 2 x single-storey 3-bed dwellings with integral garages, 4 x single-storey 3-bed dwellings with detached garages, 4 x single-storey 2-bed dwellings with associated parking) and the formation of allotments, public open space and a new access on land west of Teachers Close, Manea – F/YR12/0791/F (applicant: Mr P Humphrey) = revised proposal: an alternative route for access to the application site by construction traffic.

That the revision to the application be supported.

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

In addition, members noted that planning application F/YR13/0558/F (which proposed the erection of 4 x 3-bed two-storey dwellings with detached single garages on land south-east of Williams Way, Manea), which was considered by the Parish Council at minute M48/13, had been withdrawn by the applicant.

M74/13 Police matters

No member of the March and Chatteris Policing Team was in attendance at this meeting of the Parish Council.

M75/13 Reports from District and County Councillors for the parish

Councillor Connor, the County Councillor for the electoral division which includes Manea, was not present at the meeting. On this occasion, he had not provided any information, for reporting by the Clerk, on County Council-related issues.

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

- that the Connecting Cambridgeshire project is still on schedule; thousands of people have visited the Connecting Cambridgeshire website, to see the timescale for their being able to access Superfast Broadband. Connecting Cambridgeshire is working closely with Cambridgeshire ACRE to ensure that the most rural parts of the County are able to make the most of better broadband connectivity;
- on Operation Pheasant; a recent multi-agency operation, led by the Constabulary and the Gangmasters' Licensing Authority (and also involving other relevant agencies, including Fenland District Council), to tackle the exploitation of migrant workers. The operation involved raids and arrests at eight properties at March, Wisbech and King's Lynn. Some local gangmasters' licences were suspended with immediate effect.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M76/13 Public open spaces

- (1) Allotments – the Clerk reported that, in response to his letter to all of those who the council believes would derive benefit from these repair works (inviting them to make a financial contribution towards the repair costs), he had received one further response; the response was from Mr P Lawrence, who had provided a contribution of £50.00 towards the cost of the repair works to the access roadway.

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

- (2) Playing field – Councillor Woodard mentioned criminal damage which had been caused recently, involving damage to a waste bin at the skateboard park and spraying of graffiti on the equipment itself.

Concern was also expressed regarding the possibility of vandalism being caused to the floodlights at the multi-sports area and it was suggested that the cost of providing protective grilles over the floodlight bulbs be investigated.

Councillor Jolley expressed concern regarding the surface of the football pitch and suggested that the Parish Council should consider, as part of the budget-setting process for 2014/15, undertaking improvement works.

Members decided that

- (1) the Chairman would obtain from the contractor which maintains the electrical installations at the playing field a quotation for the cost of providing protective grilles over the floodlight bulbs;

(2) the Parish Council would consider, as part of the budget-setting process for 2014/15, undertaking improvement works to the surface of the football pitch (at Park Road playing field).

M77/13 Manea Pit

The Clerk informed members that it had been necessary, because of the high number of apologies for absence received, to cancel 26 September 2013 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee and to re-schedule it to 23 October 2013.

Councillor Cole expressed concern regarding the cost of cutting the grass (and clearing the cuttings) at the community orchard/woodland area when it is allowed to grow long before being cut. He commented that members of the public like to see the length of the grass kept shorter; because of these concerns, it had been agreed by the Manea Pit Management Committee (at minute PMC3/13) that the long grass should be cut at that time; he made the point that, because of the work involved when cutting and clearing longer grass, the cost of such works is approximately £500 per occasion; if this cutting were to take place three times a year, the annual cost to the Parish Council would be of the order of £1,500, Councillor Cole, therefore, suggested that the grassed areas should be cut on a regular basis (to keep it short), to both respond to the wishes of the community and to minimise the cost to the council.

Members decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk be noted;
- (2) Councillor Cole would raise his concerns about the approach to grass cutting at the woodland area at the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

M78/13 Financial matters

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

Income

Fenland District Council	Parish Precept – second 50% (including £939.50 Council Tax Support)	£12,500.00
Chatteris Funerals	Plot (double depth) purchase and interment fee	£759.00
B Fletcher	Allotment rent	£200.00
C Barnes	Allotment rent	£25.00
E Barnes	Allotment rent	£200.00
A Howell	Allotment rent	£200.00
C Howell	Allotment rent	£200.00
P Lawrence	Allotment rent (of £200) plus contribution towards cost of repairs to allotments roadway (£50)	£250.00
Total Income		£14,334.00

Expenditure

Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 16 September 2013	£10.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£64.73

T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £126.38), Broadband and other expenses	£589.32
Anglian Water	Water for playing field	£47.37
Manea Connect Committee	Manea Matters – annual editorial space 2014	£80.00
Anglian Water	Water for cemetery	£29.04
E.on	Electricity for pavilion (includes VAT of £2.14)	£44.93
E.on	Electricity for sports area (includes VAT of £0.61)	£12.84
E.on	Electricity for village green (includes VAT of £0.45)	£9.40
Richard Yardy 2002 Ltd	Repairs to token meter at multi-sports area (includes VAT of £24.00)	£144.00
Cambridgeshire County Council	Funding for Manea Youth Club – second quarter 2013/14	£1,110.93
Total Expenditure		£2,142.56

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 30 September 2013 (in the total sum of £46,609.98), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 30 September 2012.

The Clerk reported also on the Parish Council's half-yearly financial position, which showed income of £23,769.16 and expenditure of £26,887.48 to 30 September 2013; he gave explanations as to variances between the estimated income and expenditure for the year and the actual levels of income and expenditure in the financial year to date.

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Emery, seconded by Councillor Mrs Desborough, that the income of £14,334.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £2,142.56 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 30 September 2013, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 30 September 2012, be noted;
- (3) that the Parish Council's half-yearly financial position be noted;
- (4) to place on record their appreciation of the Clerk's effective and efficient management of the Parish Council's financial resources.

M79/13 Correspondence

- (1) Victim Support - request for a financial donation.

The Clerk reported a request from Victim Support for a financial donation towards the cost of providing support to people whose lives have been affected by crime.

Members decided that a donation of £30.00 be made to Victim Support.

(2) Neighbourhood Alert.

The Clerk read to members an e-mail from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner, informing the Parish Council of the launch of Neighbourhood Alert; this is software which will deliver an improved e-Cops system, providing (for those who sign-up) a more effective means of communication between the Constabulary and communities. Anyone wishing to sign-up to the new system can do so by visiting www.ecops.org.uk.

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

(3) Christmas lights.

The Clerk read to members a letter from Manea Gala Committee, which, firstly, seeks confirmation from the Parish Council that it is happy for Christmas lights to be erected at the village green again this year and, secondly, whether the council would make a financial contribution towards the provision of additional lights (to be positioned in the large tree on the village green).

Members decided that they are happy for Christmas lights to be erected this year and that a contribution of £100.00 be made towards the purchase of additional Christmas lights.

M80/13 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council had been scheduled for 18 November 2013, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm

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

Date:.....