

MANEA PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF MEETING

14 APRIL 2014 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Berry and Jolley.

In attendance: 11 parishioners.

The minutes of the Annual Assembly of 2013 (held on 15 April) were confirmed by attendees and signed by the Chairman of Manea Parish Council.

MA01/13 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council expressed the opinion that, despite the difficult economic circumstances and the budget reductions being made by local authorities, the municipal year 2013/14 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:

- It had been necessary for the Parish Council to increase its annual Precept for the second time in five years; the increase for the financial year 2014/15 was £4,000 and the primary reason for the increase was to offset the reduction in the level of Concurrent Functions Grant awarded to the council by Fenland District Council, as well as providing the funding to keep “on top” of the maintenance of community facilities.
- The Parish Council continues to fund in full the cost of the County Council operating a youth club at Manea; in addition, a number of members of the council had made personal contributions (in the total sum of £80) to the cost of the youth club’s Christmas Party.
- The environment and facilities within the village are well maintained and continue to improve; maintenance works had been undertaken last summer to the roadway which serves the allotments site off Park Road
- Parish Councillor Risbridger continues to inform Manea residents of the decisions and ambitions of Manea Parish Council through quarterly updates in the Manea matters publication.
- Part of Day’s Lode Road is to be re-surfaced by the Local Highway Authority, in response to damage caused by the large vehicles operated by the company which is undertaking extraction works in that area.
- the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee commemorative arch, which had been manufactured as a replacement for the ornamental arch which had been removed from Pump Corner many years ago, is now in place
- Fenland District Council had embarked upon a Community Governance Review; this could result in a change to the current Manea parish ward boundary, by including an area which currently falls within the Chatteris Town Council ward boundary and, thereby, increasing the electorate of Manea parish by around 115 with effect from the May 2015 local elections.

- Parishioners had seen improvements to the rail service in recent months and it is anticipated that further improvements to both the service and facilities at Manea Station would be seen in the forthcoming months; the improved service is being well used by villagers.
- The Parish Council continues to seek to identify sources of funding to meet the cost of constructing and equipping a new pavilion for the village. The council had given notice to the tenants of the allotments at Cranmore Lots, to enable that land to be sold; the sale proceeds would be used to provide part of the funding for the new pavilion.
- The work on the development of a new community-led plan for Manea had been completed and the resultant Manea Action Plan is an impressive document. The Chairman expressed his thanks to those members of the community who had been involved in this process, particularly the members of the Manea Action Plan group.

The Chairman of the Parish Council 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.

MA02/13 Report on behalf of Manea Youth Club

The Clerk read to members a report which had been provided by Miss N Clynych, the Lead Youth Worker for the Manea Youth Club.

Miss Clynych states, in her report, that since taking over as Lead Youth Worker for Manea Youth Club she has been building friendships with the various young people who attend. She comments that the weekly average of attendees at Manea Youth Club is 25 young people, all of whom are keen to become involved with activities and sports.

The report from Miss Clynych states that around 15 minutes of each weekly session is spent on a mini topic with the young people, so that County Council Youth Service adheres to one of its core values: Enjoy and Achieve. In recent weeks, attendees had looked at 'Rules and Responsibilities' – mainly within youth club; 'The Future' – creating a list of 10 things that they would love to do in the next 10 years; Mother's Day – being thankful for Mum's; and most recently, thinking about what the club could do over the summer break. Miss Clynych had detailed in report the ideas which had been generated by the young people in that regard.

Miss Clynych comments that it is her desire is for the Manea Youth Club to be one that encourages young people to form beneficial, strong and lasting friendships which will boost their self-esteem; as well as being a club that is willing to get involved and make a difference in the community - embracing all that is within it as well as outside of it, and she believes that the club is on the right track with this.

Miss Clynych expresses her thanks to both the Parish Council, for its belief in and support for the youth club, and the parents of the young people who attend club, for sending their children to the club.

Attendees noted the contents of the report on behalf of Manea Youth Club.

MA03/13 Annual Report from Manea Village Hall Committee

The Clerk read to members the minutes of the AGM of Manea Village Hall Committee, which took place on 10 April 2013.

The minutes included the Annual Reports of both the Chairman and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee. These reports contained details of some of the activities and events which had taken place at Manea Village Hall during the preceding twelve months, as well as income received during the year and the hall's overall financial position at the year end.

Attendees noted contents of the Village Hall's AGM minutes.

MA04/13 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.

MA05/13 Report of the Manea Gala Committee

The Clerk read to members the report of the Manea Gala Committee.

The report detailed the level of membership of the committee and the activities which it had undertaken in the financial year 2013/14, both in relation to the annual gala and the Christmas festivities in the village. The report states that the committee possesses a good level of financial reserves and is busy preparing for the 2014 gala and thinking ahead to 2015, which would see the 60th Manea Gala.

Attendees noted the contents of the report of the Manea Gala Committee.

MA06/13 Annual Report of the Manea Allotment Association

The Clerk read to members the Annual Report of 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 current level of occupancy of the 41 plots
- the fact that a number of the sheds at the allotments had been the subject of break-ins during the autumn and winter of 2013
- details of maintenance works which had been undertaken by the allotment association
- holding the committee's second a "Party on the Plot" social event during the late summer Bank Holiday of 2013; the event had attracted a number of tenants and their friends and families and the committee has plans to make this an annual event
- the main concern of the association is the number of vacant plots, which has implications for both rental income and the appearance of the site; consequently, the association requests Manea Parish Council to consider reducing the rent paid by the Manea Allotment Association until the level of occupancy increases
- the Manea Allotment Association would like Manea Parish Council to consider providing a small but regular supply of materials to enable routine maintenance work to the access road to be undertaken by the association when necessary; the association would also like the council to consider erecting a notice at the pit end of the access road which explains the rights of access over that road.

Attendees noted the Annual Report of the Manea Allotment Association.

MA07/13 Report by the Charlemont Drive, Residents' Association

Mr C Marks, a representative of the Charlemont Drive, Residents' Association, explained to attendees the ongoing difficulties being experienced by the residents of the estate in seeking to ascertain the identity of the company or body which holds the legal title to the areas of "public" land (i.e. open space, footpaths, street lighting and roads), with the aim of being able to secure adoption of these areas by the District Council and the County Council as appropriate. He commented that County Councillor Connor would be attending the AGM of the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association and residents are hopeful that the councillor would be able to provide an update at that meeting on the County Council's position in relation to securing adoption of the areas of land which are designated as "highway".

Mr Marks expressed, on behalf of the residents of Charlemont Drive, gratitude to Manea Parish Council for arranging and meeting the cost of cutting the grass at the areas of open space on the estate.

Attendees noted the comments made on behalf of the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association.

MA08/13 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 7.30 pm

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

Date:.....