

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

17 MARCH 2014 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillors Cole and Jolley.

The minutes of the meeting of 17 February 2014 were confirmed and signed.

M135/13 Open Forum

- (1) Planning application F/YR14/0113/F (Erection of 3 dwellings, comprising 1 x two-storey 4-bed with detached double garage/workshop/store, 1 x two-storey 4-bed with attached garage with store above and 1 x 4-bed with attached double garage and formation of public car park for rail users, on land south of Bungalow, Station Road, Fodder Fen, Manea)

A resident who lives adjacent to the application site informed the Parish Council of her concerns, which she claims are shared by other residents living in the vicinity of the site, regarding this planning application, as follows:

- the application site is within open countryside, lying outside of the Development Area Boundary for Manea
- five previous applications for the residential development of this site had been refused planning permission on the basis of the need to preserve the countryside
- the application site is located too far from the facilities within the village
- there are no footpaths or street lighting in the vicinity of the application site
- access to the application site would be unsafe because of its close proximity to the railway station; the grant of planning permission would, therefore, have an adverse impact upon highway safety
- the residential development of this site could increase the risk of flooding in the immediate area.

Members decided that the concerns of the resident be noted and that they be taken into account by the Parish Council when considering the planning application (minute M138/13 refers).

(2) Manea rail service

Further to minute M110/13 (2), a member of the Manea Rail Adopters group informed the Parish Council that good progress is being made in relation to the development of Manea Station. He commented that the new service is being well used by villagers, particularly by families and students, and that Greater Anglia is offering to make further investment in Manea Station.

The member of the Manea Rail Adopters group made the point that the only difficulty being experienced as a result of the increased activity at Manea Station is the increase in the amount of on-street parking by users of the rail service; this parking of vehicles is causing tension between the residents of the properties in the vicinity of the station and those parking their vehicles in that area; the member of the Manea Rail Adopters group is hopeful that Greater Anglia would soon be able to undertake the necessary works to open-up the proposed car park.

Members decided that the comments of the member of the Manea Rail Adopters group be noted and that the Parish Council would support any efforts to achieve provision, at the earliest opportunity, of the proposed car park at Manea Station.

(3) Bedford View, Manea

A resident of Bedford View raised issues in relation to the unadopted status of various aspects of this estate; she made particular reference to the fact that one area of land is supposed to be a play area but it is currently being used as a dumping ground; she added that she had been trying to ascertain the ownership of the public spaces at the estate.

In response, the Chairman commented that County Councillor Connor is involved in trying to resolve adoption issues in relation to Bedford View and suggested that the resident should make contact with Councillor Connor regarding the situation applying to the whole estate and with the solicitor who had acted for her in the purchase of her property in relation to her personal situation.

Members decided that the comments of the resident be noted and that the Clerk would contact the Local Highway Authority to seek an update with regard to adoption by the County Council of the roads, pavements and street lighting at the Bedford View estate.

M136/13 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.

M137/13 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) New pavilion for Manea (minute M124/13 (2))

The Clerk reported that Councillor Jolley had requested the Parish Council to make a decision as to how the new pavilion would operate, as it would not be possible to produce a business plan for the new pavilion and to subsequently make applications for grant funding in the absence of such a decision.

The Clerk reminded members that it would be necessary to demonstrate within the business plan that a new pavilion would be sustainable financially; Fenland District Council had already commented, when considering the Parish Council's application for a grant towards the cost of constructing a new pavilion at Manea, that no funding would be provided unless it could be seen through the business plan for the pavilion that the facility would be sustainable financially.

It is clear to members that one key element of the income to be generated by use of the new building would be from bar sales. Members are aware that they need to make a decision as to the extent of the bar facilities that would be provided – what days and times would such a facility operate?

The Chairman reminded members of the Parish Council's decision at minute M128/11 (4) that "the business plan for the new pavilion be based upon the one for the similar facility in Wimblington".

Members decided that the Parish Council would now proceed with this matter on the basis of the decision reached at minute M128/11 (4).

(2) Station Road, Manea (minute M124/13 (3))

The Clerk reported to members that he had ascertained from the Planning Compliance Team at Fenland District Council that the situation in relation to the re-development of this site is unchanged from that reported at minute M124/13 (3).

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that he would keep members informed of any further updates that he receives from Fenland District Council in relation to this matter.

(3) Fodder Fen, Manea (minute M124/13 (4))

The Clerk informed members that a meeting with relevant officers of the Local Highway Authority – at which the Parish Council had been represented by Councillors Mrs Desborough, Emery and Risbridger, County Councillor Connor and the Clerk – took place on 28 February 2014.

The outcome of that meeting was that

- the officers of the Local Highway Authority (LHA) would arrange multi-agency (i.e. officers of the LHA, the Constabulary and the NFU) visits to farmers across Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, to not only explain the legal situation applying to them in allowing mud to be deposited on the highway but also to provide information in relation to security, insurance and safe operating practices.
- the officers of the Local Highway Authority would identify all of the sites where maize is being grown across the northern part of the County and then contact the growers to provide them with preferred routes for the transportation of their crop between the locations at which it is being grown and the sites to which it is being conveyed.

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

(4) Memorial to RAF Halifax bomber crew (minute M133/13 (1))

The Chairman reported that he had not been able, to date, to ascertain the exact location of where the bomber came down but he offered to continue to investigate the matter.

The Clerk reported that he had sought from the requester his thoughts as to what form a memorial to the crew of the bomber might take and that the requester had suggested that it could take the form of a plaque placed either somewhere prominent in the village or close to the crash site.

Members feel that it would be more appropriate for a memorial plaque to be installed at a prominent location in the village, rather than at a crash site “in the middle of nowhere”; potential premises for the installation of a memorial are the Village Hall or the Royal British Legion Club.

Members decided that

- (1) the Chairman would continue with investigations to ascertain the exact location of where the bomber came down;
- (2) the Clerk would inform the requester that the Parish Council considers the most appropriate location for the installation of a memorial plaque would be a prominent position in the village.

M138/13 Planning applications

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

- (1) Change of use of existing detached domestic garage to retail (A1) (retrospective) at 23 High Street, Manea – F/YR14/0103/F (applicant: Mr A Fielding).

That the application be supported. However, the Parish Council is aware of other buildings at this site which are being used for commercial purposes, which, as far as the council is aware, do not benefit from planning permission for such use. The council, therefore, requests the Local Planning Authority to investigate the other activities taking place on-site and take appropriate action.

(Councillor Fielding 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)

- (2) Erection of a single-storey 3-bed dwelling with attached garage, involving demolition of existing garage, on land south-east of Nordelph, Wisbech Road, Manea – F/YR14/0108/F (applicant: Mr D Cole).

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of 3 dwellings, comprising 1 x two-storey 4-bed with detached double garage/workshop/store, 1 x two-storey 4-bed with attached garage with store above and 1 x 4-bed with attached double garage and formation of public car park for rail users, on land south of Bungalow, Station Road, Fodder Fen, Manea – F/YR14/0113/F (applicant: Mr R Wales).

(The Clerk read to members a letter from the applicant, which had been sent to the Chairman, in support of this application. In addition, the Clerk reported that Councillor Jolley, in his capacity as a member of Fenland District Council (FDC), had requested the referral of this application the Planning Committee at FDC for determination).

That the application be supported.

- (4) Erection of two-storey and single-storey front extensions to existing dwelling, involving re-roofing of existing single-storey element and removal of chimney, at 18 East Street, Manea – F/YR14/0127/F (applicant: Mr P Rolfe).

That the application be supported.

M139/13 Police matters

Sergeant Martin Monger, of the March and Chatteris Policing Team, attended the meeting to inform members of incidents of crime and disorder which had been reported to the Constabulary since the last meeting of the Parish Council and actions being taken by the Constabulary to address community concerns.

Sergeant Monger reported that the Constabulary would be undertaking visible speed enforcement in the village; this campaign would be mentioned on the Constabulary's "Policing March and Chatteris" Facebook page. He mentioned that six Special Constables had received the training necessary to undertake speed enforcement activity, which would be undertaken mainly during daylight hours. Sergeant Monger expressed his hope that the Constabulary would be able to recruit volunteers from within the village to undertake Speed Watch activity; he requested the support of Manea Parish Council in encouraging villagers to volunteer to participate in this activity.

Sergeant Monger informed members that there had been a small amount of rural crime over recent weeks – nothing relating to Manea particularly – and that the approach of the Constabulary in addressing the situation is to target known offenders. He encouraged members of the community to report all incidents of crime and disorder, making the point that the Constabulary is only able to take action to deal with an offence if it is aware that one had been committed.

Members decided that the information reported by Sergeant Monger be noted.

M140/13 Reports from District and County Councillors for the parish

Neither Councillor Archer, the District Councillor for Manea, nor Councillor Connor, the County Councillor for the electoral division which includes Manea, was present at the meeting. On this occasion, neither councillor had provided any information for the Clerk to report to the Parish Council on their behalf.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M141/13 Public open spaces

Playing field – Councillor Woodard informed members that he had reported to Fenland District Council (FDC) the dumping of asbestos at the car park and that FDC had undertaken to remove the dumped material. He also commented that persons unknown had placed the benches at the skateboard park in a different position and that action needed to be taken to remedy the situation. In addition, Councillor Woodard made the point, further to minute M129/13, that it appeared to him that maintenance work to the skateboard park had been undertaken.

Members decided that the comments of Councillor Woodard be noted and that the Chairman would inspect both the situation regarding the benches at the skateboard park and the condition of the structure itself.

M142/13 Manea Pit

Members received the minutes of the informal (because of its lack of quoracy) meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee of 26 February 2014.

Further to minute IMC10/13, the Clerk read to members an e-mail from Mrs P Smith which provided an update on the current situation relating to the development of a community orchard/woodland, namely that

- the planting of tree saplings had been completed
- pruning of the fruit trees is still to be undertaken
- Mrs Smith would be meeting with the council's grounds maintenance contractor on 18 March 2014 to agree the necessary grass killing and cutting works.

Further to minute IMC15/13, the Clerk informed the Parish Council that, following consultation with members of the committee as to their availability, the next meeting of the Manea Pit management Committee had been arranged for 1 April 2014.

Members decided that both the contents of the minutes of the informal meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee and the information reported by the Clerk be noted.

M143/13 Commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War One

Further to minute M162/12, Councillor Mrs Berry reported that arrangements for the event taking place on 1 August 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War One are going well. She informed members that

the Manea History Group would be making a financial contribution of £100 towards the cost of the event and she asked if the Parish Council would provide a similar contribution

Members decided that the information reported by Mrs Berry be noted and that a donation of £100 be made (payable to Manea History Group) towards the cost of this event.

M144/13 Manea War Memorial – addition of names

The Chairman mentioned that the former Chapel at Manea had contained a memorial which included the names of four men who had been killed in battle but whose names do not appear on the village war memorial. He recommended that the names of those four men – Arnold C Clifton, William G Haylock, Claud Jackson and Edgar T Sharpe – be added to the Manea War Memorial.

Members decided that the recommendation of the Chairman be approved and that the Clerk would arrange for the local stonemason who had been engaged previously to re-paint the existing names on the war memorial to provide a quotation for the cost of adding these four names to the Manea War Memorial.

M145/13 Community Governance Review

Further to minute M109/13, members considered the formulation of a formal response from the Parish Council to the consultation exercise relating to this review; the deadline for receipt by Fenland District Council of responses is 15 April 2014.

Members are of the opinion that the District Council should, through the Community Governance Review, seek to achieve a situation whereby the Parish and District ward boundaries for Manea are co-terminous with effect from the local elections in May 2015.

Members are aware that such co-terminosity would increase the geographical area of Manea parish by taking in part of the existing Birch ward of Chatteris (affecting just over 100 electors). They can see that if no changes were made to parish boundaries, these electors would be Manea voters for the purpose of the District Council elections but Chatteris voters for the Town/Parish Council elections - there would be no logic to such a situation and would certainly cause confusion and inconvenience (needing to vote at two separate locations on the same day) to those electors, as well as affecting their "sense of belonging" to a particular village/town/community.

Members decided that Fenland District Council be informed of the views set out above and that, in conclusion, Manea Parish Council is of the opinion that that the logical approach, in terms of ensuring community governance which is effective and convenient to those residing within the area, would be to align the Manea Parish Council electoral ward boundary with that of the new Manea District ward boundary.

M146/13 Financial matters

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

Income

Richard King Memorials Ltd	Memorial tablet	£100.00
Total Income		£100.00

Expenditure

Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 17 February 2014	£10.00
Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 27 February 2014 for Neighbourhood Forum meeting	£40.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£56.96
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £125.73), Broadband and other expenses	£590.53
HM Revenue and Customs	Clerk's Income Tax (December 2013 and January and February 2014)	£378.66
E.on	Electricity for village green (includes VAT of £0.41)	£8.60
E.on	Electricity for sports area (includes VAT of £0.14)	£2.93
E.on	Electricity for pavilion (includes VAT of £1.49)	£31.37
Haine Tree Services	Emergency tree works (because of wind damage) at Manea playing field	£300.00
Cambridgeshire County Council	Funding for Manea Youth Club – third quarter 2013/14	£1,110.93
Cambridgeshire County Council	Funding for Manea Youth Club – fourth quarter 2013/14	£1,110.93
Richard Yardy 2002 Ltd	Replacement of florescent light fitting and tube at the pavilion (includes VAT of £16.60)	£99.60
Came and Company	Insurance for pavilion (part year)	£106.19
Total Expenditure		£3,846.70

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 28 February 2014 (in the total sum of £47,983.83), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 28 February 2013.

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Fielding, seconded by Councillor Mrs Berry, that the income of £100.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £3,846.70 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 28 February 2014, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 28 February 2013, be noted.

M147/13 Annual Assembly 2014 - agenda items

Members discussed possible agenda items for the Annual Assembly arranged for 14 April 2014.

Members decided that

- (1) the agenda for the 2014 Annual Assembly would contain the following items in addition to the "standard" items which had featured on previous years' agenda:
 - report on behalf of Manea Youth Club

- report from Manea Gala Committee.
- (2) publicity for the event be given via posters in the village, a notice on the Parish Council's website and mention in a local newspaper.

M148/13 Correspondence

- (1) Dog Order Awareness campaign.

The Clerk read to members an e-mail from Fenland District Council, enquiring as to whether there are specific areas locally where dog fouling is of concern to the Parish Council and where a partnership approach that is already attracting attention elsewhere in Fenland may assist in changing the behaviour of local dog owners.

In the e-mail, the point is made that dog fouling is recognised as being a priority issue for many Fenland communities and that, consequently, Fenland District Council has been working with local Street Pride and In Bloom volunteers to identify community priority areas and to incorporate these into a high profile awareness campaign. To highlight the impact that the minority of irresponsible dog owners have upon local amenity, volunteers have been out in the larger of Fenland's open spaces spraying dog fouling with brightly coloured biodegradable paint. This is to raise awareness of the problem and for users of the open spaces to see clearly the effect that dog fouling has on the enjoyment of those open spaces.

Fenland District Council (FDC) states that it has been approached by residents who have seen what is happening in FDC's open spaces and would like that council to hold similar events in their communities. Therefore, FDC is asking Parish Councils the following questions:

1. is the Parish Council interested in being involved in this or future campaigns?
2. is there an area locally which the Parish Council feels would benefit from this type of partnership approach?
3. which local volunteer groups should be involved along with the Parish Council in any local campaign?
4. are there any Dog Control Order-related issues in their area with which they would like assistance?

Members decided that the response to the questions asked by Fenland District Council be

1. the parish council is interested in being involved in any campaigns to seek to tackle dog fouling problems.
2. the areas in Manea which the parish council feels would benefit from a partnership approach to tackling the problems of dog fouling are Westfield Road, the playing field on Park Road and the area around Manea Pit (also on Park Road).
3. the local volunteer group which should be involved along with the parish council in any local campaign is the Manea Street Pride Group.
4. there are no Dog Control-related issues in Manea with which the Parish Council would like assistance.

- (2) Magpas – request for financial assistance.

The Clerk reported a request from Magpas for financial assistance towards the cost of providing emergency medical care at the scenes of accidents within Cambridgeshire.

The letter of request gave details of the number of accidents that it had attended over the previous twelve months period and examples of some of the costs it incurs in operating the service it provides.

Members decided that a donation of £50.00 be made to Magpas.

M149/13 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 14 April 2014, following the Annual Parish Assembly (which commences at 7.00 pm), at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm

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

Date:.....