

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

21 JULY 2014 – 7.15 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor Cole.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

M29/14 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.

M30/14 Open Forum

Verges and hedges

A resident of Manea expressed his concerns regarding damage being caused to the highway verge at the junction of Station Road with Wimblington Road by the use of vehicles by the owner of adjacent land and the existence of brambles and other overgrown vegetation along the footpath from Providence Place to the play area at Williams Way.

Members decided that the comments made by the resident be noted and that the Clerk would draw these concerns to the attention of the Local Highway Authority, with a request that appropriate action be taken to remedy the situation.

M31/14 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) Charlemont Drive, Manea (minute M17/14 (1))

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the Street Naming Team at Fenland District Council that the new development off Williams Way is to be named Cox Way and that he had informed the representative of the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association of that fact.

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

(2) New pavilion for Manea (minute M18/14 (1))

The Clerk reported that he had both updated the business plan for this project to include the revised annual profit and loss account and completed the latest version of the application form for funding under Fenland District Council's Rural Capital Grants scheme. Subsequent to the last meeting of the Parish Council, Councillor Jolley had provided the Clerk with three written quotations for the construction of the proposed pavilion.

The Clerk informed members that, subject to inclusion of a signature from the Chairman of Manea Parish Council, the grant application and the various pieces of supporting evidence are ready for submission to Fenland District Council.

Members decided that the current situation be noted and that the application from Manea Parish Council for funding under Fenland District Council's Rural Capital Grants scheme be now submitted to that council.

(3) Memorial to RAF Halifax bomber crew (minute M18/14 (2))

The Chairman reported that the concrete slab upon which the brick plinth would be constructed is in place and that the construction works would take place before the next meeting of this council.

Councillor Woodard informed members that he is awaiting the receipt of a disc containing the regimental coat of arms of the bomber crew and that the inclusion of that detail on the plaque would increase its cost by around £30.00; he anticipates that the plaque would be in his possession within the next couple of weeks.

Members decided that the information reported by the Chairman and Councillor Woodard be noted and that

M32/14 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) Erection of a three-storey 7-bed dwelling (incorporating 2-bed annexe) with attached double garage – amendment to planning permission F/YR12/0555/F in relation to plot 7 only on land north of 55A Station Road, Manea – F/YR14/0482/F (applicant: Mr D Addison).

That 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).

- (2) Insertion of two dormer windows to rear elevation roof slope of existing dwelling at Kincora, 56 High Street, Manea – F/YR14/0511/F (applicant: Miss E Dutta-Gupta).

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of 4 x single-storey dwellings comprising 2 x 3-bed with detached garages, 2 x 4-bed with integral garages, involving demolition of existing outbuildings, on land south of 21 and 27 School Lane, Manea – F/YR14/0542/F (applicant: Mr M Yadegar).

That the application be supported, subject to the visibility splays onto School Lane complying with the required standards.

M33/14 Police matters

Although no representative of the March and Chatteris Policing Team was present at the meeting, PCSO Sam Dyer had provided a report detailing recent incidents of crime and disorder which had been reported to the Constabulary since the last meeting of the Parish Council, as follows:

- one incident of a vehicle being damaged by a brick thrown from a passing vehicle; the offender has been identified and the Constabulary is dealing with the matter
- one report of an attempted (but unsuccessful) forced entry to a residential property.

PCSO Dyer, in his report, makes the comment that there were no reports to the Constabulary in relation to this year's Manea Gala.

The Clerk informed members that he had informed Police Sergeant Monger of the council's concerns regarding the lack of both Constabulary attendance at meetings of Manea Parish Council and presence within the village.

In response to the e-mail from the Clerk, Sergeant Monger comments that the Constabulary should send a report to the meetings of Manea Parish Council to allow the council and the community to have an insight into police matters. He states that he had shared the e-mail from the Clerk with his colleagues, so they are aware of the council's disappointment. Inspector Monger makes the point that the local officers would attend meetings of Manea Parish Council as and when possible but they also welcome contact from members of the council when incidents occur, rather than wait to raise them with a Police officer at a council meeting; this would allow a prompt response to any emerging issues. Inspector Monger gives a commitment that the Constabulary would be contacting the council if there were pressing issues.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk, on behalf of PCSO Dyer and Inspector Monger, be noted.

M34/14 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 reporting by the Clerk, on County Council or District Council issues.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M35/13 Local Highway Improvements 2015/16

The Clerk reported that the County Council is inviting proposals from local communities which wish to submit a bid for funding from that council's 2015/16 Local Highway Improvement (LHI) scheme. Any community group, which includes local councils, is eligible to submit a bid.

Under the LHI scheme, applicants are able seek up to £10,000 from the County Council as a contribution to their scheme. The applicant is expected to provide a contribution towards each project of at least 10% of the scheme cost. Bids are restricted to one per applicant.

Projects could involve any highway measure or improvement that is considered to offer benefit to the local community; applicants are required to state within their applications how they feel that the proposal would provide that community benefit.

The Clerk informed members of the application process relating to this scheme and of the method of application evaluation/prioritisation that the County Council will operate.

Long-term maintenance of schemes would normally be the responsibility of the County Council, provided that the scheme is constructed to normal County Council standards.

The deadline for submission of applications is 12 September 2014.

Members decided that an application be submitted for a scheme to address the problems of motorists exceeding the current 30 mph speed limit on Station Road, Manea; the Parish Council feels that the provision of a build-out into Station Road, at a point considered appropriate the Local Highway Authority, between the existing speed activated warning sign and number 48 G would be a suitable measure, which would supplement the build-out works on Station Road (in the vicinity of the Primary School) approved as the LHI scheme for 2012/13 (minute M91/12 (5) refers).

M36/14 Street Trading Consent Policy

Members considered a draft version a Street Trading Consent Policy, which has been prepared by Fenland District Council with the aim of addressing problems with issues such as the sale of vehicles from the side of the road to food retailing from a van parked on a much loved monument with a noisy generator leaking oil. The regulatory partners have found it difficult to address those problems to the satisfaction of the community through the use of existing enforcement options available.

The view of Fenland District Council is that there is a need for a common set of rules to apply to street trading and the draft policy for street trading describes what is expected in terms of responsible management, the disposal of waste, not obstructing the highway etc. In this way, a street trading policy does no more than ensure that traders operate within the same general constraints that apply to other businesses, requiring that they comply with the law of the land and meet the same minimum standards that any responsible business should observe. The policy aims to give clarity and transparency to traders in explaining how the rules would be applied.

As part its consultation process, Fenland District Council (FDC) has decided that Town and Parish Councils in the district be consulted on which streets they feel should be designated within their town and parish as part of the Street Trading Policy before FDC makes a decision on 'Designated Streets' for the policy document, prior to the formal twelve weeks public consultation period.

Town and Parish Councils are being asked by Fenland District Council if they consider there to be roads/streets in their parish areas that would add value to the policy and to submit those details to FDC by 5 September 2014.

Members decided to inform Fenland District Council that Manea Parish Council notes the content of the draft policy, understands the rationale behind the production of the policy and that it does not consider there to be any roads or streets within the parish which should be Designated Streets under the Street Trading Consent Policy.

M37/14 Street naming: site of former International House, Station Road, Manea

Members considered the consultation from Fenland District Council on the suggested name of Delilah Close for a new development off Station Road, Manea.

Members commented that could see no logic for the name proposed; they consider that, given the site's location, a name with an association with the railway, such as "The Sidings", would be more appropriate.

Members decided that their views in relation to the proposed naming of this new development, as set out above, be forwarded to the Street Naming Team at Fenland District Council.

M38/14 Public open spaces

- (1) Playing field – further to minute M156/13, the Clerk reported that second basin had now been fitted at the public toilets and that the installer of the basin had requested the council to consider providing a directional sign to the toilets from Park Road; he has stated that he would be happy to affix such a sign in an appropriate location.

Further to minute M13/14 (2), Councillor Woodard commented that although Manea Gala Committee' had undertaken door widening works to one of the toilets at the pavilion, it is not possible for a wheelchair user to access that toilet because of the insufficient width of the internal doors at the pavilion.

The Chairman mentioned that an electrical cover plate at the sports area needs replacing

Councillor Jolley reported that he had obtained quotations for re-surfacing the sports area and he informed members of the likely cost of undertaking such work based upon those quotations.

Members decided that

- (1) the Chairman would arrange the purchase of directional Toilet signs;
 - (2) the comments of Councillor Woodard regarding the difficulties in accessing the disabled toilet at the pavilion be noted;
 - (3) the Chairman would arrange for the council's electrical contractor to replace the electrical cover plate at the sports area;
 - (4) the information provided by Councillor Jolley in relation to the likely cost of re-surfacing the sports area be noted.
- (2) Cemetery – further to minute M26/14, with regard to the repairs required to one of the memorials within the cemetery (which appears to have suffered damage as a result of subsidence at that point in the cemetery), the Chairman reported that he had identified a relative of the deceased and obtained that person's consent for the Parish Council to undertake improvement (not full repair) works to the memorial; the Chairman had subsequently undertaken those works.

It was mentioned that some members of the public have expressed the view that there is a need for more watering cans or other suitable containers (for the purpose of carrying water to graves) at the cemetery.

Members decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Chairman be noted;
- (2) the Chairman and Councillors Fielding and Woodard would jointly arrange the purchase of watering cans or other suitable containers for use at the cemetery.
- (3) Manea village sign – Councillor Woodard mentioned that the village sign had been re-painted recently by a villager, as identified to the council.

Members decided that the Parish Council would place on record its appreciation of the work of the particular villager in re-painting the Manea village sign.

M39/14 Manea Pit

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee held on 1 July 2014.

Following their inspection of the pit area, which took place immediately prior to this meeting, members considered whether there are any issues which require either addressing by the Parish Council or reference to the Manea Pit Management Committee. It was concluded that the pit and surrounding area is being well maintained but improvement works are required to the picnic area, which has been the subject of some vandalism and misuse.

Members also feel that steps should be cut into the earth in a couple of locations to provide easier access to adjacent fishing platforms.

As part of the inspection, members had examined the matters raised by the Manea Pit Management Committee at minutes PMC11/14, PMC14/14 and PMC15/14.

Members decided that

- (1) the contents of the Manea Pit Management Committee minutes and the results of the Parish Council's inspection of the pit area be noted;
- (2) the Manea Pit Management Committee be informed, at its next meeting, of the outcome of the Parish Council's inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings;
- (3) the possibility of the Community Payback Team undertaking painting works to the picnic benches and the laying of bark chippings at the picnic areas be investigated

M40/14 Overgrown hedges and trees in Manea

Councillor Mrs Berry expressed her concern regarding the overgrown nature of hedges along Station Road and the entrance to Festival Close, Wisbech Road. As a result of Councillor Mrs Berry's comments, another member mentioned a similar situation on the footway which links Annabelle Avenue with School Lane.

Members decided that the Clerk would draw this matter to the attention of the Local Highway Authority, with a request that appropriate action be taken to remedy the situation.

M41/14 Cranmore Lots allotments site

Further to minute M60/13 (3), members considered arrangements for the marketing of this land, which will become available for disposal in October of this year.

Members decided that the firm of estate agents now selected be engaged by the Parish Council to market the Cranmore Lots allotments site.

M42/14 Condition of footpaths in Manea

Councillor Woodard expressed his concern regarding the condition of a number of the footpaths in Manea; in particular: High Street, Park Road, School Lane, Station Road, Westfield Road and Wisbech Road.

Members decided that the Clerk would draw this matter to the attention of the Local Highway Authority, with a request that the condition of these footpaths be examined and any necessary maintenance works undertaken.

M43/14 Financial matters

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

Income

Manea United FC	Hire of playing field (3 matches)	£120.00
Fenland District Council	Concurrent Functions Grant – first half	£1,307.00
Fenland District Council	Recycling credits	£6.00

Various (via I Fost)	Sales of fishing tickets	£113.50
Carp Syndicate	Sale of guest tickets	£20.00
Kent Memorials	Memorial tablet	£100.00
Kent Memorials	Cemetery memorial	£154.00
Fenland District Council	Recycling credits	£7.96
Total Income		£1,828.46

Expenditure

Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 16 June 2014	£10.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£62.35
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £127.19), Broadband and other expenses	£597.88
E.on	Electricity for village green (includes VAT of £0.46)	£9.72
E.on	Electricity for sports area (includes VAT of £0.60)	£12.58
M Short	First half-year Caretaking wages	£425.00
Anglian Water	Water for cemetery	£14.55
D & J Transport Ltd	Gravel for pit maintenance works (includes VAT of £150.00)	£900.00
Ridgeons	Hand basin and fixings etc for public toilet (includes VAT of £11.12)	£66.71
K P Banks	2 x 1.8 metre picnic benches	£500.00
G Fowler	Cesspit emptying at playing field	£75.00
Fenland Leisure Products	1 cradle swing seat (includes VAT of £13.00)	£78.00
B Short	Repairs to public toilet	£20.00
Ridgeons	Stone chippings etc for works to cemetery memorial (includes VAT of £6.47)	£38.83
Total Expenditure		£2,810.62

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 30 June 2014 (in the total sum of £65,247.06), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 30 June 2013.

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Fielding, seconded by Councillor Mrs Berry, that the income of £1,828.46 be noted and that the payments totalling £2,810.62 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 30 June 2014, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 30 June 2013, be noted.

M44/14 Correspondence

(1) Manea rail service

The Clerk read to members an e-mail from a resident of the village, requesting the Parish Council's support his desire for further improvements to the rail service in Manea to enable easier (and more cost-effective) access to London.

Members decided that the resident's comments be noted and that they be forwarded to the Transport Development Manager at Fenland District Council, for reference to the Community Rail Partnership for consideration.

(2) Community Governance Review

Further to minute M21/14, the Clerk read to members a letter which had been submitted to Fenland District Council (FDC) by a resident of Langwood Fen Drove, setting out his objection to FDC's proposals for the Chatteris/Manea electoral boundary under the Community Governance Review. In his letter to FDC, he raises his strong objection to the proposed change in the electoral boundaries, which would result in the new How Fen ward becoming part of Manea parish. The resident makes the point that he considers himself to be part of the Chatteris community and has very little interest in the activities within the village of Manea or the work of the Parish Council. He, therefore, wishes to remain eligible to vote in Chatteris Town Council elections.

The resident of Langwood Fen Drove comments that, as for the "anomaly" of voting for District Councillors in Manea and Town Councillors in Chatteris, he sees no conflict at all, being capable of distinguishing between the roles of Town and District Councillors and their respective responsibilities. He states that if the District Council's proposals are confirmed and he, consequently become as Manea Parish Council voter, he sees little reason to participate in Parish Council elections.

Members decided that the comments made in the letter from the resident of Langwood Fen Drove be noted.

M45/14 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council had been scheduled for 18 August 2014, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.45 pm

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

Date:.....