

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

15 JUNE 2015 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor Cole.

In attendance: District Councillors Buckton and Sutton.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 May 2015 were confirmed and signed.

M19/15 Open Forum

(1) Manea Pit

A parishioner informed the council that he had been following a discussion of Facebook regarding concerns from some members of the local community in relation to what they see as unnecessary controls and a lack of clarity over permitted use of the pit area. He expressed the opinion that Manea Parish Council had not conveyed clear and reasoned messages to the public with regard to the community's permitted use of the pit area.

The parishioner mentioned that he had submitted a petition to the council, seeking to address this situation but had been informed by the Clerk that the documentation submitted does not constitute, for various reasons, a valid petition.

The Chairman responded to the comments made by the parishioner; he made the point that various members of the community had invested a considerable amount of time in enhancing and developing the pit area over the last seven or so years, resulting in the village having a valuable and unique asset. The Parish Council is in no doubt that this asset is for the enjoyment of the whole community and, through the rules that it puts in place it is aiming to ensure that no individuals or groups use the area in such a way as to cause damage to the area or have an adverse effect upon the enjoyment of others' use.

The Chairman referred to the issue which had been considered at the most recent meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee regarding persons not keeping their dogs under control within the pit area and that, as a result, the committee had decided that signs requiring such behaviour be purchased and installed; there had been no suggestion that dogs must be kept on leads (minute PMC7/15 refers). He referred to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which requires all birds to be protected; this is another reason why dogs need to be kept under control within the pit area.

The Chairman made the point that any resident who wishes to raise issues in relation to the operation, management and development of the pit area is able to address the Manea Pit Management Committee by utilising the Open Forum element at the beginning of each of its meetings.

(NOTE: The Clerk had circulated to members in advance of the meeting copies of the documentation submitted by the "petitioner", together with an explanation of why the documents do not constitute a petition).

(2) Various issues regarding the village

A parishioner made comments regarding a number of matters relating to the village. Firstly, he commented that he had not originally been in favour of the Parish Council acquiring Manea Pit; however, he now has a different opinion; he considers that, as a result of the work undertaken by the Parish Council and local volunteers, funded by the income from the fishing activities at the pit, the pit area is a valuable asset for the community. The resident supports the stance being taken by the Manea Pit Management Committee that dogs should be kept under control by their owners within the pit area.

The resident expressed the opinion that the posting of comments by members of the public on the Manea Facebook page is resulting in divisions within the village community. He made reference to the possibility of a Speed Watch group being formed within Manea and urged the Parish Council not to provide funding for the purchase of the necessary equipment, as it would, in his opinion, be a waste of money.

The resident expressed the view that the Parish Council needs to arrange the undertaking of maintenance works to the skateboard park.

Members decided the comments of the resident be noted.

M20/15 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.

M21/15 Charlemont Drive, Manea – open spaces areas

Members received a presentation from a resident of the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association on a proposal to achieve adoption of the open space areas at Charlemont Drive.

The representative informed the council that the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association is still trying to "get to the bottom" of the adoption issues. He commented that the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association is grateful that Manea Parish Council continues to undertake the cutting of the grass at the open space areas. He suggested that, as there appears to be little likelihood of these areas being adopted by Fenland District Council, it might be appropriate for Manea Parish Council to adopt the areas as an asset to the village.

The representative commented that the Residents' Association would be willing to make a contribution towards any legal costs which would fall upon Manea Parish Council in pursuing the adoption process.

Members decided that

- (1) the comments of the representative of the Charlemont Drive Residents' Association be noted;
- (2) the offer of District Councillors Buckton and Sutton to investigate the process which would need to be followed if the Parish Council were minded to seek to adopt the open space areas at Charlemont Drive;
- (3) this matter be considered further at the next meeting of Manea Parish Council.

M22/15 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) New pavilion for Manea (minute M7/15 (2))

The Clerk informed members that the situation is unchanged from that reported at minute M7/15 (2).

The Clerk reminded members that, now that planning permission has been granted and a significant amount of the necessary funding had been secured, the council needs to put its efforts into identifying sources of grant funding and then submitting applications to acquire the balance of funding needed to be able to deliver this project.

Members decided that the position be noted.

(2) Cranmore Lots allotments site (minute M7/15 (3))

The Clerk informed members that the situation in terms of the legal process relating to the sale of the Cranmore Lots allotments site is unchanged from that reported at minute M7/15 (3); the legal issue in relation to the deeds to the council's land assets is still to be resolved.

The Clerk informed members he had been unable, due to other commitments upon his time, to arrange, since the last meeting of the council, a meeting between the Chairman of the Council, he and an appropriate representative of the council's solicitors to discuss the situation relating to the deeds to the council's land assets.

In addition, the Clerk informed members that he had raised with the estate agents acting for the council in the sale of this land the issue as to whether the tenancy agreement, for the agricultural use of the site pending completion of the sale, should be changed to cover a period of 364 days instead of 365 days and that he is awaiting a response.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that he would seek to arrange a meeting between the Chairman of the Council, he and an appropriate representative of the council's solicitors to discuss the situation relating to the deeds to the council's land assets;

M23/15 Manea Action Plan – Development Policy Checklist

Further to minute M1/15 (1), members considered the use of this checklist as an approach to the consideration of planning applications for new residential development at Manea.

With the consent of the Chairman, District Councillors Buckton and Sutton addressed the council.

District Councillor Buckton commented that the key issue in this matter is the wording of Policy LP12 of the Fenland Local Plan, which is, in his opinion, provides insufficient clarity as to its intention; he had, therefore, discussed the situation with District Councillor Sutton, the District Council's Cabinet member with responsibilities for Neighbourhood Planning. District Councillor Buckton commented that it is clear that the 15% housing growth figure had already been exceeded; however, Fenland District Council had put in place no mechanism to monitor the situation. He commented that the items listed within the checklist are matters for consideration by Fenland District Council (FDCI, as the Local Planning Authority, in terms of Policy LP12, rather than considerations for Manea Parish Council, as a consultee on the planning applications forwarded by FDC. District Councillor Buckton expressed his appreciation that this issue had been raised by the Manea Action Plan Implementation Group.

District Councillor Sutton acknowledged that the amount of residential development which had taken place since 2011 exceeds considerably the 15% threshold within Policy LP 12; currently around 23% of the 2011 level. He stated that Fenland District Council needs to decide what happens now; it may need to look at implementing a practice of

undertaking community consultation on planning applications for, say, 5 or more dwellings. He expressed the view that growth within a village is necessary to ensure the sustainability of facilities such as a school, shops and other retail facilities/services, public houses and a doctor's surgery.

District Councillor mentioned that Fenland District Council would soon be running a planning training session for local council members and Clerks; details would be provided to Clerks in due course.

Members decided that the comments of District Councillors Buckton and Sutton be noted and that, in the light of those comments, Manea Parish Council would continue to consider planning applications for residential development in Manea in the current manner.

M24/15 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 two-storey 3-bed dwelling, involving the demolition of existing outbuildings, on land north of 3A High Street, fronting Parkview Lane, Manea – F/YR15/0362/F (applicant: Mr D Pressland).

Object, on the basis that

- *the proposal would constitute overdevelopment of the site*
- *the existing highway network in the immediate vicinity of the application site is inadequate to serve safely any further development at this location*

- (2) Erection of a single-storey front extension to existing dwelling at 53C Station Road, Manea – F/YR15/0372/F (applicant: Mrs S Haylock).

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of a two-storey 3-bed dwelling, involving demolition of existing dwelling, at 47 School Lane, Manea – F/YR15/0425/F (applicant: Mr N Bates).

That the application be supported.

- (4) Erection of a dwelling on land north-west of Cedar Lodge, The Old Dairy Yards, Westfield Road, Manea – F/YR15/0432/O (applicant: Mr M Barber).

Object, on the basis that

- *approval of this application would result in the overdevelopment of that specific part of the village*
- *the access road to the site is inadequate, in terms of condition and width, to accommodate the additional traffic that is likely to be generated by the proposed development (in terms of it accessing Westfield Road).*

- (5) Erection of a two-storey 4-bed dwelling, detached double garage with store above and temporary siting of two mobile homes during construction on plot 1, land north of 55A Station Road, Manea – F/YR15/0446/F (applicant: Mr L Howlett).

That the application be supported.

M25/15 Police matters

Although no representative of the March and Chatteris Policing Team was present at the meeting, PCSO Dawn Rae had provided a report detailing recent incidents of crime and disorder which had been reported to the Constabulary, as well as updating the Parish Council on other relevant matters, since the last meeting of the Parish Council. PCSO Rae's report mentioned that

- there had been no crimes reported in Manea since the last meeting of the Parish Council
- there had been two reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village; both of these related to the use of vehicles in an anti-social manner. Both drivers are residents of Manea and warning letters have been sent to the registered owners of the vehicles
- on 17 May 2015 the Constabulary had undertaken speed enforcement activity on Station Road (between 2.30 pm and 3.15 pm) and High Street (between 4.00 pm and 4.40 pm); as a result, words of advice had been given to a total of five motorists; none of the vehicles witnessed were travelling at speeds of more than 35 mph
- on 1 June 2015 the Constabulary undertook speed checks throughout the village; it had not proved necessary to issue any speeding tickets
- patrols around the village by PCSOs continue; as a result engagement with the community is developing, as is a rapport with the youths
- Sergeant Boughen has asked that, as the most effective means of achieving contact, all communication with the local policing team be sent to the generic march.npi@cambs.pnn.police.uk e-mail address, rather than to the e-mail addresses of individual officers

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk, on behalf of PCSO Rae, be noted.

M26/15 Vehicles speeding through Manea

Further to minute M9/15, members considered possible measures to achieve a reduction in the speed of vehicles travelling through Manea.

With the consent of the Chairman, District Councillor Buckton informed the council that, further to minute M1/15 (2), a village Speed Watch group had been established; the group has both a Co-ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator.

Councillor Buckton reported information on the purchase of Speed Watch equipment and mentioned that the County Speed Watch Co-ordinator is able to loan to the Manea Speed Watch group a spare set of equipment for a period of one month.

Members decided that the information reported by District Councillor Buckton be noted and that, in the light of that information, it is not necessary to consider at this time any other possible means of achieving a reduction in the speed of vehicles travelling through Manea.

M27/15 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.

District Councillor Buckton commented that it is still "early days" for him as a member of Fenland District Council and that he had nothing specific to draw to the attention of Manea Parish Council at this time. He did, however, inform the council that Fenland District Council would be undertaking a Comprehensive Spending Review of the services it delivers prior to making any new budgetary decisions.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M28/15 Public open spaces

- (1) Playing field – further to minute M11/15 (2), the Clerk updated members on the situation regarding the claim made against the council by a resident of Manea for compensation in relation to “personal injury and consequential loss” allegedly suffered by his child.

The Clerk informed members that he had provided to the council’s insurers, in accordance with the company’s request, a copy of the 2015 RoSPA report in relation to the village play area and a draft copy of minute M11/15(2).

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

- (2) Allotments – further to minute M165/14 (2), the Clerk read to members an e-mail, a copy of which had been forwarded to members in advance of the meeting, and a letter regarding certain aspects of operation of the council’s allotments site. Both of these documents related to the same issues which had been raised with the council at minute M165/14 (2).

Members decided that the content of the e-mail and the letter be noted and that the Clerk would respond to the issues raised as follows:

- the Allotments Association will be required by the Parish Council to cut back any planting to the line of the last allotment; Councillor Emery would make that known at the meeting of the Allotment Association on 16 June (subsequent to the meeting of Manea Parish Council, the Allotment Association has undertaken to remove, during the autumn of this year, the trees which are near the edge of the dyke); the responsibility for maintenance of any planting by the Allotment Association would fall to that association. The council notes the complainants’ comment regarding the absence of responsibility of the staff and contractors of the local farmers with regard to any damage that may be caused to the planting.
- the Parish Council still does not share the complainants’ opinion that the caravan is an eyesore and is happy for it to remain in situ.
- the Parish Council notes the comments regarding the proposal to install a security gate on the access road to the allotments site but still has no concerns regarding the installation of such a gate; the council is, however, aware that the Allotment Association may not proceed with this proposal.

M29/15 Manea Pit

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee held on 27 May 2015.

Further to minute M12/15, the Chairman reported that the handrail had been fitted to the pond dipping platform and that the works to provide this new facility are almost complete.

The Clerk informed members that, because of the circumstances explained, it would be beneficial to the transaction of the committee’s business, for the date of the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee to be changed from its scheduled date of 24 June 2015.

The Clerk referred to the “petition” which had been mentioned by the parishioner at minute M19/15 (1), a copy of which the Clerk had forwarded to each member of the council in advance of this meeting. The Clerk commented that the issues raised by the “petitioners” had already been addressed by the Manea Pit Management Committee (at minute PMC12/15) at a date earlier than the Clerk’s receipt of the documents from the “petitioner”.

Members decided that

- (1) the contents of the Manea Pit Management Committee minutes and the comments of the Clerk be noted;
- (2) the date of the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be changed to 23 (from 24) June 2015;
- (3) the Parish Council would inspect Manea Pit and the surrounding area immediately prior to its next meeting; members would assemble at the playing field car park at 6.15 pm on 20 July 2015.

M30/15 Financial matters

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

Income

B Fletcher	Allotment rent	£200.00
Richard King Memorials	Cremated remains tablet	£100.00
Carp Syndicate	Membership fees 2015/16	£480.00
Various (via Mr I Fost)	Sale of fishing tickets	£575.00
Maxey Grounds	Lease for Cranmore Lots allotments site	£1,000.00
Manea United Football Club	Hire of playing field for 9 home matches	£360.00
Fenland District Council	Recycling Credits	73.63
Total Income		£2,788.63

Expenditure

Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 20 May 2015	£10.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£52.00
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £129.98), Broadband and other expenses	£596.24
E.on	Electricity for pavilion (includes VAT of £1.17)	£24.51
E.on	Electricity for village green (includes VAT of £0.53)	£11.14
E.on	Electricity for sports area (includes VAT of £0.21)	£4.34
Cole Properties	Reimbursement of the cost of hardcore for works at Manea Pit (includes VAT of £10.36)	£62.14
E Mason and Son	Grounds maintenance works for April 2015 inclusive (includes VAT of £271.00)	£1,626.00
E Mason and Son	Grounds maintenance works for May 2015 inclusive (includes VAT of £262.80)	£1,576.80
B Short	Repair works to toilet and wash basin	£20.00
I Woodard	Reimbursement of the cost of padlock for gate to car park (includes VAT of £2.70)	£16.21
Cambridgeshire County Council	Funding for Manea Youth Club – first	£1,168.12

	quarter 2015/16	
Ridgeons	Padlock (includes VAT of £3.46)	£20.77
Ridgeons	Paint for metalwork (includes VAT of £7.47)	£44.82
Manea PCC	Hire of Church Room (on 6 occasions) by Internet Club	£60.00
H M Revenue and Customs	Clerk's Income Tax (March, April and May 2015).	£392.93
Greenbarnes Ltd	Interpretation boards – woodland project (includes VAT of £622.18)	£3,733.12
Greenbarnes Ltd	Interpretation boards – Ouse Washes project (includes VAT of £469.14)	£2,814.84
M Collin	Repairs to play equipment	£87.50
Total Expenditure		£12,321.48

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 May 2015 (in the total sum of £67,692.84), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 31 May 2014.

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Fielding, seconded by Councillor Mrs Berry, that the income of £2,788.63 be noted and that the payments totalling £12,321.48 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 May 2015, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 31 May 2014, be noted.

M31/15 Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire

Further to minute M110/14, members considered the submission of a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Clerk reminded members that the aim of the electoral review is to achieve electoral equality, whereby each County Councillor would represent roughly the same number of electors as others across the County.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposes to publish, for consultation purposes, final recommendations in September 2015.

The Clerk had circulated to members, in advance of the meeting, details of the review process and the potential implications for the electoral divisions of relevance to the parish of Manea. He drew members' attention to the possible changes to electoral division boundaries across the County, which would result in a reduction in the total number of County Councillors, with effect from the next County Council elections in 2017, from 69 to 61; at the time of minute M110/14, it was anticipated that the number of County Councillors with effect from May 2017 would be 63.

The Clerk mentioned that the reduction from 69 to 61 Cambridgeshire County Councillors would result in the number of County Councillors in Fenland reducing by two (from 11 to 9) with effect from May 2017.

In terms of the specific implications for the parish of Manea, the recommendations show that the whole of the parish would be included within a March South and Rural electoral division, to be represented by one County Councillor.

Responses to the current consultation exercise must be received by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England by 6 July 2015.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that the council would make no submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in relation to its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council.

M32/15 Annual village inspection

Following their annual village inspection, which took place immediately prior to this meeting - and included visits to the playing field, the pavilion and the cemetery - members considered whether there is a need to arrange any repair, replacement or improvement works to the these community assets.

Members decided that the areas of council-owned land and facilities in the village are generally in very good order and that only the following is required:

- consideration, at a future meeting, of undertaking works to re-surface (where necessary) and widen the footpath within the cemetery.
- the maintenance works to the skateboard park identified in the RoSPA report (minute M11/15 (1) refers); Councillor Drinkwater undertook to make contact with the company which manufactured and installed the structure, with the purpose of obtaining a quotation for undertaking the necessary repair works.
- to consider, at some point in the future, the provision of additional burial plots in the village.
- general tidying works within the village; Councillor Fielding undertook to explore the possibility of this work being undertaken by the Community Payback Team.

M33/15 Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that he had no items of correspondence for reporting to the council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M34/15 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council has been scheduled for 20 July 2015, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea; this meeting will be preceded by the annual inspection of Manea Pit, commencing at 6.15 pm.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm

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

Date:.....