

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

20 APRIL 2015 – 7.30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor Mrs Berry.

In attendance: District Councillor Sutton.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 March 2015 were confirmed and signed.

M159/14 Open Forum

(1) New pavilion for Manea

A parishioner expressed the view that there is element of public concern in relation to the council's proposal to construct a new pavilion at the Park Road recreation ground. He commented that one of the concerns relates to fears for the security of the building; to this end, the parishioner suggested that the council should consider the possibility of revising the proposals to include accommodation for a "caretaker" to live on-site.

Members decided that the comments of the parishioner be noted.

(2) Manea Pit

A parishioner informed the council that at the time of Manea Parish Council acquiring Manea Pit he was not convinced that the decision was appropriate; he stated that his view had now changed and he now feels that the pit and its surroundings are a credit to all of those who had been involved in the provision of such a valuable community facility.

Members decided that the comments of the parishioner be noted.

(3) Defibrillators in Manea

Further to minute M157/14 (2), the landlord of the Rose and Crown public house mentioned that a drop-in training event on use of the defibrillator, which had been provided by the East of England Ambulance Service, would be taking place at the public house between 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm on 22 April 2015. He informed the council that the option exists to have the defibrillator stored in a cabinet on an outside wall of the public house and enquired as to whether Manea Parish Council would be prepared to meet the cost, estimated at £500.00, of providing such a cabinet.

The Chairman commented that, under the scheme operated by the East of England Ambulance Service, defibrillators had also been located at the village Primary School and Manea Fire Station.

Members decided that the situation be noted and that the Parish Council would consider, at its next meeting, the purchase of a cabinet for storage of a defibrillator on an outside wall of the Rose and Crown public house.

(4) Vehicles speeding through Manea

A parishioner commented that there is considerable concern among villagers regarding the speed at which some motorists drive through the village. He made the point that, this had been adopted, once again, as a Policing Priority at the recent meeting of the Chatteris and Manea Neighbourhood Forum; he added that he is currently looking to establish a Speed Watch group in Manea and would be keen to hear from persons who would be prepared to become involved in such an initiative; a Speed Watch scheme needs a minimum of three volunteers, all of whom would undergo training in the use of the speed monitoring equipment and in recording the information gathered through the speed monitoring. to be able to operate.

Members decided that the information provided by the parishioner be noted and that they are supportive of the establishment of a Speed Watch group, as one means of seeking a reduction in the level of speeding in the village.

(5) Williams Way, Manea

A resident of Williams Way, Manea commented that the situation exists, for whatever reason, whereby numbers 74 and 76 Williams Way are not served by an adopted carriageway.

Councillor Jolley undertook to raise the issue, via Fenland District Council, with Circle Roddons Housing Association.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

(6) Use of village playing field for charitable purposes

A parishioner enquired as to whether it would be possible to use the village playing field for a fund-raising event, in the memory of a person who had died recently, for MIND.

The parishioner outlined very briefly the nature of the potential charitable event, which would involve musical entertainment; the provisional date for the event is 25 July 2015.

Members decided that the playing field be made available, free-of-charge, for the proposed fund-raising event and that the parishioner would provide to the Clerk further details of the proposal in due course.

(7) Manea Fire Service

Further to minutes M101/14 and M115/14 (2), a representative of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service informed the council that there had been a good level of response to the recent recruitment campaign, as a result of which a number of individuals are or will be undergoing the necessary training, and he thanked the council for its support in that process.

Members decided that the comments of the representative of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

M160/14 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.

M161/14 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) New pavilion for Manea (minute M149/14 (2))

The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council's application for funding (of £100,000) under Fenland District Council's Rural Capital Grants scheme had been approved at the meeting of the District Council's Cabinet on 19 March 2015. The grant is awarded on the basis of receipt of invoices by Fenland District Council (FDC) for work undertaken on the project; FDC then releases funding as a percentage of each invoice. Fenland District Council will not release any of the grant funding until such time as Manea Parish Council has secured all matched funding to deliver the project; also, the grant offer has a "life" of two years.

Councillor Jolley informed members that he had identified some additional potential sources of funding towards the cost of this project and that he would forward the information to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that planning permission for erection of a pavilion with function room at Manea Playing Field, Park Road, Manea (permission reference F/YR15/0036/F) was granted on 11 March 2015; the permission is subject to a number of conditions, including a requirement that the development permitted is commenced within three years of the date of the grant of planning permission.

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

(2) Cranmore Lots allotments site (minute M149/14 (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 M149/14 (3); the legal issue in relation to the deeds to the council's land assets is still to be resolved.

The Clerk informed members of the details of his latest exchange of correspondence with the council's legal advisers and that he would keep members advised on any developments in that regard. In addition, he is liaising with the estate agents with regard to the production of a tenancy agreement (for the period of one year) between the purchaser of this site and Manea Parish Council, which would enable to the purchaser to crop the land in advance of the land sale proceeding to conclusion; the money to be paid to Manea Parish Council in respect of the tenancy agreement would be deducted from the purchase price of the land.

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

(3) Street lamps (minute M149/14 (4))

Councillor Mrs Desborough informed members that she had sought to ascertain from local residents the evidence to substantiate the claim that the damage to lamp column FPC3 on East Street had been caused as a result of one of Fenland District Council's refuse vehicles reversing into the column; however, her investigations had revealed that the damage caused to the lamp column by a refuse vehicle had happened on a previous occasion and not the latest one.

Members decided that the information reported by Councillor Mrs Desborough be noted and that the Clerk would give consent to Fenland District Council to arrange the necessary repair works to lamp column FPC3 on East Street, Manea.

M162/14 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 single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 76 Williams Way, Manea – F/YR15/0293/F (applicant: Miss T Nockolds).

That the application be supported.

- (2) Erection of 2 x two-storey 2-bed dwellings, involving demolition of existing dwelling, on the site of 34 Station Road, Manea – F/YR15/0295/F (applicant: Mr P Arnold).

That the application be supported.

Further to minute M77/14, the Clerk reported the submission of an appeal against Fenland District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for the erection of a dwelling on land north-west of Cedar Lodge, The Old Dairy Yards, Westfield Road, Manea (application reference F/YR14/0757/O) and informed members of the opportunity to submit a representation to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to this matter; he outlined to members the process for the Parish Council's submission to the Planning Inspectorate, if it wished to do so, of comments additional to those made previously to the Local Planning Authority.

The Clerk reminded members of the comments made by the Parish Council to the District Council in relation to this application, as set out at minute M77/14.

Members decided that no representation be made to the Planning Inspectorate.

M163/14 Police matters

There was no representative of the March and Chatteris Policing Team present at the meeting and, on this occasion, the Clerk had not received a report from the local PCSO 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.

Members decided that

- (1) the situation be noted and that the Clerk would seek to obtain from the Constabulary, for circulation to the members of the council, a report detailing recent incidents of crime and disorder within the parish;
- (2) in the event that no such report is provided, the Clerk would raise with the Constabulary, with the local Police Sergeant, members' concerns regarding its lack of engagement with the Parish Council.

M164/14 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.

Councillor Sutton, the District Councillor for the Elm and Christchurch ward, informed members that, being aware of the fact that there is currently no District Councillor for Manea, he had been happy to assist, until the May 2015 elections, in ensuring District Council support for issues raised by Manea parishioners.

District Councillor Sutton expressed the belief that he had achieved some successes for Manea Parish Council whilst lending his support to Manea parishioners, such as identifying a means by which Manea Parish Council would be able to access Section 106 Planning Obligation monies to contribute towards the cost of constructing a new pavilion (minute M152/14 refers). In addition, he reported that, contrary to the situation described at minute M152/14, Fenland

District Council has now stated that the Section 106 Planning Obligation sum of £3,044 (related to planning permission reference F/92/0324/F) could also be "re-allocated" to the cost of constructing a new pavilion.

District Councillor Sutton paid tribute to the work of Manea Parish Council and the positive impact that the council's work is having upon the local community.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M165/14 Public open spaces

- (1) Car park – further to minute M153/14 (2), The Chairman informed members that a gate had been manufactured and installed at the entrance to the car park but had subsequently been the subject of deliberate damage by persons unknown and then repair and strengthening works by the manufacturer/installer

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

- (2) Allotments – the Clerk read to members an e-mail that had been received by the Chairman from a local farmer regarding his concerns in relation to certain aspects of operation of the council's allotments site.

Members decided that the content of the e-mail from the local farmer be noted and that the Clerk would respond to those issues as follows:

- Councillor Emery had met with a number of the members of the Manea Allotment Association, as a result of which some of the planting would be removed and other works undertaken to ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact upon adjoining land owners/tenants and users of the access track. The council is of the opinion that the access track is of sufficient width to enable the unimpaired movement of machinery and equipment.
- The council has no concerns regarding the stationing of the small caravan on the allotments site; it is used as a welfare facility on the site (including acting as First Aid point). No further caravans would be allowed on site.
- The council is supportive of the proposal to install a security gate on the access road to the allotments site and has faith in the users of the access road in being able to operate the opening, closing and securing of the gate in an effective manner.

M166/14 Manea Pit

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee held on 8 April 2015.

The Chairman commented that significant progress had been made in recent days in constructing the pond dipping area; all of the steel work is in place, ready for the platforms to be affixed. One member suggested that once the platforms had been affixed to the supporting steel work, an assessment should be made as to whether, in the interests of health and safety, it would be appropriate to fit guard rails to the platforms. Other members supported that suggestion.

Members decided that

- (1) the contents of the Manea Pit Management Committee minutes be noted;
- (2) following completion of the works to construct the pond dipping platforms, an assessment be made as to whether, in the interests of health and safety, it would be appropriate to fit guard rails to the platforms.

M167/14 Financial matters

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

Income

Central England Co-op Funeral Services	Cremated remains tablet	£100.00
J H Landin and Son	Interment fee	£154.00
Carp Syndicate	Membership fees 2015/16	£3,000.00
P Lawrence	Allotments rent	£225.00
Total Income		£3,479.00

Expenditure

Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 16 March 2015	£10.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£55.25
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £134.46), Broadband and other expenses	£624.69
E.on	Electricity for pavilion (includes VAT of £6.01)	£126.29
E.on	Electricity for village green (includes VAT of £0.54)	£11.36
E.on	Electricity for sports area (includes VAT of £0.58)	£12.28
Fenland Association for Community Transport	Financial support for Dial-a-Ride Service	£300.00
D A Pest Control	Control of moles at playing field	£60.00
Magpas	Financial support	£500.00
Manea School of Gardening	Pruning of fruit trees at community orchard (includes VAT of £10.00)	£60.00
Manea PCC	Hire of Church Rooms for Rural Digital Club for 5 sessions	£50.00
Fenland District Council	Non-domestic rates for Cemetery	£196.80
M Short	Purchasing petrol for lawnmower	£12.00
Anglian Water	Water for playing field	£42.85
Anglian Water	Water for cemetery	£19.55
Robert Jolley	Supplying and fitting gate at car park	£248.00
K P Banks	Bench for woodland area	£250.00
Miss M Williams	purchasing mulch for community orchard/woodland	£87.50
P Catling	Expenses incurred in collecting Carp Syndicate membership fees	£37.20
Ridgeons	Padlock for car park gate (includes VAT of £2.48)	£14.89
Robert Jolley	Repairs to gate	£120.00
Total Expenditure		£2,838.66

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 March 2015 (in the total sum of £40,140.18), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 31 March 2014.

The Clerk reported also on the Parish Council's year-end 2014/15 financial position, which showed income of £47,257.50 and expenditure of £51,441.92 to 31 March 2015; 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.

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Mrs Desborough, seconded by Councillor Woodard, that the income of £3,479.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £2,838.66 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 31 March 2015, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 31 March 2014, be noted;
- (3) that the Parish Council's year-end 2014/15 financial position be noted.

M168/14 Correspondence

Manea Youth Club

Further to minute M143/14 (2), the Clerk read to members a letter from the Youth Development Co-ordinator.

At the time of minute M/14, the Youth Service had both recruited a new Lead Youth Worker and possessed full capacity Zero Hours Youth Workers. However, there have been changes since the time of minute M143/14 (2): the post of Youth Development Co-ordinator is to be deleted from the Locality structure from 1 July 2015; the new Lead Youth Worker has, subsequently, decided not to take the post; one of the Zero Hours Youth Workers has resigned the post.

Currently, the County Council's Youth Service is running the Manea Youth Club with its targeted youth team, but it is not possible for this to continue in the long-term due to capacity issues and changes to contracts from 1 July, as a result of the Early Help Review.

The Youth Development Co-ordinator (YDC) is planning to try another recruitment campaign; however, at this time, the County Council has agreed that targeted support would continue to run the club until 31 May 2015. In the meantime, the YDC proposes to do all that she can to try to keep the club running by asking for support from volunteers and other partner organisations.

In her letter, the YDC states that she would provide an update later this month on whether the club is likely to continue after 1 May. However, at the time of the letter, it is presumed that the County Council would no longer be in a position to run the Manea Youth Club after that date.

Officers of the Youth Service had sent notice of the current situation to parents and young people.

Members expressed their disappointment at the potential loss of the village youth club, although they do understand the difficulties being faced by the County Council in seeking to deliver services at a time of being faced with ongoing significant budget reductions in its budgets.

Members decided that the situation be noted and that the Clerk would both continue to liaise with the County Council's Youth Service to seek to identify a means by which the delivery of activities for young persons in Manea

could continue and investigate the existence of other organisations which may be able to provide youth-related activities in the village.

M169/14 Local council elections 2015

The Chairman mentioned the fact that as there are 11 candidates to fill the 9 seats on Manea Parish Council, there would be polling on 7 May 2015 to elect a Parish Council for Manea. He wished all candidates well and placed on record his appreciation of the service given by Councillor Jolley, who had decided not to be a candidate for election to Manea Parish Council, to both the Parish Council and to the community of Manea.

Other members of the council concurred with the Chairman's comments in relation to Councillor Jolley.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M170/14 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council had been scheduled for 20 May 2015, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.00 pm

Signature:.....(Council Chairman)

Date.....