

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

14 MARCH 2016 – 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies: None.

In attendance: District Councillor Buckton.

The minutes of the meeting of 15 February 2016 were confirmed and signed.

M145/15 Open Form

Manea Pit

Further to minute PMC39/15, the two Carp Syndicate members of the Manea Pit Management Committee, Mr A Cooper and Mr J Short, attended the meeting to inform the council of the need to install suitable fencing around Manea Pit to prevent access to the area by otters (to protect the fish stocks and wildlife habitats). Mr Cooper provided details of the number, species and approximate values of the fish, which need to be protected from otters, in the pit. His estimate of the value of the Carp alone is in excess of £96,000. Mr Cooper presented quotations for the cost of installing fencing around Manea Pit. The four quotations range from approximately £15,000 to £40,000.

Members decided that the information presented by the two Carp Syndicate members of the Manea Pit Management Committee be noted and that it be taken into account when considering the matter at minute M152/15.

M146/15 Members' Code of Conduct

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.

M147/15 Progress on actions from minutes of last meeting

(1) New pavilion for Manea (minute M134/15 (1))

The Clerk informed members that he had now received two further quotations from local building contractors for the construction of a new pavilion. The council is now in possession of four quotations, which range from approximately £389,000 to approximately £429,000.

The Clerk reminded members of the current level of financial resources available for this project and of the need to secure a substantial amount of grant funding to be able to deliver the project.

Councillor Hirson enquired of members as to why the construction of a such a building is felt to be necessary. Other members, particularly the Chairman, explained the background to the situation.

Members decided that the situation be noted and that opportunities for securing further funding towards the cost of delivering this project would be investigated and pursued.

(2) Cranmore Lots allotments site (minute M134/15 (2))

The Clerk informed members of his understanding that the estate agency which is dealing with the sale of this land is in the process of seeking to obtain from the council's solicitors details of the council's land holdings, for the purpose of providing a cost for valuing all of those land holdings.

The Clerk informed members of his understanding that the legal process associated with the sale of the Cranmore Lots allotments site is progressing but had still been unable to obtain formal confirmation as to the current position in that regard from the council's solicitors. He had been informed by a representative of the estate agency which is dealing with the sale of the Cranmore Lots allotments site that a possible cause of the delay and the lack of communication from the council's solicitors is that the solicitor who had been dealing with the matter is no longer working for that company.

Members decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that he would, again, seek to obtain updates from the council's solicitors in relation to both the provision of land ownership details to the estate agents and the sale of the allotments site.

(3) Parish street lighting (minute M134/15 (3))

The Clerk reminded members that he had circulated, in advance of the meeting, both the minutes of 29 January 2016 meeting of Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks regarding street lighting within Fenland parishes and the breakdown of the condition of the lights in Manea (according to Balfour Beatty) that he had obtained from Fenland District Council. The Clerk informed members that he is yet to receive from Fenland District Council information as to which of the Category 1 lights had been replaced.

Members decided that the current situation be noted and that the Clerk would pursue a response from Fenland District Council in relation to his seeking information as to which of the Category 1 lights had been replaced.

(4) Manea Youth Club (minute M140/15)

The Clerk informed members that he had submitted (by the deadline of 29 February 2016) an application to the County Council's Community Reach Fund for the sum of £500 to contribute towards the cost of YPM's provision of a youth club at Manea but, to date, he had received no information from the Youth and Community Co-ordinator at Cambridgeshire County Council as to the success or otherwise of the application.

Members decided that the situation be noted and that the Clerk would pursue a response in relation to this council's application to the County Council's Community Reach Fund.

M148/15 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 land to travellers site, involving the siting of 3 chalet homes and retrospective permission for a shed, day room and stables at land south of Rosemary Cottage, New Road, Manea - F/YR15/1002/F (applicant: Mr E Smith) = revised proposals (to include retrospective permission for a shed, day room and stables).

That the application be supported and that any planning permission granted be made personal to the applicant.

- (2) Erection of 4 dwellings (Outline with all matters reserved) at land south and west Of Keswick, Station Road, Manea - F/YR15/0958/O (applicant: Mrs V Fox deceased) = revised proposals; those being revised application form, location plan and site plan.

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of 29 dwellings, involving demolition of existing buildings (Outline with matters committed in respect of access) at Lavender Mill, Fallow Corner Drove, Manea - F/YR16/0107/O (applicants: K Jordan and M Rudd).

That the current community infrastructure within Manea (including capacity at the primary school and the doctor's surgery) is insufficient to support new development of this scale in the village.

In addition, members consider that the access to the site is inadequate to serve the proposed development.

Withdrawal of application

The Clerk reported that planning application F/YR15/1052/F (which proposed the erection of a three-storey 6/7-bed dwelling with detached garage on plot 6, land north of 55A Station Road, Manea), which had been considered, and supported, at minute M110/15, had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

Consultation by developers

The Clerk informed members that the Manea Parish Council is being consulted, by the respective developers' agent, in respect of the following proposals:

- erection of 57 dwellings on land west of Teachers Close, Manea
- residential development of land to the rear of 11 to 21 Park Road, Manea.

Members decided that Manea Parish Council would make no comment on either of these proposals until it is aware of the outcome of the respective public consultation exercises and is consulted formally by the Local Planning Authority on the applications; the Clerk would inform the developers' agents of this decision.

Planning appeal

Further to minute M97/15, the Clerk reported the submission of an appeal against Fenland District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for the change of use of office to two-storey 3-bed dwelling for manager's accommodation and office, including erection of a two-storey extension, involving demolition of existing outbuilding and continued siting of mobile home during construction, at Mount Pleasant Farm, Sixteen Foot Bank, Chatteris (application F/YR15/0943/F refers) and informed members of 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 M97/15.

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

M149/15 Police matters

No representative of the March and Chatteris Policing Team was present at the meeting and, on this occasion, no report had been provided by the local PCSO in relation to 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.

The Clerk expressed the opinion that the PCSO may have considered it unnecessary to submit a report to this meeting of the council because of the information which had been presented to the meeting of the Manea Neighbourhood Forum held on 2 March 2016. He summarised the information which had been provided at that meeting by officers of the local policing team and the issues discussed by attendees and mentioned the conclusion which had been reached by the Constabulary that Manea is an extremely safe place to live and that people enjoy living in the village. The policing priority for the period to the next forum meeting (scheduled for 28 September 2016) is to seek to tackle the inconsiderate use of motor vehicles - to include speeding, inconsiderate and unlawful parking - in Manea.

Members had no issues to raise, for reference by the Clerk to the local policing team.

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

M150/15 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 informed the Parish Council that

- further to minute M137/15, no further progress had been achieved in relation to the provision of a car park for Manea railway station; it all hinges upon Network Rail reaching a decision on whether it deems safe the entrance to the proposed car park site. He commented that he is not confident that this site would come into use as a car park for the station.
- he is the Fenland District Council representative on the Board of Circle Roddons Housing Association and that, as such, he is aware that Circle Roddons would cease to exist from October of this year. Initially, all of the current nine associations within the Circle group would become one and then the Circle group would merge with the Affinity Sutton group. This situation is borne out of the need to achieve budget reductions across the registered social landlords sector. The organisational changes should have no effect upon the tenants of the current Circle Roddons Housing Association.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M151/15 Public open spaces

No member had any issue to raise in relation to the operation and maintenance of the open space areas within the village.

The Clerk read to members a letter from a parishioner seeking the council's permission to use the village playing field for dog agility shows.

Members decided that the request to use the village playing field for dog agility shows be agreed in principle and that the requester be invited to submit to the council a more detailed proposal - dates, times, layout of activity, exact area of the playing field to be used, the level of financial contribution which would be received by the council etc.

M152/15 Manea Pit

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee held on 23 February 2016, including the recommendations at minute PMC39/15 with regard to the possible installation of fencing around Manea Pit to prevent access by otters and the associated changes to Carp Syndicate and other fishing fees.

Members discussed in detail and at length the recommendation of the Manea Pit Management Committee that Manea Parish Council considers installing appropriate mesh fencing (plus gates) as a means of preventing otters from being able to access Manea Pit (to preserve fish stocks and wildlife habitats).

Members had regard for the information reported and comments made by the two Carp Syndicate members of the Manea Pit Management Committee at minute M145/15, including the quotations which had been obtained for the installation of such fencing.

The Clerk read to members an e-mail from a parishioner, expressing the opinion that the name of Manea Pit does not do justice to the site, which she considers to be a lovely, peaceful place with an abundance of wildlife; the parishioner, therefore suggests that thought should be given to re-naming the pit to something such as Manea Lakes.

Members decided

- (1) that the contents of the Manea Pit Management Committee minutes be noted;
- (2) to approve in principle the recommendation of the Manea Pit Management Committee (minute PMC39/15 refers) that the Parish Council would undertake the installation of appropriate fencing around Manea Pit to prevent access by otters and that arrangements be made by Councillor Fielding for a meeting on site between the contractor which had submitted the lowest quotation for this work and certain members of the Manea Pit Management Committee to discuss the matter;
- (3) that the recommendation of the Manea Pit Management Committee (minute PMC39/15 refers) that the proposals in respect of Carp Syndicate membership and all fishing fees, as set out at minute PMC39/15, be approved;
- (4) the content of the e-mail from the parishioner be noted and that her suggestion as to re-naming Manea Pit be considered at the next meeting of Manea Parish Council.

M153/15 Local Highway Improvements 2016/17

Further to minute M60/15, the Clerk reported on the outcome of the Local Highway Improvements (LHI) 2016/17 bidding process.

The Clerk informed members that the district area assessment panels (comprising County Councillors representing electoral divisions within the district) were asked to consider bids and make recommendations to the County Council's Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee on how the budget should be allocated in respect of the scheme bids submitted.

The assessment panels operated a simple scoring system with a maximum of ten points per scheme. Using this assessment system, the scheme submitted by Manea Parish Council (for the provision of a means of safe access between the railway station and the village centre) scored 0.67 points out of a maximum of 10; the bid was ranked in

seventeenth place out of the twenty submitted throughout Fenland. The County Council has decided that the top ten ranking schemes in Fenland would be allocated funding.

The County Council has stated that it anticipates that there would be a budget for Local Highway Improvements in 2017/18, which could provide the opportunity for this year's unsuccessful bid to be submitted again.

Councillor Fielding took the opportunity to raise concerns regarding the amount and quality of the work which had been undertaken very recently by the Local Highway Authority to Byall Fen Drove; he commented that it appeared to him that monies had not been spent well and that pot holes and other defects had not been rectified as part of this scheme. Other members shared the views of Councillor Fielding.

Members decided that

- (1) the outcome of the 2016/17 LHI bidding process be noted;
- (2) the Local Highway Authority (LHA) be informed that Manea Parish Council is both disappointed and disgusted with the amount and quality of the work which had been undertaken very recently by the Local Highway Authority to Byall Fen Drove and that an appropriate officer of the LHA be invited to attend a meeting of Manea Parish Council to explain the situation.

M154/15 Queen's 90th Birthday

Further to minute M130/15 (1), Councillor Mrs Berry updated members on activities planned to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and sought clarification as to the level of funding which could the Parish Council would make available to contribute towards the cost of this community event.

Councillor Mrs Berry informed members that the event, which would take place on 12 June 2016 on land at the village's Royal British Legion Club, would include musical entertainment, various activities and refreshments.

Members decided that the information reported by Councillor Mrs Berry be noted and that the Parish Council would meet expenditure incurred in holding the event up to the sum of £300.00.

M155/15 Financial matters

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

Income

Various (via Mr I Fost)	Sale of fishing tickets	£106.50
Total Income		£106.50

Expenditure

Manea Village Hall	Room hire on 15 February 2016	£10.00
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£58.82
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £149.40 and NI of £9.00), other expenses and allowances	£734.04
H M Revenue and Customs	Clerk's Income Tax and NI (December 2015 and January and February 2016)	£506.25

E.on	Electricity for pavilion (includes VAT of £4.41)	£92.63
E.on	Electricity for village green (includes VAT of £0.31)	£6.56
E.on	Electricity for sports area (includes VAT of £0.39)	£8.13
D A Pest Control	Control of moles at playing field	£60.00
Fenland District Council	Business rates 2016/17 for Manea Cemetery	£198.44
E Mason and Son	Grounds maintenance works: December 2015 (includes VAT of £118.20)	£709.20
E Mason and Son	Grounds maintenance works: January 2016 (includes VAT of £39.60)	£237.60
Cambridgeshire County Council	Manea Youth Club - quarter 3 funding	£1,168.12
Total Expenditure		£3,789.79

In addition, the Clerk reported to members on the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 29 February 2016 (in the total sum of £60,153.93), together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 28 February 2015.

Members decided

- (1) upon a proposal from Councillor Fielding, seconded by Councillor Drinkwater, that the income of £106.50 be noted and that the payments totalling £3,789.79 be authorised;
- (2) that the levels of funding held within the Parish Council's bank accounts as at 29 February 2016, together with the month-end figures for each of the preceding six months and as at 28 February 2015, be noted.

M156/15 Fenland Association for Community Transport – request for financial assistance

The Clerk read to members a request from the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) for financial assistance towards the cost of operating the Dial-a-Ride service which covers Manea.

The letter of request from FACT states that 41 villagers are regular users of this service.

Councillor Risbridger reminded members that Manea Parish Council had provided financial assistance towards the cost of operating this Dial-a-Ride service in 2014/15 in the sum of £300.

Members decided that financial assistance in the sum of £300 be awarded to FACT towards the cost of operating the local Dial-a-Ride service.

M157/15 Annual Assembly 2016 - agenda items

Members discussed possible agenda items for the Annual Assembly arranged for 18 April 2016.

Members decided that

- (1) the agenda for the 2016 Annual Assembly would contain, in addition to the items which featured on the agenda for last year's agenda, a presentation on Manea Youth Club;

(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.

M158/15 Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that there are currently no items of correspondence for reporting to the council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M159/15 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for 18 April 2016, following the Annual Parish Assembly which commences at 7.00 pm, at the Village Hall, School Lane, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.25 pm

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

Date:.....