

## MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

10th SEPTEMBER 2018

**Present:** Councillors: Emery, Mrs Desborough, Mrs Hookaway, Mrs Eves, Drinkwater, Cole, Risbridger.

**Apologies:** Councillors: Mrs Berry and Fielding.

**Public Forum:** Mrs Brenda Mead raised her concerns regarding the lack of winter gritting at the edge of the road outside 8 Westfield Road, Manea. She emphasised that during the last winter freeze, 3 vehicles had left the road and landed in her garden. Mrs Mead is concerned that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed! She had contacted Cambridgeshire County Highways on numerous occasions to report that gritting had not reached the boundary of the road. She had also received a visit from a council officer who undertook to remedy the situation. The suggestion was that a gritting bin should be provided so that Mrs Mead or other residents could grit that small section of the road boundary.

Mrs Mead is so concerned that she is considering legal action if nothing is done. The Clerk was asked to write to Cambridgeshire County Highways and to liaise with Councillor Gowing.

Mr Martin Hindry raised his concern at the lack of mobile phone signal in Manea. The Clerk reported his frustration and said that the matter was to be raised at a meeting with Steve Barclay MP at a forthcoming meeting, which was being attended by himself and the Vice-Chairman.

Mr Hindry also asked what had happened to "Tilly" the old Manea fire appliance. The Chairman reassured Mr Hindry that Tilly was currently being looked after in Wisbech and was awaiting a place in a Museum. The Clerk said that he would contact Mr Jordan, former Clerk for any further information.

Mr Ian Frost reported that day tickets for the fishing at the pit were up, he also raised the matter of "Silver Fish" in the lake, the stocks of which are currently depleted. The chairman reported that there had been discussions with CEFAS and that the time was not right yet to re-stock the lake with silver fish, however discussions were ongoing and at the appropriate time, the lake would be re-stocked.

Mr Frost also commented on the current outline planning application at Lavenders old mill he said that there were concerns about the sewage and surface water egress from the site, there were concerns that the site and surrounding area would be flooded. The Chairman and the Clerk reassured Mr Frost that the current planning application was outline only and that full details of drainage would have to be revealed. At that time, the council and residents would have the opportunity to raise any issues with the planning authority.

**M066/18: Apologies** were received from Councillors: Mrs Berry and Fielding.

**M067/18:** Members were reminded of the code of conduct.

**M068/18: Declarations of interest: Councillor David Cole** declared a **pecuniary** interest in agenda item 12, Street Naming.

**M069/18:** The minutes of the meeting 13th August were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**M070/18: Progress and actions from the meeting 13th August 2018.**

**Adoption of Charlemont Drive, Street Lights.** The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Fenland District Council re-affirming the calculations submitted to the council of an additional £614 per annum to maintain the 23 street lights at Charlemont Drive, the letter also quoted the sum of £37.06 to inspect the lights for adoption, the total amount for this exercise would cost £852.28. The council felt that this would be excessive and asked the Clerk to contact with Fenland District Council to discuss the cost, It was also revealed that Sue Reynolds of the County Council had confirmed that the lights had recently been inspected and were in a good condition.

The Chairman reported that almost all the work to **the Manea Pit fence** had been completed, the clerk reported that he had researched the Equality Acts of 2010/2016/2018 and that he was satisfied that the accessibility to the woodlands and lake complied with current legislation. The council had an obligation to "take all reasonable steps" to mitigate any risk to people who have mobile difficulties.

The Chairman reported that further acts of **vandalism** had occurred at the pit. He expressed his revulsion at the fact that a further attack had been carried out on nests. Another nest had been destroyed with the eggs smashed, the eggs were about to hatch and that the chicks had been killed. It was also reported that a person had taken a terrier type dog around the lake off the lead! The dog subsequently killed a moorhen. The Chairman said he had reported the matters to the police. Members resolved to prosecute any perpetrators and would seek the maximum fine of £5000. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the school to inform students of this crime.

It was reported **that Doddington School** were to visit the **Pit for "Pond Dipping"** on 19th September. Members hoped that other schools would take up this option.

**Open Spaces:** Councillor Mrs Eves reported that the Orchard Area of the Pit was in very good condition and there was an abundance of fruit this season. It was agreed that the sign in the orchard would be moved shortly.

Councillor Drinkwater had information for the possible provision of **Gym Equipment** in the park. The council would look into this. It was also reported that the trampoline was in a bad condition this is particularly annoying as the trampoline has only recently been installed, the Clerk is to write to FLP and ask them to make it safe at repair or replace the trampoline.

**Defibrillators:** Councillor Mrs Eves reported that the first two defibrillators were ready for installation. The first two would be installed at the Village Hall and the Sports Pavilion. The Clerk reported that all the finance was in place, the generous donation from Stainless Metalwork of Chatteris had been received. The position of the other two defibrillators was yet to be finalised, Mrs Eves was awaiting a reply from the Fire Authority about an installation at the Fire Station. Mrs Eves was also waiting to hear from Railtrack regarding electricity for the installation at the station. Mrs Eves undertook to supervise the installations.

**Bus shelters:** The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from Cambridgeshire County Council that the cheque for £500 had been received and that the survey work had begun.

**30mph stickers:** The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to Ramsey Town Council about the use of 30mph stickers in Mereside. He ascertained that the stickers for Mereside had been provided by Huntingdonshire District Council, and that the stickers were only effective on "dustbin day". The council resolved to take no further action at this stage pending a review and installation of Community Speed Watch Notices.

**M071/18: Planning Applications:** There were none.

**M072/18: Police Matters:** There were none to report.

**M072/18: Reports from District and Councillors:** Apologies were received from Councillor Gowing CCC, however, he had sent a message to say that discussions about Boots Bridge and other traffic issues were on going.

Councillor Buckdon FDC. reported that the **Fenland Leisure Centres** were to be run by a new partnership. It was hoped that there would be a significant improvement in services at the George Campbell in March and the Gym in Chatteris.

**M073/18: Financial Matters:** The Responsible Financial Officer reported that the facility of On Line banking was now in place and that he now had access to the bank accounts on a daily basis if required. In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs Eves, the RFO reported that he is now seeking alternative investment opportunities to safe guard the council's investments. The RFO reported that the council had been credited with £23,430 owing to the council from a section 106 agreement. Councillors Mrs Eves and Cole asked the RFO to look into section 106 with FDC as they believed that further monies were due. The Chairman stated that at a recent meeting at FDC, it had been disclosed that if the District Council was hanging on to section 106 monies, they were acting illegally.

**The Financial Report** was received and it was agreed unanimously to receive and pay all outstanding invoices. **(See Appendix).**

**M074/18: Change of name Manea Pit:** At the meeting of the meeting 13th August, a member of the public had suggested that the name "Pit" was not relevant to a new and upcoming generation and would the council consider an alternative name? After a brief discussion the council resolved not to change the name of Manea Pit.

**M075/18: Council Land Assets:** Councillor Mrs Eves had requested an update on the council's land holdings. The Clerk reported that the land which is adjacent to the Manea Allotments was currently let for agricultural purposes and the current income is £1,562 per annum, reviewed annually (excluding allotment rents). It was asked if the land could be used for alternative purposes, the Clerk reported that the land had originally been gifted to the Parish Council for the use of agricultural and allotment use, and the roadway access to the land was covenanted as an access for agricultural only. The Chairman reported that this had been contested in 2015/2016 by an adjacent landowner, after much correspondence it was resolved that the covenant was secure and could not be lifted.

There was also a discussion of the **Marsh Area at Fodder Fen**. It was reported that the area was designated for sale when the allotment land was sold to Sears Bros Ltd. However Sears Bros Ltd pulled out of the deal. The access is the council only, to access the land. Currently the area is rich in wildlife, flora and fauna as well as a population of Adder Snakes. The council resolved that both parcels of land, at this time, had no commercial or alternative value, but would monitor the situation over the coming years.

**M076/18: Correspondence:** The Clerk reported the following items:

- The council has received formal notification that the Tree Preservation Order at the Pit had been approved by Fenland District Council (**TPO06/18**).
- The council received confirmation of a road closure from Cambridgeshire Highways regarding a road closure at Wisbech Road, to come into force on 7th October 2018 and will be in force until 6th April 2020 and the hours of restriction will be between 22.55hrs 7th October and 08.40hrs 8th October. An alternative route for vehicles will be via the B1093.
- A quotation of £316.80 had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council for Community Speedwatch Notices. Cllr Buckton advised that FDC would be paying the cost.
- The council received a report of the Planning Review at Fenland District Council. The Clerk reported that the full report was on the Fenland District Council website.
- The council received a letter about Water Possible Pollution in cemeteries. The Clerk would investigate.
- A letter was received from a member of the public reporting that a fisher man had been seen urinating in the lake at the pit. Members resolved to report this to the fishing syndicates, stating that this was unacceptable.

**M077/18: Street Naming:** There was a request from Fenland District Council to approve the name "**Kirton Close**" at the development the rear of 26 Park Road. Some members objected to the name. Councillor Mrs Eves said that the council should consider the name of War Heroes for the name. After a brief discussion the Clerk informed members that the proposed name had been submitted for confirmation and that it was the developers right to propose a name. It was pointed out that the name of Kirton was synonymous with the Manea family who once owned the site. Members agreed to confirm the name "Kirton Close".

*(Councillor Cole declared his pecuniary interest in this item, he took no part in the discussion or voting)*

At this point, the Clerk said that the council should submit possible names for new developments to the district council, in order for the district council to suggest these names to the developer. He pointed out that the developer need not necessarily accept the suggestions but at least the council would have an input into the process.

**M078/18: Date and time of next meeting: 15th October 2018, commencing at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

**Signed:.....Chairman**

**Date:.....**

