**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 26th February 2024**

**Present: Councillors,** Ben Bonos (Chairman), Jan Coupland (Vice Chairman), Caroline Barnes, Charlie Marks, Chris Bartram, Janet O’Keefe, David Payne, Nick Usher.

Cllr John Gowing (CCC)

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

**M133/23: Public Forum.** Mr Steve Emery asked the council to consider repairing the village sign on “Dicks” green. Members agreed to find tradespersons who could carry out the repair.

Mr Mark Robinson thanked Councillors Marks, Coupland and Bartram for their help during the recent flooding.

Martin Hindry asked about “Tilley”, The Clerk and Councillor Marks would organise transportation to recover “Tilley”.

**M134/23: Apologies**, Councillor Doggett

**M135/23: Code of Conduct**, Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

**M136/23: Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**. Councillor Marks, item 6 as a member of FDC Planning Committee.

**M137/23: Minutes,** the minutes of the meeting 29th January 2024 were received and accepted, the Chairman signed the minutes.

**M138/23: Actions and progress from previous minutes.**

* Proposed Fire Station Closure: Councillor John Gowing (CCC) reported that the next meeting of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, will be receiving a report regarding the retained fire service, however the final recommendations are likely to be delayed pending the appointment of a new Chief Fire Officer.

The Chairman reported that there will be an open evening at the Fire Station on Thursday 14th March 2024.Councillor O’Keefe proposed that the Fire Station should be represented at the Manea Gala. There will be a week end open event later in the year.

* Boots Bridge: Councillors Marks and Gowing had a meeting with an officer of County Highways regarding the possible closure of the Stonea underpass. Councillors Marks and Gowing took the opportunity to discuss Boots Bridge and reaffirmed their concerns about safety issues.
* Fact Bus: The FACT bus is coming to Manea on a regular basis and is distributing surplus food that would otherwise be dumped in landfill. Councillor Coupland reported that the service was very well received. Councillor Coupland also reported that the “Warm Room” initiative was working very well and thanked Martin Hindry for his hard work in promoting and working with the community.
* Trees: It was reported that the order had been placed for the removal of a dangerous branch from the pit footpath.
* Pit Maintenance: The Clerk gave an update regarding voluntary work around the, he reported that new sleepers and water dye had been delivered.

**139/23**: Polce report, the Chairman reported that parked cars in Station Road would be reported to the police with the view to remove the vehicles

**M140/23: Planning applications:**

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| **F/YR24/0067/F** | **Erect 2 dwellings, 92, Station Road, Manea** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR24/0104/AG1** | **Erect agricultural building, Langwood Fen Drove, Chatteris** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR24/0134/VOC** | **Variation of condition, Iretons Way, Chatteris** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR24/0143/AG1** | **Erect agricultural building, Wenny House, Chatteris** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR24/3013/COND** | **Reserved matters, 37A Westfield Road, Manea** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR24/3024/COND** | **Reserved condition, Fallow Corner Drove, Manea** | **No Objection** |

**M141/23: Financial matters**, The RFO presented the monthly income and expenditure report, also presented were the accounts for payment. Members gave the RFO authority to pay all outstanding accounts.

**M142/23: Maurice Short Community Pavilion,** The Clerk reported that planning and fundraising was continuing.

**M143/23: Application for a Grant,** Councillor Nik Usher on behalf of the Manea Primary School asked if the Council would consider a grant for the provision of a new shed at the school. There was already some match funding available. Members agreed to discuss the request at the March meeting.

**M144/23: Parking Restrictions:** The Clerk reported that he had received representations concerning parking in Station Road, there is particular concern since the granting of planning permission for an HMO at “Classics Restaurant” and the impact of the street parking of up to 12 extra vehicles. It was suggested that parking restrictions be introduced. Members agreed to ask for a survey from the County Highways Officers.

**M145/23: Drainage,** Councillor Marks gave an update on the recent flooding issues. There had been significant flooding in Pringle Road, Wisbech Road, School Lane, Park Road, Westfield Road, Fallow Corner Drove, and Williams Way. Councillor Marks is working with Anglian Water and Cambridgeshire County Council to alleviate the problems. Upon inspection, it was found that several gullies lacked capacity, there were broken pipes, poor runoff and blocked ditches.

Work would commence to clear and repair the obstacles.

**M146/23: Confidential Item, Tenders for the Grounds Maintenance Contract.** The Clerk reported that he had received 3 tenders for the contract. Subject to further interviews members were minded to award the contract. A further announcement would be made in due course.

**M146/23: Meeting date: The next meeting would be held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 7.pm in the Village Hall.**

**M147/23: The meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

**Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………………….Chairman**

**Date……………………………………………………………………**

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