

**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
17th FEBRUARY 2025**

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

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

M118/24: Public Forum, Mr Malcolm Willmott raised the issue of the installation of new streetlights in the Edwards Way and Williams Way areas. Mr Willmott reported that 17 new lights had been installed, however the lights were the equivalent of 6 lumens and as a result the light was very low and that there were black spots which were no longer lit. The Chairman made it clear that Manea Parish Council does not supply either the lampposts or the power, these lights were provided by Cambridgeshire County Council. Councillor David Payne commented that the light output had been incorrectly set. There should be a mechanism to increase the light up to 24 lumens. He commented that the reason for the low setting was a cost saving exercise. Councillor Charlie Marks commented that safety was being prejudiced above costs.

The Clerk was asked to write to Cambridgeshire Highways and ask for the lights to be turned up.

M119/24: Apologies. Councillor Caroline Barnes

M120/24: Code of Conduct, Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

M121/24: Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Councillor Charlie Marks declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 as a member of FDC Planning Committee, Councillor Chris Bartram, declared a pecuniary interest in item 8, financial statements and took no part in the debate or voting.

M122/24: Minutes, the minutes of the meeting 20th January 2025 were received and accepted, the Chairman signed the minutes.

Actions and progress from previous minutes.

- **Community Lake and Orchard Maintenance Proposals:** The Clerk reported that the Safety Management Plan remedial work was almost complete. The apple, pear, and cherry trees had been pruned.
- **Nature Recovery:** The Clerk and Councillor Janet O’Keefe gave a report regarding the visit of Helen Dye from the Cambridgeshire Foundation regarding our application for a grant. Helen gave us a lot of advice and offered the services of nature consultants to advise us about biodiversity and planting. Dr Green would like to use our Community Orchard and lake for a pilot scheme.
- **Gala:** Councillor Nick Usher reported that the Christmas Lights had been removed. Gala day would be 12th July 2025. He also requested a 13-amp socket on the side of the pavilion to alleviate the need for generators.
- **Community Hub:** Councillor Jan Coupland presented to members the certificate from Cambridgeshire Acre for the work carried out by the hub volunteers.
- **VE Day:** Councillor Jan Coupland reported that the British Legion would provide activities for children and that the Beeken would be lit on the 8th May 2025.

M123/24: Planning Applications:

F/YR24/0996/F	1 dwelling at Land North of 70 Station Road, Manea	Observation: Visibility/Parking
F/YR25/0019/VOC	Variation of Conditions at 36 Westfield Road, Manea.	No Comment: Lack of clarity
F/YR25/0036/PIP	9 Self build dwellings at Land South of Poppyfields, Road, Manea	Object: Poor access On a dangerous bend Rear land development Not conducive to the street scene In Flood zone Sets a precedent No 106 provision

M124/24: Police Report, there was no report, however the Clerk tabled the notes of the public meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025.

- **Speed Watch:** Councillor Nick Usher reported that he had attended a meeting with volunteers, 3 further volunteers had been recruited. All volunteers would attend training sessions, and the speed monitor would be talking to school children.

M125/24: 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.

- The Clerk/RFO reported that the limestone had been rolled into the access road to the allotments.
- The Clerk/RFO gave a presentation regarding the new audit requirements for the 2024/2025 accounts, he reported that he had attended training and was conversant of the new regulations.
- The Clerk/RFO advised members that in the future all employees would be able to enrol in a pension scheme, (the current staff are currently too old). PAYE and pension arrangements would be more complex and proposed that a specialist company take on the roll of payroll. Members agreed that the Clerk/RFO should appoint Local Government Services to carry out the work.
- The Clerk/RFO reported that the proposed Local Government Structure will have little or no impact on the work of Manea Parish Council, as MPC already manage all of their assets. However, he did issue a plea for Fenland District Council to ensure that Manea receives some of the surplus capital receipt that are currently held.

M126/24: Tilley – Trust Proposals. The Clerk reported that a community meeting had been held on Monday 10th February 2025. He tabled the notes of the meeting.

M127/24: Byelaws: Members had expressed concerns regarding persons who allow misdemeanours on council owned property and were concerned about the lack of enforcement. Following a request from members of the Council and members of the public the Clerk was asked to look into the enactment of statutory byelaws. The Clerk reported that he had researched the matter and explained the process. Members agreed to enact byelaws. The Clerk asked members to submit suggestions for byelaws to be debated at the next meeting.

M128/24: Community Lake and Orchard – provision of toilets: The Clerk reported that he had been speaking to the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency regarding the provision of toilets next to the lake, following a request from fisher persons. The Clerk had been advised that toilets were not a mandatory provision, and that lakes such as Graffam Water and Hinchingsbrooke Park had no toilet provision around the lake. chemical and compost toilets would not be allowed there would have to be a purpose-built facility to ensure no effluent or chemicals found its way into the watercourse, this would be very expensive and there was no budget provision. The Clerk suggested that the existing toilets, behind the pavilion and adjacent to the lake should be modernised and secure for not only fisher persons but also sports, children, (Guides etc) and public. Members asked the Clerk to obtain a specification and indicative costs.

M129/24: Toddler Group: Councillor Marks reported that he had attended a meeting with the Manea British Legion, representative of the Village Hall and the Toddler Group. The Toddler Group were proposing to re-locate to the British Legion Club, however there was a lack of storage facilities, it was suggested that the parish council could supply a container to be sited on the British Legion car park. However, Councillor Jan Coupland expressed concerns regarding the ownership and weather the parish council should be involved. Members expressed similar sentiments, Councillor Marks as link councillor suggested that the Toddler Group submit a further application form for a grant to enable them to purchase a storage facility. The Clerk would send out the application form.

M130/24: Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch. The Clerk along with Councillors Marks and Payne reported a meeting with representatives of the CCW. This following the incidents on 25th January 2025. The Clerk and Councillors Marks and Payne gave a presentation and a resume of the service offered by CCW. The cost would be £300 in the first year to set up and a further £60mper annum thereafter. Members unanimously agreed to join the CCW and asked the Clerk to apply for membership.

M131/24: Correspondence: The Chairman read out a letter from the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. The letter stated that following representations from Manea Parish Council and the appointment of a new Chief Fire Officer, any decision on the future of Manea Fire Station had been postponed and that for the time being, the Fire Station was safe from closure. Members of the Council thanked the Chairman for all of his hard work lobbying the Fire Authority.

M132/24: The date of the next meeting would be Monday 17th March 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

