

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
17th March 2025

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

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

5 members of the public

M133/24: Public Forum. No Comments

.

M134/24: Apologies. Councillor David Payne, Alan Gowler (FDC) James Carney (FDC)

M135/24: Code of Conduct, Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

M136/24: 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.

M137/24: Minutes, the minutes of the meeting 17th February 2025 were received and accepted, the Chairman signed the minutes.
Actions and progress from previous minutes.

- **Community Lake and Orchard Maintenance Proposals:** Pruning was reported to be completed. Two loads of bark for footpaths were on order.
- **Nature Recovery:** Councillor Janet O’Keefe reported that further details for the grant application were complete, the Bio-Diversity plan was completed, Councillors O’Keefe and Payne had both requested approval for the purchase of wildflower seeds. It was reported that there were hedge hogs in the orchard and lake area.
- **Vandalism:** The Clerk reported that there had been significant damage to the perimeter fence surrounding the lake. Strand of the wire had been cut at low levels which would enable predators to enter the secure area, including otters and badgers. It was pointed out that the fishing lake yields £8,000 per annum in revenue, any damage to fish etc would mean that fishing would not be possible, the loss of revenue would have to be met from general funds, (i.e. precept). As reported, hedgehogs are making a home within the boundaries of the orchard and lake, badgers would decimate the hedgehog population, this would cause immeasurable distress to parishioners and particularly children upon finding destroyed hedgehogs. Members of the council expressed disappointment at the vandalism of the fence. Described as wanton vandalism and questioned the motives, members agreed that any perpetrators would be prosecuted, named and shamed!
- **Gala:** Members agreed that the council would have a stand at the Manea Gala.

M138/24: Planning Applications:

F/YR24/0880/F	Horseway Farm Chatteris	No Objection
F/YR25/0124/PIP	3 x dwellings at: Fallow Corner Drove, Manea	Object: Back land development Over development Sets a precedent
F/YR25/0139/TRTPO	Fell 2 Oak Trees at, Wisbech Road, Manea	Strongly Object: Spoil the street scene Cannot lose heathy trees. Trees have a value for carbon catching. Trees are an eco-system Applicant has failed to consider alternatives. Applicant has not demonstrated alternative methods of mitigation regarding probable damage to adjacent buildings.
F/YR25/0172	Change of use at: 67 Station Road, Manea	Object: No clear access Object to on-street parking To close to the rail crossing
F/YR25/0184/F	2-storey extension at, Elsa House, Straight Road, Manea	No Objection
F/YR25/0191/F	Erect single storey extension at, 42, Westfield Road, Manea	No Objection
F/YR25/0198/F	Change of use at, 22-24 Charlemont Drive, Manea.	No Objection

M139/24: Police Report, there was no report, however, Councillors Marks and Payne attended the annual meeting of the Countryside Watch. The Chief Constable was present and gave an update regarding the hare coursing and farm vandalism issues. The Chief Constable assured members that the investigation was progressing, 20 persons had been apprehended, he was confident that further arrests would be made.

M140/24: 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.

- Members agreed the appointment of Robert Mandley as Internal Auditor for the 2024/2025 accounts and audit.

M141/24: Tilley – Trust Proposals. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting confirmation from the Charity Commission regarding the practicality of setting up charitable trust. Further advice from Cambridgeshire Acre suggested that the Parish Council should assume responsibility and ownership of Tilley on behalf of the community of Manea. The Clerk would report at the April meeting.

M142/24: Byelaws: This item was deferred.

M143/24: Manea Fishing Group Report. The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting with the Manea Fishing Group.

- New draft fishing rules would be available for council approval at the April meeting.
- **Cormorants.** Members had expressed concern regarding a small flock of cormorants that were attacking the fish stocks in the lake. The Clerk had met an officer from the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust for a solution. It was agreed that there would be no destroying of wildlife, however measures needed to be taken to protect the fish stock. It was agreed to install wires and fencing to the stock and spawning ponds. The officer recommended that the council employ a licensed gun owner to fire either live rounds or blanks from a starter gun to scare away the cormorants. This is a well tried and tested means of scaring the birds away. ***Members emphasised that no wild birds would be shot at.***
Fish stock would need replenishing, the Environment Agency would help with this from surplus stock elsewhere.

M144/24: Correspondence: The Clerk reported that the annual ROSPA inspection of paly equipment in the S M Guy Playing Field would take place during April 2025.

M145/24: The date of the next meeting would be Monday 28th April 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

