

**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

7members of the public

**M146/24: Public Forum.** Sally Hookaway raised the issues of the of the state of the roads and pavements in the village, particularly around the Edwards Way area, she commented that the service from Cambridgeshire County Highways was poor. Councillor Charlie Marks reported that the budget for highways, particularly in Fenland was very poor, he mentioned the forthcoming county council elections, it was suggested that once the new County Councillor for Manea is known, the Clerk would write to him/her.

Mr Steve Emery commented that the parcel of land identified for the display of Tilley had been re-fenced and appeared to be no longer available.

**M147/24: Apologies.** Councillors Janet O'Keefe, Caroline Barnes

**M148/24: Code of Conduct,** Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

**M149/24: 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. Councillor Jan Coupland declared a non-pecuniary in item 3, village sign.

**M150/24: Minutes,** the minutes of the meeting 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were received and accepted, the Chairman signed the minutes.  
Actions and progress from previous minutes.

- **Community Lake and Orchard Maintenance Proposals:** Repairs were on-going, the scaring of Cormorants had paused as other birds were nesting.
- **Nature Recovery:** Deferred until the next meeting
- **Footpaths:** Councillor Marks reported the on-going works to the footpaths in the Westfield/Old Dairy area. Following a meeting with Councillor Marks, Mark Peck (Footpaths Officer CCC) and adjoining landowners, agreed a series of repairs and maintenance of the footpaths, entrances and crossings. The work was proceeding.  
A new vehicle gate was to be installed, dangerous barbed wire had been replaced, the wooden bridge at the rear of the Old Dairy Yard would be removed and replaced with a culvert and walk-over, new styles would allow disabled persons access.
- **Streetlights replacement and repair, Westfield Road.** The Clerk reported that due to months of delay, he had given Fenland District Council clear instruction to carry out the work and invoice Manea Parish Council, which will in turn be re-invoiced to James Developments as previously agreed. Councillor Matthew Doggett reported that the work had be completed.
- **Manea Village Sign.** Members accepted a quotation of £1,990 + VAT to replace the village sign.

**M151/24: Planning Applications:**

<b>F/YR25/0172/F</b>	<b>Change of Use, Nail Salon, 67, Station Road, Manea</b>	<b>No Objection</b>
<b>F/YR25/0238/O</b>	<b>6 Dwellings, Cherry Tree House, Fallow Corner Drove, Manea</b>	<b>No Objection</b>
<b>F/YR25/0262/F</b>	<b>Change of use travellers plot, Dragons Rest, Purls Bridge Drove, Manea</b>	<b>OBJECT: Development in the open countryside. Sets a precedent.</b>
<b>F/YR25/0278/F</b>	<b>2 Storey Extension, 46, Scholars Close, Manea</b>	<b>No Objection</b>
<b>F/YR25/0281/RM</b>	<b>Detailed appearance and landscaping, The Old Dairy Yard, Westfield Road, Manea.</b>	<b>No Objection</b>
<b>F/YR/25/0290/CERTLU</b>	<b>Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Fifty Road, Manea</b>	<b>No Objection</b>
<b>F/YR25/0315/DE1</b>	<b>Demolition of Pig Farm Buildings, 76 Station Road, Manea</b>	<b>No Objection</b>

**M152/24: Police Report.** The Chairman reported that due to purdah, there was no police report.

**M153/24: 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 RFO told members that he would not be paying the account from Fenland District Council for the sum of £349.30 until the rating position had been clarified. Legislation made it clear that Burial Grounds were exempt. The Valuation Office had valued the rateable value of the cemetery as £700, however, the RFO claimed that the written down value of the cemetery was £1 which was recorded for Audit and Annual Accounting Statements. He also stated that historical documents demonstrate that the land was a gift and has a covenant preventing sale of the land. The building and container were un-useable.

**M154/24: Tilley – Trust Proposals.** The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the Charity Commission and HMRC that because the annual turnover of a proposed trust was less than £5,000 Tilley could not be registered. Members agree to hold another meeting with the 11 members of the community to agree a way forward and discuss all options regarding the care of Tilley.

**M155/24: Byelaws:** The Clerk presented the council with a paper, regarding the relevant legislation and possible byelaws. Following a discussion, minor amendments and additions were suggested and would be presented to the next meeting of the council for ratification. The council would then be required to

consult with the community for comments before submitting proposals to Fenland District Council.

**M156/24: Manea Fishing Group Report.** The Chairman presented a draft report setting out proposals and rules for the use of the Community Lake and Orchard and new and updated fishing rules. Members were asked to consider his report for further discussion at the next council meeting.

**M157/24: Application of Grant.** A grant application was received from the Manea Village Hall committee, requesting a grant of £1,500 toward the repairs of the Village Hall Car Park.

Councillor Charlie marks reported that he had attended the Village Hall annual general meeting, he agreed that the responsibility for car parking at school times was the responsibility of the county council and the primary school, however the school were reluctant to contribute.

Members agreed that the council should contribute and proposed £750 net of VAT. This was unanimously agreed.

**M158/24: Correspondence:** The clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Community Placement Coordinator from the Probation Service, offering to work within the Manea community. Members agreed that the Clerk should write and accept their offer. Details of schemes to be discussed. A letter was received from Ely Foodbank, asking for support in the village, members rejected the offer as Manea has the weekly Community Hub.

**M159/24: The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

**M159/24: The date of the next meeting would be Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Following the Parish Meeting.**

**The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Council**

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

DRAFT