**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 16th June 2025**

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

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

7 members of the public

**M022/25: Resignation**: The Chairman reported the resignation of Councillor Caroline Barnes

**M023/25: Public Forum.** Mr Stephen Emery asked if the council would look at the safety of low hanging tree branches in park and around the lake. The Clerk would assess the work needed.

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**M024/25: Apologies**. None

**M025/25: Code of Conduct**, Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

**M026/25: 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 7, financial statements and took no part in the debate or voting.

**M027/25: Minutes,** the minutes of the meeting 19th May 2025 were received and accepted, the Chairman signed the minutes.

**Actions and progress from previous minutes.**

* **Community Lake and Orchard Maintenance: Councillor** Chris Bartram gave a brief update of the work the working party had been carrying out around the community lake. Councillor Bartram reported that the working party consisted of up to 16 volunteers. Councillor Charlie Marks proposed a donation of £50 to the volunteer who recently attended the injured geese in the lake. Member supported the proposal.
* **Nature Recovery:** Councillor Janet O’Keefe gave a report of the work being carried out in and around the community orchard and lake. Councillor O’Keefe also reported that the grant application had been received but there were more questions to answer.
* **Reservoir:** The Clerk reported that 2 replies from neighbouring council’s had been received, supporting the Manea Parish Council’s plans to approach Anglian Water with one voice to ensure delivery of the major infrastructure required to deliver the project and to ensure that local communities share the benefits of the development.

**M028/25: Planning Applications:**

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| **F/YR25/0405/VOC** | **Variation of condition of planning permission F/YR22/1156/0 at, Land North of 96A and 100 Westfield Road, Manea** | **OBJECT:**  **The kink in the access road will cause congestion particularly when HGV’s enter the site, could cause restricted access for emergency services.**  **Visibility splays inadequate.**  **Lack of parking space for plot 2.**  **Damage to existing tree roots** |
| **F/YR25/0416/F** | **Agricultural Building at, Byall Fen Drove, Horseway , Manea** | **OBJECT:**  **Poor access**  **Noise from fans affecting neighbouring property** |
| **F/YR25/0430/CERTP** | **Extension at, 18 Charlemont Drive, Manea** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR25/0438/O** | **Erection od 2 dwellings, Land West of 34 Westfield Road, Manea** | **Comment:**  **Concern of access opposite Bedford View.**  **Drainage**  **Water run-off** |

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| **M029/25: Financial matters**, The Clerk/RFO presented the financial report and payments. Members approved the accounts and authorised payments.  **M/030/25: Accounting Statements**: The Clerk/RFO presented the Annual Accountability Statement, the RFO explained the current finances of the council. The RFO reported that the AGAR had undergone Internal Audit and that all calculations and records were correct.  Members unanimously received the reports, and the Chairman signed the AGAR documents.  The AGAR would now be submitted to the External Auditor.  **M031/25: Council Vacancies:** Following the resignations of Councillors Payne and Barnes, the Clerk reported that the Notice of Vacancy had been issued by Fenland District Council and at the deadline of  11th June 2025 an election had not been called.  The Clerk advised the council that the members now had the power to co-opt from the community,  a notice would be published seeking nominations.  The deadline for applications would be 17th July 2025 and the interviews and appointments would be made at the meeting of the council to be held on 21st July 2025  **M032/25: New Sports Field Update:** The Chairman, Councillor Bonos gave a report regarding the status of the new playing field, Councillor Bonos reported that the new pitches would be played at the start of the next football season.  Councillor Bonos reported that the Football Clubs had raised funds for a new entrance, however there was a problem with existing trees, which were subject to Tree Preservation Orders. Councillor Bonos proposed an alternative entrance; members agreed in principle. Councillor Bartram expressed reservations regarding the state of the footpath which was likely to become muddy and un-sustainable during wet weather, members resolved to visit the site and discuss methods of alleviating any short-term problems.  Councillor Doggett expressed concerns of any delay, as the pitches were ready for play at the start of the new football season. The Clerk/RFO reminded members that the council had spent a great deal of taxpayer’s money in purchasing and preparing the field and it was imperative to receive an income as soon as possible.  **M033/25: Grant Application Policy:** Following the meeting of the council 19th May 2025 (minute M018/25) **,** the Clerk was asked to review the Grants Policy and s137 grants.  Members received the new policy and accepted the recommendations.  The Clerk also submitted a revised grant application form, with two amendments, members accepted the new application form.  Copies would now be made available on the council’s website or via the Clerk.  **M034/25: Illegal Parking**; Members once again expressed concern of the illegal parking that occurs around the Primary School in the mornings and afternoons. It was reported that there were a number of complaints. The council resolved to ask the local Police to visit the area and issue warnings and  ultimately parking tickets and prosecution notices.  **M035/25: Gala:** Councillor Marks stated that he would ensure that “Tilley” would be delivered to the park for the Gala. It was also reported that the stand used by the council to display “Tilley” and other council activities was inadequate. Councillor Marks suggested that the council should appear more professional and that the council should purchase a dedicated tent with a printed head banner proclaiming “Manea Parish Council” Councillor Marks proposed a sum of up to £500 to purchase the tent. Members unanimously agreed the proposition.  **M036/25: Correspondence:** A letter had been received from Mr Barry Cundell regarding the state of the war memorial. The Clerk was asked to seek quotations for rectifying the matter.  **M037/25: Pride in Fenland**: The Clerk reported that he had been nominated for a community award for the work in setting up the Wednesday Community Hub, however the Clerk reported that he felt he was not worthy of the award as he, as Clerk of the Council, was not an unpaid volunteer.  The Clerk therefore had nominated Councillor Jan Coupland to receive the award on behalf of all the volunteers who have made the Hub so successful.  **M038/25: The date of the next meeting would be Monday 21st July 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**  **The meeting closed at 8.30pm**  **Signed……………………………………………………………………………………………….Chairman**  **Date……………………………………………** |  |  |
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