**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 21st July 2025**

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

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

7 members of the public

 **M039/25: Public Forum.** Mr Keith Hill of Annable Avenue, asked about the proposed closures of Edwards Way. Councillor Marks assured Mr Hill that the road would only be closed for 20 minutes at a time to allow access and egress.

Mr Martin Hindry asked for an update of Boots Bridge. Councillor Marks reported that meetings were still taking place.

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**M040/25: Apologies**. Councillor Ben Bonos

**M041/25: Code of Conduct**, Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

**M42/25: Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**. Councillor Charlie Marks declared a pecuniary interest in item 7, as a member of FDC Planning Committee. Councillors Chris Bartram, Stephen Emery and Charlie Marks declared a pecuniary interest in item 8, financial statements and took no part in the debate or voting. Councillor Jan Coupland and Nick Usher declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 (appeals)

**M43/25: Co-option of members**: The Clerk reported that he had received two applications for the two vacancies as a result of two resignations. Mr Frank Fowler and Mr Stephn Emery were the two names put forward. Members agreed to adopt the said applicants: Frank Fowler and Stephen Emery as councillors for the remainder of the municipal years to 2027.

**M044/25: Minutes,** the minutes of the meeting 16th June 2025 were received and accepted, the Vice-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 around the lake, the Clerk/RFO reported that the grant of £4,606 had been received from the Angling Trust/ Environment Agency for improvements to the fishing lake. The Clerk/RFO reported that the total revenue from fishing activities had exceeded £10,000 against a budget of £8,000 for this financial year. The Clerk reported that there were no further updates on the still unconfirmed outbreak of Bird Flue around the lake.
* **Water Level:** Councillor Stephen Emery reported that the level of the water in the lake had dropped by 20 inches. The Clerk would ascertain if extraction was possible**.**
* **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 reported that a survey of community lake and orchard users had returned very positive comments, and two further volunteers had been recruited. Volunteers were organising an “apple and pear” day on Saturday 26th July including a talk on the keeping and maintaining fruit trees.
* **Reservoir:** The Clerk reported that replies had been received from all neighbouring council’ 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.

The Clerk confirmed that meeting would be convened once the date of the next AWA consultation was known**.**

* **New sports field and entrance.** The Clerk reported that contractors had been asked

 to install the new entrance gate.

* **Illegal Parking** – nothing to report
* **Gala** Councillor Usher reported that the annual Gala had been an enormous success.
* **“Tilley”** It was confirmed that “Tilley” had been placed back into storage and that

 The ownership consultation ends at the end of July 2025.

 **M045/25: Planning Applications:**

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| **F/YR25/0467/F** | **Retention of Bore Holes at North 142 and A141** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR25/0522/F** | **Change of use at 23-25 Charlemont Drive, Manea** | **No Objection** |
| **F/YR25/0530/F** | **Change od use at, Land South of Wenny House, Iretons Way, Chatters** | **No Objection** |

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| **M046/25: Financial matters**, The Clerk/RFO presented the financial report and payments. Members approved the accounts and authorised payments.**M/047/25: Cemetery Fees:** The RFO submitted a revised schedule of rates for burials in the Parishcemetery. The RFO explained that the last review was held in 2020 but was not implemented because of the Covid 19 Pandemic. The RFO stated that maintenance costs of the cemetery were rising. Members agreed unanimously to implement the new fees from 1st September 2025.**M048/25: Local Government Re-organisation:** The Clerk gave a brief update of the progress of theimpending local government changes, it was likely that Fenland District Council will become partof Greater Peterborough Council. Members expressed concern about local decision making and localaccountability.**M049/25: Street Lights:** The Clerk reported that Fenland District Council had offered to fund two new streetlights in Fodder Fen Road at a cost of £6,000. Manea Parish Council would adopt the new installations. Member aged unanimously to accept the offer. **M050/25: Conifers in the S M Guy Memorial Playing Field:** Councillor Marks reported that residents of the new developments off Park Road were concerned that members of the public were using a gap in the border conifers as a short cut into the playing field. The Clerk pointed out that the entrance was in fact a a right of way and had recently been confirmed during the Land Registry process.**M051/25: Correspondence:** A letter had been received from Mr Steve Capes regarding a Freedom of Information Request regarding the fence at the Community Lake and Orchard.Members were concerned at the waste of the Clerk’s time for an issue that was resolved in 2019.**M052/25: The date of the next meeting would be Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall****The meeting closed at 8.30pm****Signed……………………………………………………………………………………………….Chairman****Date……………………………………………** |  |

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