

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE CANCELLED MEETING

20th APRIL 2020.

This note is to accompany and brief members of issues that are occurring during the lock down for Coronavirus-Covid-19.

Members may recall that at the meeting held on 17th February 2020, authority was given to the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer to take delegated powers to manage the council. I gave an undertaking that I would report to members of all activities currently taking place.

I have issued an agenda for the meeting which was to be held on 20th April 2020.

The government has given Parish Councils the permission to use social media for virtual meetings, I have looked at several options, including Zoom and Face time.

Zoom is relatively easy to set up, if all members are willing to take part, in the case of us more senior persons, some may need initial training which is currently very difficult!

There is a cost, currently £144 per annum, which is not expensive. However, there has been reported incidents of public "bombing" including explicit interruptions.

Another suggestion was to use Face time; however, this does not work with Android phones.

I am informed that Skype is impractical.

However, I took a poll of members to assess the wiliness to hold a virtual meeting, the response was as follows:

- 2 Yes
- 1 possible
- 5 against

As our agenda is currently relatively light, we can still communicate by email if members open their accounts on a regular basis.

I will now deal with the agenda:

- **Item 4. The minutes of the meeting 17th February 2020** are enclosed and are also available on the website. The minutes will need to be signed at the first open meeting of the council.
- **Items 5/6. Progress and Actions.**
 - Trees** - I have nothing to report, however Councillor Pratt may have an update he wishes to circulate.
 - Highways** - Still ongoing.
 - School Crossing** - I have written to CCC Highways, awaiting a reply.
 - Drainage issues** - Engineer working on specification
 - Street lighting** - ongoing
 - Bus Shelters** - Councillor Cundell has continued to work on the scheme. I have placed the order for the shelters at: Charlemont Drive, 2no next to the Primary School and 1 outside the Rose and Crown Public House.
- **Item 7. Planning applications - F/YR20/0266/ - F/YR20/0270/F - F/YR20/0279/F.** (Enclosed), if members have any comments, could you please advise me by Tuesday 21st April 2020. **(There were no objection to the applications)** Please note: Councillor Marks made no comments regarding the planning applications.

- **Item 8. Police Matters** - No report.
- **Item 9. Reports from Councillor Marks (FDC) and Councillor Gowing (CCC)** - I have received no reports, however, if Councillors Marks and Gowing wish to submit a report or update, I will circulate to all members.
- **Item 10. Financial matters** - Attached
- **Item 11. Annual Meeting of the Council.** The annual meeting of the council would normally take place at the next meeting on 18th May 2020. However, under the Coronavirus Regulations - Local Authorities and Crime Panels. (2020 N0.392). Note 7.3 of the Memorandum states: "*At the Annual Meeting the first order of business is the appointment of office holders. As local authorities are not required to hold annual meetings under these regulations, current appointments will continue until the next annual meeting of the authority (2021)*".
I have spoken to Councillors Mrs Eves and Mrs Coupland, and both are willing to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2020/2021.
- **Item 12. Annual Parish Assembly.** The same regulations also stress the need not to hold a Parish Assembly. The Chairman has suggested that gathering should be held later in 2020, particularly as the Annual Gala has also been cancelled. Members will discuss this at a forthcoming meeting.
- **Item 13. Operation Bridges (Death of the Monarch).** I have received a full briefing from Cambridgeshire County Council and Fenland District Council and guidance from SLCC. I also attended a seminar conducted by CCC, FDC and SLCC. I am currently working on a report for members, although I must emphasize that some items are still confidential to officers only.
- **Item 14. Correspondence**
I have received further details from Councillor Mrs French (CCC) regarding the grant scheme. I have received confirmation that the LHI bid for barriers along the Sixteen Foot bank.

Other Issues.

Fenland Strategic Plan: I recently received from FDC a copy of the 33 calls for sites from developers and landowners who have an interest in development sites in Manea. I printed the sites and transposed them onto the agreed map of Manea from members. 29 of the sites were within our boundaries, three were not and rejected, one was qualified. I have sent the signed declaration to FDC.

Cambridgeshire Community Grant: I have received an application form; I am working on a business case for a grant to rebuild the pavilion. I have now completed the expression of interest.

Annual Accounts: I have closed the accounts to the end of the financial year 2019/2020. I am currently working on balances and qualifications to our accounts, my report to members will show the extra expenditure we have incurred, including: Skate Park, Repairs and Equipment. We have been granted an extra 2 months to present the accounts this year because of the Coronavirus emergency, the issue is internal auditing and getting auditors to visit home/office addresses. However, I intend to complete my part of the accounts in the normal time and hold them in absence.

LHI Bid: I have received an invitation from CCC to bid for Local Highway Improvement projects for 2020/2021. Members may recall, we pooled our bid last year for the Sixteen Foot Barriers. I would be pleased to receive ideas for discussion. We could ask for a grant for the school crossing, speed restrictions - Station Road etc. Any bid will require a business case and commitment for match funding.

Highways and Road Capacity: Members will soon have to embark on a strategy to meet further highway improvements for the village over the medium to long term, we are, through our submission to FDC looking to further growth. This will mean that we have to ask "are the current road/highways etc. fit for purpose, do we want to see further safety measures and speed reductions or a bypass"? Whilst in lock down, members may wish to give this some thought, and how we to consult the village population.

Parish Plan: It may be prudent to embark on a Parish Plan, which would incorporate many of the suggestions above. I am aware that the public enquiry for the Core Strategy is likely to be held in late 2021 or early 2022. We need to be able to put a coherent strategy to the inspector.

Alan Melton
Clerk to the Council
20th April 2020

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCE REPORT - APRIL 2020

Income

27571.5	FDC precept	A Melton
531.75	P. Lawrence	FJS
3.4	Interest	EoN
		A Ryman
		E Mason
		M. Willmott

Expenditure

1508.68	Clerk
53.03	CabinRepair
312.01	Power
60	Cleaner
1770	Grounds
208	Caretaker

28106.65

2403.04

Balance at the bank

Current Account	55552.87
Deposit Account	85169.79

Total **140722.66**