

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

21 DECEMBER 2009 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Barnes, Cole, Mrs Desborough, Jolley, Mrs Palmby and Risbridger.

Apologies: Councillor Buckton.

The minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2009 were confirmed and signed.

M98/09 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

(1) Open space at Station Road, Manea (minute M84/09 (1))

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's application for the provision of an electricity supply at this site had been approved by EDF Energy and that it will be necessary for the Parish Council to select an electricity supplier and arrange for that company to provide the necessary metering.

Councillor Jolley reported that the concrete base for the cabinet/kiosk, which would "house" the electricity meter, has now been laid and that he had obtained, free-of-charge, a metal cabinet, which would be placed upon the concrete base within a matter of days.

With regard to the latest position on adoption of this piece of land by the Parish Council, instead of by the District Council, the Clerk reported that nothing further had been heard from Fenland District Council since the last meeting.

Members decided that

- (1) The Parish Council's existing electricity supplier be selected to provide an electricity supply and associated metering at this site;
- (2) Mr Pain, Corporate Director at Fenland District Council, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to give an update on the latest position regarding adoption of this piece of land by the Parish Council, instead of by the District Council

(2) Highway maintenance works and drainage issues (minute M84/09 (2))

The Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail from Fenland District Council (FDC), detailing the latest position in relation to the drainage issues at East Street. The e-mail makes it clear that, although FDC has no responsibility in this matter, the District Council is liaising with the County Council and Anglian Water to achieve a solution.

The e-mail from Fenland District Council states that Anglian Water is in the process of arranging the repair works to the combined sewer and that the CCTV survey of the drainage system at this location is scheduled for early 2010.

In addition, Rod Marshall of the County Council's Highways Team has informed the Clerk that the highway repair issues raised by members at the last meeting are, because of the poor weather conditions, still awaiting inspection.

The Clerk reported that, to date, he had not received a response from Anglian Water in relation to his letter requesting repair works to the water leak at Fallow Corner Drove and seeking an explanation for the tanker movements to and from the sewage treatment works.

Members agreed that highway maintenance works/pot holes repairs are needed at Westfield Road, East Street and Purls Bridge (from Straight Road to The Ship public house).

Members decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk, in respect of the joint working by Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Anglian Water to resolve the drainage difficulties at East Street, be noted;
 - (2) the progress regarding the highway repairs/issues raised at the last meeting be noted and that the matters now identified, as described above, be drawn to the attention of the Local Highway Authority.
- (3) **Rural Neighbourhood Management Board meeting (minute M90/09 (7))**

Councillor Archer reported on his attendance at this meeting, making particular reference to the manner in which the community grants process is operated; a total sum of £20,000 is allocated by Fenland District Council for all of the rural areas in the district, of which approximately £9,000 was proposed by the District Council for allocation to district-wide bids. Councillor Archer informed members of the comments that he had made at the Rural Neighbourhood Management Board meeting in relation to this inequitable approach to addressing the needs of rural communities and that he would circulate to Parish Council members a copy of the minutes of that meeting when he receives them.

Members decided that the information reported by Councillor Archer be noted.

(4) **Unauthorised development at 57A Station Road, Manea (minute M94/09)**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the Planning Compliance Team at Fenland District Council, stating that this matter has been registered and will be investigated at the earliest opportunity.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M99/09 Playing Field and play area issues

- (1) Annual ROSPA inspection report – further to minute M85/09 (1), the Chairman reported on his investigations into other options for the works required to the safety surfacing. As a result of the investigations, he had concluded that there is no suitable alternative to the material discussed previously.

Members decided that the material required to undertake the re-gluing etc work to the safety surfacing be purchased from Wicksteed Leisure Limited in the spring of 2010.

- (2) Cutting of conifers – further to minute M85/09 (2), the Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail from the contractor in response to the concerns raised by members at the last meeting.

The contractor explained that the work is progressing but the company is experiencing costly and time-consuming difficulties in transporting the cuttings from the site and, consequently, has asked whether the Parish Council could identify a location locally for the cuttings to avoid the need for their transportation to Peterborough.

Members decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) the contractor be informed that the Parish Council expects the work to be completed as planned, i.e. for the conifers to be reduced to a uniform height of eight feet and be reduced in width, and it will arrange clearance of the clippings from the playing field and adjoining land; because of the element of the work that the Parish Council will now be undertaking on the contractor's behalf, the Parish Council expects that the contractor will revise the cost for this work.
- (3) Future development of facilities – further to minute M85/09 (3), Councillor Jolley presented the revised plans produced by the architect.

Members generally supported the plans but some wished to have the opportunity to consider the matter in greater detail before reaching a decision.

Members decided that a decision be made at the next meeting in relation to seeking planning permission for a new pavilion.

- (4) Dogs on the playing field – further to minute M85/09 (4), the Clerk reported a further e-mail from one of the residents of the village who had raised concerns, debated by members at their last meeting, regarding the Parish Council's "No Dogs" ruling.

The e-mail from the local resident expresses disappointment that the Parish Council believes that no compromise could be reached and has not been able to offer an alternative location for use by dog walkers. The resident does not consider that the Parish Council had given this matter serious consideration and that recreational priority is given to other groups, teams and organisations within the village; a situation which is not equitable, bearing in mind that all households in the village pay Council Tax. The resident suggests also that other alternatives to a No Dogs ruling, to address the dog fouling issues at the playing field, exist.

Members decided that the local resident be informed that the Parish Council remains unable to identify a suitable area within the village for dog owners to exercise their dogs "off the lead", except for public footpaths (not pavements) and bridleways, and that the resident be offered the ability to acquire a map showing these routes/areas.

M100/09 Manea Pit

Members received the minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting of 15 December 2009 and updates given by Councillor Barnes, Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

With regard to the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders of the Sub-Committee item (minute SC29/09 (2) refers), Councillor Archer expressed his concerns regarding the fact that one of the members of the Sub-Committee is also a supplier to Manea Pit of the new fish stocks and materials for the development works and he questioned whether such membership gives rise to a conflict of interest. This concern was shared by Councillor Jolley, who also questioned the legitimacy of the Carp Syndicate being allowed a deputy member on the Sub-Committee.

Members decided that the contents of the minutes and the updates reported by Councillor Barnes, as well as the concerns of Councillors Archer and Jolley, be noted.

M101/09 Planning applications

Members considered the following planning applications and decided to submit to the Local Planning Authority the comments set out (in italics) below:

- (1) Erection of a 4-bed detached house, involving demolition of existing dwelling, at Three Fishes, The Bank, Welches Dam, Manea – F/YR09/0758/F (applicant: Mr J Clarke).

That the application be supported.

- (2) Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 10 Cathedral View, Manea – F/YR09/0775/F (applicant: Mr and Mrs Elliott).

That the application be supported.

In addition, members noted that the planning application for the erection of two detached houses with garages at land west of Fenlands, Fallow Corner Drove, Manea (reference F/YR09/0626/O) has been withdrawn by the applicant.

M102/09 Finance

The Clerk reported on the Parish Council's income and expenditure since the last meeting, as follows:

Income

J Lawrence	Allotment rent	£180.00
Various	Carp Syndicate membership fees	£360.00
Total Income		£540.00

Expenditure

Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£78.46
HM Revenue and Customs	Clerk's Income Tax (September, October and November 2009).	£259.33
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £77.48), Broadband and other expenses	£363.08
Manea Village Hall Committee	Hire of room on 23/11/09	£7.50
Total Expenditure		£708.37

Members decided, upon a proposal from Councillor Mrs Desborough, seconded by Councillor Emery, that the income of £540.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £708.37 be authorised.

M103/09 Correspondence

- (1) Countywide Advisory Freight Map – consultation by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Clerk reported on the County Council's consultation exercise in relation to the development of a Countywide Advisory Freight Map.

Members decided that they had no comments to make on the County Council's proposals.

- (2) Street Pride Event Schedule: December 2009 to March 2010.

The Clerk reported receipt, from Fenland District Council, of this schedule of programmed activities as part of the Street Pride initiative. Members noted that the schedule includes works in Manea.

Members decided that the schedule be circulated amongst members of the Parish Council.

- (3) Request for a financial donation.

The Clerk reported a request from Red2Green for a financial donation towards the cost of the services that the organisation provides to support people who are disabled or have learning disabilities.

Members decided that Councillor Mrs Palmby would undertake some research into this organisation, to seek to establish the extent to which its work it is providing benefits to residents of Manea, to enable the request to be considered at the next meeting.

- (4) Community ACTION Magazine.

The Clerk reported receipt of the latest edition of this magazine produced by Cambridgeshire ACRE.

Members decided that the magazine be circulated amongst members of the Parish Council.

- (3) Petition regarding condition of footpath.

The Clerk reported receipt, from the Rights of Way Team at Cambridgeshire County Council, of a copy of a petition (forwarded to the County Council by Malcolm Moss MP), from the Strawberry Patch pre-nursery, requesting improvements to the footpath which runs alongside Manea Community Primary School.

The Rights of Way Team is seeking to achieve improvements to this footpath (to the satisfaction of the school, the Parish Council and the County Council's Countryside and Access Team) as part of the development works at Manea Community Primary School.

Members decided that the information be noted and that the situation be monitored.

- (4) Provision of salt bins.

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation from Cambridgeshire County Council for the Parish Council to acquire salt bins at a discounted rate via the County Council.

Members noted that the cost of each bin will be in the region of £100.00 and also the conditions of use attached to such bins.

Members decided that one salt bin be purchased, to be placed in a suitable location (to be agreed with the Highways Supervisor) outside of the Community Primary School.

(5) Manea Educational Foundation.

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation from the Secretary/Treasurer of the Manea Educational Foundation for the Parish Council to appoint a representative to serve on the foundation.

Members decided that Councillor Archer be appointed to serve on Manea Educational Foundation.

M104/09 Items for Press Release or news stories

Members decided that no matters have arisen since the last Parish Council meeting that would benefit from being the subject of Press Release or news story for public attention:

M105/09 Equal Opportunities and Child Protection Policies

Members decided, further to minute M92/09, that, in the absence of Councillor Buckton from the meeting, it would be necessary to defer this item of business until the next meeting.

M106/09 Skateboard Park

Councillor Archer informed members that, although he is unaware of the exact financial sum, a funding bid towards the cost of constructing a Skateboard Park at the village playing fields had been approved. He stated that the level of the financial award should be known in January 2010.

Members decided that the provision of this facility be discussed at the next meeting.

M107/09 Future meetings

Members decided that meetings of the Parish Council in 2010 (all commencing at 7.00 pm and taking place in Manea Village Hall (subject to availability on each date) be held on the following dates: 18 January, 15 February, 29 March, 26 April (including Annual Assembly and community engagement event), 24 May (Annual Meeting of the Council), 21 June, 19 July, 23 August, 20 September, 18 October, 22 November and 20 December.

Meeting finished at 8.35 pm

Signature:.....(Council Chairman).

Date:.....