

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

26 APRIL 2010 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Chairman; Councillors Buckton, Cole, Mrs Desborough, Jolley and Risbridger.

Apologies: Councillors Archer and Mrs Palmby.

The minutes of the meeting of 29 March 2010 were confirmed and signed.

M150/09 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

(1) Parish Council vacancy (minute M135/09 (1))

The Clerk reported that he had informed the District Council that the Parish Council does require the issue of poll cards (based upon the estimated cost provided) in the event of an election and had asked if any such election could take place on the same date as the Parliamentary Election, to minimise the cost to the Parish Council.

The District Council has responded that

- it will arrange the issue of poll cards and confirm the exact cost
- all local council elections that were due to be held on 6 May 2010 have been scheduled for 27 May 2010.

Members decided that the current situation be noted.

(2) Open space at Station Road, Manea (minute M135/09 (2))

Councillor suggested that when the ownership of this area of land is eventually transferred to Manea Parish Council, a celebratory event/ ceremony be held at the site.

Members decided that the Councillor Buckton's suggestion be supported.

(3) Rail services (minute M135/09 (3))

The Clerk reported receipt of two further letters from Malcolm Moss MP, in response to the Clerk's letter concerning rail services affecting Manea. Attached to the letters from the MP are the responses to him from National Express, Cross Country and East Midlands Trains, each of which explain their operational limitations in relation to additional trains calling at Manea Station.

Members decided that the current situation be noted and that copies of the letters be provided to Councillor Archer, for reference to the Manea Rail Action Group for consideration.

(4) Dog fouling (minute M135/09 (4))

The Clerk reported a response from Fenland District Council (FDC) in relation to the request for an additional dog waste bin to be sited along the footway between School Lane and Annabelle Avenue. FDC has stated that it

expects to undertake installation of the additional dog waste bin by the end of April 2010. The Chairman reported that the additional bin had now been installed.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

(5) Skateboard Park (minute M140/09)

In the absence of Councillor Archer from the meeting, members were unable to receive an update on the situation.

Members decided that the matter be included as an item on the agenda for 24 May 2010 meeting of the Parish Council.

(6) Community Development in Manea (minute M146/09)

The Clerk reported that Miss Thornton would be attending 24 May 2010 meeting of Manea Parish Council.

Members decided that the information be noted.

(7) Request to purchase land at Bedlam Pit (minute M147/09)

The Clerk reported the response from the requester, in respect of the Parish Council's decision that it has no objection to the disposal of this land in principle, provided that its "environmental" status is maintained, and that it is prepared to proceed to obtaining a valuation of the land, subject to receipt of the requester's confirmation in writing that he would, initially, meet the Parish Council's costs in obtaining a valuation and, subsequently, meet the Parish Council's legal costs associated with any sale.

The requester has stated that, further to the request to purchase this land, Natural England (EN) has visited the site and the requester intends, with the blessing of EN, to develop an environmental scheme which could include this piece of land. The requester makes the point that this proposal is not a money-making exercise and, consequently, although happy to pay for the Parish Council's costs in the matter, he asks that the Parish Council seeks to keep all costs to an absolute minimum.

Councillor Jolley stated that he would prefer that the ownership of the land be retained by the Parish Council and it be leased to the requester.

Members decided that the response from the requester be noted and that prior to taking any further consideration in relation to disposal of this land, two quotations be sought, from the companies now identified, for the cost of providing a valuation of this land

M151/09 Playing Field and play area issues

- (1) Future development of facilities – further to minute M137/09 (1), members discussed further the submission of a planning application for a new pavilion, following the meeting held with members of the football clubs on 10 April 2010. The Clerk read to members the letters that had been sent to the Chairman of the Parish Council by Manea United FC and Manea United Strikers Football Club, both of which support the Parish Council's proposals.

Members decided that a planning application for the erection of a new pavilion be prepared; Councillor Jolley being authorised to arrange this with the firm of architects which had produced the draft plans for this scheme.

- (2) Grass cutting 2010 – further to minute M137/09 (3), the Chairman reported that he had requested a revised quotation from the contractor which currently undertakes the maintenance of the cemetery and that, based upon the amount of the quotation and the authority delegated to him at the last meeting, the quotation had been accepted. The Chairman provided the Clerk with a letter from the contractor, confirming the quotation in writing.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

- (3) ROSPA issues – further to minute M137/09 (4), the Clerk reported that he had placed an order with Wicksteed Ltd for the necessary material to undertake the re-gluing etc work to the safety surfacing.

Members decided that the information be noted.

- (4) Littering – Members discussed the problems of littering at the playing field and concluded, based upon their experiences, that the provision of additional waste bins would not provide a solution to the problem.

The Chairman offered to arrange for an advisory sign to be manufactured and erected.

Members decided that a “No littering” sign, of the nature suggested by the Chairman, be acquired and erected in a suitable location.

M152/09 Manea Pit

The Clerk reported an e-mail from a local resident in relation to vehicles being parked on the footpaths around the pit, causing access difficulties for those who wish to walk around the pit. Members are aware that the rules of the fishing rules require fishermen to park their cars in the designated parking area when they have unloaded their equipment; members consider that enforcement of this rule may address the situation; if the situation continues, it may be necessary to consider installing some physical means of preventing vehicular access.

Councillor Buckton reported that arrangements had been made for a representative of the Wildlife Trust to accompany him on a “walk around” of Manea Pit on 12 May 2010, with the aim of identifying how that organisation could work with the Parish Council in the future development of the facility, whilst preserving the site’s status as a County Wildlife Site.

Councillor Buckton reported also that, further to minute M138/09, he had submitted the necessary report to Awards for All on how the grant funding has been used in the development of the fishing facilities at Manea Pit and that he had been informed subsequently by the organisation that it had accepted the report.

Further to minute M138/09, members discussed the setting of fishing fees for the 2010/11 season, having regard for the current economic situation and the level of expenditure that the Parish Council had committed to the purchase of Carp. Councillor Buckton undertook to discuss this matter with the Secretary/Treasurer of the Carp Syndicate.

Members decided that

- (1) the information reported by Councillor Buckton be noted;
- (2) the situation regarding the parking of cars around the pit be monitored and that the Bailiffs be asked to be vigilant in enforcing the “no parking” rules; consideration be given to the installation of installing some physical means of preventing vehicular access, if necessary;
- (3) in respect of fishing fees for 2010/11: no change be made to the cost of day tickets and annual season tickets; subject to discussion with the Secretary/Treasurer of the Carp Syndicate, the annual fee for membership of the Carp Syndicate be increased to £110;

- (4) the Parish Council should seek to maximise the use of the Community Payback operatives, as appropriate, in relation to the continued development and improvement of the land surrounding Manea Pit; Councillor Emery undertook to discuss the matter with Councillor Archer;
- (5) their appreciation of the support given all of those who had contributed to and participated in the development/improvement works at Manea Pit be placed on record.

M153/09 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 dwelling on land north of 55 School Lane, Manea – F/YR10/0239/O (applicant: Mr S Hammond).

That the application be supported.

- (2) Erection of an extension to side of existing agricultural building and erection of a pig shelter on land south-east of 76 Station Road, Manea – F/YR10/0238/F (applicant: Mr B Riseley).

That the application be supported.

- (3) Erection of a detached double integral garage with store above, involving demolition of existing outbuildings, on west side of 3 Fallow Corner Drove, Manea – F/YR10/0253/F (applicant: Mr R Hawes).

That the application be supported.

- (4) Erection of 6 dwellings, involving demolition of existing dwelling, at 18 Westfield Road, Manea – F/YR10/0254/O (applicant: Mr L Skinner).

That the application be supported.

(Councillor Emery declared his personal interest in this application, by virtue of business connections with the applicant)

- (5) Erection of 4-bed detached house with photovoltaic solar panels and integral double garage on plot 6, land south-east of 9 – 15 High Street, Manea – F/YR10/0270/F (applicant: Mr S Fernando).

That the application be supported.

(Councillor Emery declared his personal interest in this application, by virtue of business connections with the owner of the application site)

In addition, the Clerk reported, further to minute M141/09, notification from Fenland District Council that planning application F/YR10/0163 (seeking the erection of part two-storey, part single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling and detached garage/car port with storage over and works to existing access for residential commercial access at The Grange, Wateringhill Farm, Days Lode Road, Fodder Fen, Manea) had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

M154/09 Finance

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

Income

Mr and Mrs Catling	Purchase of double-depth burial plot	£500.00
P A Hibble	Additional memorial inscription – Doris Taylor	£70.00
J K Memorials	Additional memorial inscription – Roy Hawkins	£70.00
E Barnes	Allotment rent	£180.00
P Lawrence	Allotment rent	£180.00
A Howell	Allotment rent	£180.00
P Clarke	Allotment rent	£225.00
Various	Fishing fees	£200.00
B Fletcher	Allotment rent	£180.00
Total Income		£1,785.00

Expenditure

Grademore Ltd.	Sleepers for Manea Pit	£387.75
Fenland District Council	Non-domestic business rates 2010/11 for cemetery and premises	£169.74
E Mason and Son	Cemetery maintenance	£562.24
Manea Village Hall	Hire of room on 29/03/10	£7.50
Richard Yardy Ltd	Repairs to lights on playing field	£240.87
Public Works Loans Board	Loan re-payment	£95.39
Mrs A Ryman	Wages and expenses	£96.53
Environment Agency	Water sampling at Manea Pit	£115.14
T Jordan	Salary (less income tax of £79.57), Broadband and other expenses	£382.63
Total Expenditure		£2,057.79

Members decided, upon a proposal from Councillor Emery, seconded by Councillor Mrs Desborough, that the income of £1,785.00 be noted and that the payments totalling £2,057.79 be authorised.

M155/09 Correspondence

(1) Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) – letter of thanks for financial donation.

Further to minute M1/09, the Clerk reported a letter from FACT, expressing its appreciation of the financial donation made to the organisation by Manea Parish Council.

Members decided that the content of the letter be noted.

(2) Fenland Council for Voluntary Service – March 2010 Newsletter.

The Clerk reported receipt of the final newsletter of the Fenland Council for Voluntary Service.

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

(3) Cambridgeshire Older People's Newsletter.

The Clerk reported receipt of the April to June 2010 edition of Cambridgeshire Older People's Newsletter.

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

(4) Request for additional inscription on cemetery memorial.

The Clerk reported a request from J K Memorials Ltd for an additional inscription on the existing memorial for Mr R Hawkins.

Members were informed of the wording of the proposed inscription.

Members decided that the request be approved.

(5) Cutting of verges 2010 – e-mail from Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Cambridgeshire County Council, which informs the Parish Council that, due to the economic difficulties facing the County Council, the sum paid to Manea Parish Council for the 2010 grass cutting season will be at the same level as in 2009.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

(6) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) – invitation for membership 2010/11.

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation for CPALC for membership of the organisation for 2010/11. With the invitation for CPALC membership, the organisation had provided copies of its Membership News 2010/11 publication (detailing its Core Objectives, Member Services, and Membership News). The Clerk provided each Parish Council member with a copy of this document.

Members decided that a decision on whether to become a member of CPALC in 2010/11 be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council, to give members the opportunity to read the Membership News 2010/11 publication before considering what action to take in this matter.

(7) Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association newsletter.

The Clerk reported receipt of the latest newsletter.

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

M156/09 Items for Press Release or news stories

Members decided that the only matter currently to be the subject of Press Release or news story for public attention is the fact that the report prepared by Councillor Buckton in respect of the grant obtained by the Parish Council for the improvement works at Manea Pit has been accepted by Awards for All (minute M152/09 refers).

M157/09 The late Mr Bernard Young

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Mr Bernard Young, who had, at one time, been the Clerk to Manea Parish Council and had been involved in many other activities in the village during his time as a Manea resident.

The Chairman stated that he would be attending the funeral of Mr Young on 29 April 2010.

Members decided that a card of condolence be sent to the family of the late Mr Young and that a donation of £25.00, for forwarding to one of the charities supported by Mr Young, be sent to the firm of undertakers which is dealing with the funeral arrangements.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency, given the date of Mr Young's funeral)

M158/09 Manea Village Hall – hearing loop system

The Chairman reported the request of Manea Village Hall Committee, for use of the portable PA system owned by the Parish Council. He explained that the Village Hall Committee is proposing the installation of a hearing loop system at the village hall and that use of the Parish Council's PA system (which had not been used by the Parish Council for around three years) in association with that installation, would reduce the financial expenditure required of the Village Hall Committee.

Members decided that the request of Manea Village Hall Committee, to use the Parish Council's PA system in association with the hearing loop system to be installed in the village hall, be approved.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable this request to be considered at the earliest opportunity)

M159/09 Highway issues

Councillor Mrs Desborough mentioned a number of highway maintenance issues in the village.

Councillor Emery raised the issue as to why only single yellow lines, instead of double yellow lines, had been laid by the Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) in the vicinity of the Community Primary School, when he believed that CCC had undertaken to lay double yellow lines.

Members decided that

- (1) the pot holes outside the Londis shop in Park Road, together with the condition of the footway at the point of the vehicle crossing beside the shop, be referred to the County Council's Highways Maintenance Service for attention;
- (2) the pot holes on the road leading to Bearts Farm yard be referred to the County Council's Farms Service for attention;
- (3) Anglian Water Services (AWS) be requested to arrange the necessary repairs to the footways which have been damaged as a result of drainage works undertaken; the areas affected are between Bearts Farm and the Community Primary School. It was agreed also that AWS be asked to remind the drivers of the tankers which travel to and from the sewage treatment works (STW) of the 10 mph speed limit applying to the access road to the site;

(4) clarification be sought from the County Council as to why single, not double, yellow lines had been laid in the village.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the repair works to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity)

M160/09 Manea – Pump Corner

Councillor Mrs Desborough mentioned the recent damage to a post at Pump Corner and the need for its repair.

Members decided that the necessary repair works be arranged by Councillor Emery.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the repair works to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity)

M161/09 Next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Parish Council has been scheduled for 24 May 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at Manea Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 9.15 pm

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

Date:.....