



MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Paul Bell

Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Carr

Email: clerk@manstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 13th October 2025 at 7.15pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.

Present: Parish Councillors Iain Amato, Graham Elliott, Roy Matthews, Henry Robinson & Cllr Guy Wilson

In Attendance: Cllr Luke Evans (KCC), Peter Evans (KCC) Cllr Abi Smith (TDC) and 13 members of public

57/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Bell who was unwell, Cllr Amato (Deputy Chairman) chaired the meeting.

58/25-26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The declaration form was circulated to those present and there were no declarations of interest.

59/25-26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th September had been circulated.

RESOLVED: The minutes were proposed by Cllr Guy Wilson seconded by Cllr Henry Robinson as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Deputy Chairman.

60/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllrs received a copy of the Chairman's Report and noted the following:

Skidz Drifting school. An application had been considered (reference: F/TH/24/02190). The application was refused on 20th September 2024. The application has submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate (reference: APP/Z2260/C/24/3355668). A date for the appeal has not been set and all information can be found on [here](#).

Sealink project – National Grid are in the preexamination stage. The Clerk advised that details about this stage were published to the Parish Council website on the 22nd September [here](#) and on the parish notice boards.

61/25-26. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments and bank reconciliation, circulated prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED: All unanimously agreed the payments and bank reconciliation

- b) **AGAR 2024/25:** The completion notice was circulated and reviewed by the Council. One minor recommendation was noted: to use 'nil' or 'N/A' in any section where a zero response is required.

62/25-26. PLANNING

- a) **TH/TPO/7(1991)** - 1No Ash – Fell. LOCATION: 4 Highlands Glade, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12

There were no objections.

Decided Applications - there were none.

63/25-26. HIGHWAYS

- The speed reduction to 20mph on Preston Road and Manston Court Road is scheduled for 22nd December 2025.
- The speed reduction on Manston Road was due to be implemented in September; we await updates on this matter.
- Preston Road and Manston Court Road would be closed from 13th October to 17th October for Openreach work. The closure had been publicised on 19th August 2025.

64/25-26. MANSTON PARK

Cllrs received the Monthly park check, 15th October 2025 noted the following.

Several minor issues were highlighted; it is anticipated that these will be actioned as part of the wider park maintenance plans. The Chairman, Cllr Bell and the Clerk were due to meet with Wicksteed on 29th October to consider long term replacement and / or repairs and will report back to the next meeting.

There was an ongoing issue with dogs in the children's play area. The council needs to consider how to address this matter.

There had been an issue with the park barrier not lifting. Westgate Security were called and advised that the cause of the problem was insufficient light to charge the solar powered batteries. The proposed solution would be for the council to purchase additional batteries at a cost of £198. The Clerk had written Westgate Security expressing disappointment as we were assured that the solar power would work and to seek reassurance the 2 additional batteries would resolve the issue.

65/25-26. CLERK'S REPORT

Assertion 10, AGAR - The Clerk reported that work had commenced on ensuring that the Council meets the new Assertion 10 Requirement as part of the 2025/26 Annual Governance Audit Return. The items currently being addressed are, website accessibility– the current website may not meet current accessibility requirements (legacy issues). There is also a need for an IT Policy, a draft policy will be submitted to the next meeting.

Defibrillator Training - has been booked for Wednesday 22nd October at 7pm in Manston Village Hall.

Unity Banking - started the process of removing John Dearing from the approvers list.

Financial Planning – draft budget will be submitted to the next meeting for consideration / approval. Please advise of any items that should be included for consideration. This will include consideration

Reserves. Cllrs were asked to advise the Clerk if any of the Earmarked Reserves were genuinely earmarked. Had the funds been provided for a specific project? Assuming they had not the intention was to move some of the reserves from Highways to Manston Park.

66/25-26. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS TO NOTE

Cllr Peter Evans (KCC) reported that there had been a blitz on graffiti in Thanet and the number of camper van spaces would be increased in Thanet.

Cllr Luke Evans (KCC) reported that the Reform Council in Kent were undertaking their own consultation about the Local Government Review, the outcome would be shared with KCC. Cllr Evans would share a link to the Consultation which should be shared widely.

Issues with the Thanet Way continue with the introduction of a 50mph speed restriction over a 9-mile stretch of the road. The road is 30 years old, and the main challenge is that the road was built on clay which has dried out over the years. It is anticipated that the road is likely to be repaired but even this will be a huge cost to KCC.

Cllr Evans had been in conversation with Reclamet (a local company) who are keen to sponsor some local activity. It was suggested that Reclamet could sponsor the play equipment in Manston Park. Cllrs confirmed that they would be happy with a sponsorship arrangement. The Clerk would check with KALC and Parish Clerks to ensure that there are no issues with sponsorship.

Cllr Evans advised that there is a possible new investor for Manston airport, details will be made available in due course.

Cllr Abi Smith (KCC) – The Councillors received a report from Cllr Abi Smith.

Update on Local Government Reorganisation

An Extraordinary Council, followed by a Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20 November to address the latest LGR developments. Council will consider the business cases for the 5 geographical options for new Unitary Councils which are currently being worked up, to ensure that the views of all Councillors are considered. TDC will not directly influence any outcomes, but I will update you with any decisions. Importantly, I can confirm it is not true that a mayor is required for each unitary council, and only one mayor is being proposed for Kent.

Save Minster Marshes were recognised at this year's BBC Make A Difference awards.

The awards recognise those who go the extra mile to improve life across the county. Both George Cooper, founder of SMM and Nik Mitchell, SMM member and environmentalist responsible for the Get Wild social media page, were finalists, and George was named as the overall winner of the Green category! Congratulations and gratitude for their important contributions to the Thanet community. The Isle of Thanet News article can be viewed [here](#)

Community Champions Awards

The Community Champions Awards are held in partnership with Social Enterprise Kent (SEK), and celebrate the people and organisations dedicated to improving life in Thanet. The 2026 awards will

once again celebrate the work of local individuals and organisations dedicated to improving life in Thanet. Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, these awards highlight the essential role of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in enhancing the quality of life for residents across the district. Perhaps people in Manston can consider nominating individuals in the Save Minster Marshes movement. Please note, nominations **close on 31st October**.

Incident in Margate, 8th October

TDC's emergency response was put to the test as an incident unfolded in a residential area of Margate. Residents in Rosedale Rd, Glencoe Rd, Wharfedale Rd and Malham Drive were evacuated from their homes by Kent Police, following a report of suspicious items. In such an emergency, the council has a legal duty to respond and to provide a welfare centre for anyone needing shelter. The rest centre team rose to the occasion, quickly setting up a centre with food, drink, and other support (but not enough dog bowls...), in Hartsdown Leisure Centre. Around 25 residents (and pets) were looked after until they could return home at midnight.

Community Warden, Gary Groombridge The Councillors received a report from Gary Groombridge. Gary reported on the activities that he has set up in Thanet Villages, these include; wellbeing sessions in Minster and Monkton, holding quizzes and scam talks with Trading Standards, supporting the Man Shed in Minster and the St Nicholas at Wade Men's Wellbeing Group, various coffee morning and drop-in sessions. Manston Parish Council continue to work the Gary to set up sessions in the village, this will start with drop-in sessions at Manston Village Hall on Wednesdays from 13.30-17.30, I am looking to organise some events for the community. Gary is keen to explore other activities in the village and would welcome sessions.

Kent Police, PC Andy Howe - The Councillors received a report from PC Andy Howe

Calls to Kent Police from Manston

There were 29 calls to Kent Police from the Manston area during September. These ranged from vehicle related crime and traffic issues, to missing persons calls and domesticated incidents.

Crime reported from Manston

There were 33 crimes reported to Kent Police from the Manston area during September. 14 of these calls related to domesticated incidents and these were multiple calls from or about the same locations. There were 4 calls relating to minor criminal damage, 7 calls relating to low level assaults, 2 theft-based offences and the remainder were vehicle related. Very few of the calls relate to Manston Village itself.

My activity over the month

During September I have been able to spend a little more time in the villages post the madness of summer. I have been conducting patrols in the poaching areas when on early duties and when on late duties, I have been checking the farm plant areas after some suspicious activity was reported near fuel storage locations. I have spent some time assisting colleagues in the main towns and have made or assisted with a number of arrests. I have been attending meetings with partners and Manston Migrant Centre.

October

During October I will be increasing my visibility further along with my colleagues to tackle nuisance issues on the run up to November 5th. I will be conducting speed checks around the villages and have requested the assistance of Special Constables and the Neighbourhood Task Force to conduct additional checks. Our Hot Spots will be Manston Road (the museum road), Ramsgate Road (Cliffsend), A28 St Nicholas at Wade, A28 Sarre, and Minster Road Acol.

67/25-26. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The following items were put forward by members of the public:

There was a discussion about the vehicle activated warning signs. At the meeting on 8th September, it was noted that the solar panel is pointing due west and should be moved to face south. Cllr Bell had committed to rectify this issue. The Clerk would follow this up.

The subject of the provision of a permanent building at Manston Reception Centre was raised. The council has not received nor seen any planning applications but would monitor.

It was noted that brick wall at Elm Grove had been knocked down in a vehicle accident on Saturday 11th October. Apparently, the vehicle overturned. The Council ask the Clerk to report the incident to PC Andy Howe as we had been advised to report any road traffic accidents / incidents in the village.

The planning application for Preston Park was discussed in relation to a recent application for a caravan site in Court Road, St Nicholas raised was that the St Nicholas application noted similar caravan sites for holiday use in Thanet, but Preston Park was not included on that list. There was a discussion about how TDC monitor the ongoing use of the caravan park. Cllr Abi Smith advised that the process is that the Parish Council or individuals should inform the TDC if planning conditions are being breached.

Several members of the public raised concerns about Manston Park being used for regular organised dog training. Several residents have witnessed the activity which involves cordoning off areas of the park for training making these areas inaccessible to users. We were also made aware by members of the public that the fenced dog park is used for this training. There are instances of the dogs being aggressive and causing damage to local property. As this appears to be organised training for which attendees are likely to be paying this would in effect mean that the training is operating a business on private land. The Clerk would contact PC Andy Howe and the Community Warden, Gary Groombridge to ask their advice.

Dale Martin, the volunteer for caretaking a war memorial site has composed a dossier of the war memorial. It was agreed that this could be displayed in a board across the back of the bus shelter. It is estimated that the cost would be around £2,000 and the council were asked to consider funding this.

68/25-26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 10th November 2025, 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm