



## MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Guy Wilson

Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Carr

Email: [manstonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:manstonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.15 pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.**

**Present: Parish Councillors** Cllrs Guy Wilson (Chairman), Paul Bell, John Dearing, Henry Robinson, Ian Amato, Roy Matthews, Elizabeth Carr (Clerk).

**In Attendance:** Cllr Derek Crow-Crown (KCC), Cllr Paul Scobey (TDC), Hazel Chandler (Park Check Volunteer), Cllr Abi Smith and residents.

#### **68/24-25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Sam Bambridge (TDC)

#### **69/24-25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **70/24-25. MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October Full Council meeting were circulated to members and the Chairman read out the important clauses to refresh memories.

**Resolved: The minutes were proposed by Cllr Henry Robinson and seconded by Cllr Paul Bell agreed as a true record and were carried. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.**

#### **71/24-25. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Copies of the agenda are available for members of the public in attendance, and it should be noted that item 12 provides 15 minutes at the end of the meeting for public consultation.

The former Clerk and RFO has now left this role to take up full time employment and Mrs Elizabeth Carr was appointed with effect from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. The councillors wished Elizabeth well in her new role and noted a shared commitment to work with councillors to ensure that matters pertaining to the Parish of Manston and Manston Village are attended to with genuine care and attention by all of us.

Armistice Day memorial services had taken place across the country and two tin soldiers, provided by Mr David Steed, have been on display at each end of the village for the past ten days with the words "Lest we Forget" inscribed. Cllrs and residents expressed heartfelt thanks to David Steed for the provision on the tin soldiers.

Following conversations with KCC Highways the Chairman asked that all communications with any Highways Officer should now be directed through the Parish Clerk. Emails should no longer be sent directly to members of the KCC Highways team by individual Councillors.

Cllr John Dearing would update the committee on Highways issues under Agenda item 7, but the Chairman noted that the Parish Council had reached an impasse on traffic calming measures. Mr

David Steed, a past Chairman, has written to the KCC Highways Team expressing dismay at the denial of a solution for traffic calming particularly on the B2050.

Work continues regarding the damage to the war memorial fence and the signpost caused by the Poundland lorry a few weeks ago. Negotiations are continuing and will be discussed at the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

A change of use application for agricultural land had been made by Preston Park and the Appeal had apparently been withdrawn.

## **72/24-25. 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) Draft Budget 2025-26, was proposed by Paul Bell and seconded by Ian Amato  
**Resolved: Draft Budget 2025-26 agreed**

## **73/24-25. PLANNING**

**To consider and note applications received from TDC and any late applications received after publication of the agenda.**

### **a) Planning Applications**

**OL/TH/23/0685, Land On The North East Side Of, Nash Road, MARGATE, Kent,** Outline Application for the erection of up to 1,461 residential units and two form entry primary school site; mixed use site (use classes C2, C3, E, F1 and/or F2); and associated infrastructure including provision of a new strategic link road along Nash Road including demolition of buildings, alterations to Nash Road (including any road widening), alterations to existing junctions from Nash Road and Manston Court Road; green infrastructure including public open space and associated facilities, landscaping, formal and informal play areas, utilities (including drainage), and associated ancillary works and structures including access.

There had been a lengthy discussion at the October meeting about the developments at Preston Park, Guildcrest Homes (145 dwellings) and the Westwood Cross 1 and Westwood Cross 2 developments for 900 plus 400 dwellings, commercial space and a 2-form entry primary school and the Humbers Mill development of 1,500 dwellings. The Chairman had committed to collating objections prior to submission.

Cllr Abi Smith noted that the large developments form part of the Thanet District Council's Local Plan and could therefore not be called in on the grounds of over development. Similarly, the Shottendane Link Road had been in the KCC Highways Plan for a decade.

**F/TH/24/1185, Preston Caravan Site, Preston Road, Ramsgate, Kent,** change of use of land to form an extension of existing caravan park to accommodate 110 caravans and associated parking, bin stores, hardscaping, and landscaping. **Expires 13.11.24.**

It was noted that a previous application by the Preston Caravan Park had been rejected and the Cllrs felt that there had been no change to the plan so wished to object to the new application. Cllrs felt disappointed that their TDC representative had not supported them in this matter, citing breaking the 'Code of Conduct.' Cllrs

asked for the matter to be taken to the monitoring officer. It was noted that Mike Garner called in the planning application on behalf of TDC.

**Resolved: The Chairman would write a letter of objection to the plans on behalf of Manston Parish Council.**

**Resolved: The Monitoring Officer be consulted.**

**F/TH/24/1061, The Drome Garage, Manston Road, North, Manston,** Erection of single storey building (use class B2) workshop to rear elevation following demolition of existing workshop. **Expires 14.11.24.**

There were no objections.

**b) Decided Applications**  
**No decided applications**

**74/24-25. HIGHWAYS**

The lamp post in Flete Road had been installed but now waiting for EDF to make the connection.

There was a lengthy discussion around traffic calming and a pedestrian crossing. The Chairman noted that we were at an impasse on this matter, but Cllrs still expressed deep concern over the matter and would like the matter to be escalated. David Steed has asked for further information from KCC Highways under the Freedom of Information Act, and we will await the outcome. It was noted that future communication with KCC Highways should be via the Parish Clerk.

Derek Crow-Brown advised that Sir Roger Gale is supportive of the Parish Council and understands the concerns resulting from the significant housebuilding and has had a call with Cllr Neil Baker, (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport).

Residents present at the meeting asked what they could do to support traffic management and safety in their village. It was suggested that they could lobby KCC Highways by contacting [corporate.complaints@kent.gov.uk](mailto:corporate.complaints@kent.gov.uk). Members of the public are at liberty to submit a complaint via this email and a response must be provided.

**75/24-25. FINANCIAL REGULATION**

Cllrs approved the new NALC Model for Financial Regulations.

**Resolved: To approve the NALC Model for Financial Regulation**

**76/24-25. Councillor Emails**

There had been an audit recommendation that Cllrs should use a .gov.uk email address when conducting parish council business. It is also recommended that the parish council website should be changed to a .gov.uk domain, this process could be managed by Hugo Fox who supports our current website.

The change was proposed by Cllr Paul Bell and seconded by Cllr Ian Amato.

**Resolved: to transfer to a .gov.uk domain and emails**

**77/24-25. Manston Park**

There was no park report this month due to ill health, Hazel Chandler and Cllr Paul Bell will complete a park check shortly and will report back to the December meeting.

Cllr Bell to action next meeting

Cllr Bell reported that he had met the residents from the Leys to discuss overhanging trees at the Leys. Cllr Bell reported that trees were overhanging the car park and that two parking spaces were out of use due to excessive tree roots.

**Resolved: The Chairman would liaise with Paul Hughes (Groundsman) to arrange for tree cutting / tidying.**

**Resolved: Cllr Paul Bell would seek quotes from Civil Engineers for groundworks in the car park.**

## **78/24-25. Individual Reports**

### **Highways – Derek Crow-Brown**

Blue Badges: KCC is experiencing increased levels of applications for new badges and renewals, which is reflecting a national trend affecting all Authorities. KCC is unable to determine whether an applicant will be processed in a quicker timescale before applications are checked. Currently, KCC are informing a processing timescale of up to four months, which has been updated on the KCC website and correspondence.

South Eastern Rail Interview: Last week, I was interviewed by South Eastern Rail regarding their performance. Whilst I praised members of staff for their helpfulness, train fares continue to be expensive compared to other European countries and in terms of locally more understanding needs to be considered catching connecting trains. I also praised both South Eastern and Network Rail for a much more reliable service in recent months, especially in relation to the Minster Sandwich school train, which was being cancelled on a regular basis, often leaving young children stranded in Sandwich.

### **Cllr Abi Smith**

#### **SW Business Partnership Fund**

Favourite privatised utility Southern Water is inviting applications for the third round of their Business Partnership Fund. Please share this opportunity with local businesses.

The Fund is open to retailers, businesses and third-party conservation providers across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Sussex, and Kent. Eligible organisations are invited to submit innovative ideas to help reduce the amount of water used in those areas. You can find more about the process [here](#).

Applications close on Tuesday 31 December 2024. Check out the opportunity at <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/save-a-little-water/business-partnership-fund/>.

#### **Free Volunteer Flood Warden training**

Our Emergency Planning team is working in partnership with the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum and the Environment Agency to offer free Volunteer Flood Warden training. The initial training is offered as a two-hour online session which shows wardens how to help local people prepare for flooding. The wardens are a crucial link between the community and emergency response teams, and they meet several times a year to test the resilience of their flood plans. To register your interest, send an [email](#) to the Emergency Planning team. Learn more about the role of Flood Wardens by visiting the Resilience Forum's [website](#).

[emergency.planning@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@thanet.gov.uk) or [floodresilienceKSLES@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodresilienceKSLES@environment-agency.gov.uk)

#### **Mini-woodlands in Thanet parks**

Over the last few weeks, local people came together to plant 2,000 young 'whips', forming a mini-woodland at Dane Valley in Margate. A further five mini-woodlands will be planted over the next planting seasons, significantly increasing tree cover and biodiversity in Thanet.

### **Leaf collection**

Dedicated leaf picking patrols collected nine tonnes of leaf fall in 2023 that were sent to anaerobic digestion, instead of being disposed of as street litter. We're doing the same again this year. To try and increase the amount collected we're also trialling a community collection programme, with volunteer residents in Broadstairs receiving a wheeled bin just for leaves, plus dedicated leaf picks. Full bins will be emptied by Waste & Recycling teams, then returned to TDC at the end of leaf fall season.

### **Away in December**

I'm abroad in December for my nephew's wedding, so happy Christmas to you all.

Cllr Will Scobie – sits on Boundaries and Electoral Boundaries Committee. Thanet reviewing boundaries.

### **Cllr Paul Scobey (TDC)**

Cllr Scobey drew attention to the work of the 'Local Government Boundary Commission' and the proposed [New Political Map for Thanet District Council](#). Cllr Scobey advised that the proposals would result in fundamental changes to Manston Parish Council. The size of the council would increase to 7 councillors but only 2 of these would represent the rural village of Manston whilst 5 would represent the Westwood Cross community. The rationale for the changes is the population increase which is set to rise from 800 to 3,500. All parish councillors were shocked and concerned by this news.

Cllr Paul Scobey advised that there will be a meeting of the Thanet Committee at 2pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The deadline for review and comment on the proposals is 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and any concerns should be submitted in writing to the Boundary Commission. The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of wards and their boundaries: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/thanet>

People can also give their views by e-mail at [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk), and by post:

Review Officer (Thanet)

LGBCE

7th Floor

3 Bunhill Row

London

EC1Y 8YZ

### **9/24-25. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

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

- Preston Road houses proposal. The Chairman and David Steed had met with Jeffery R Smith from Guildcrest about the proposal. As the application had not yet been submitted it was not possible to submit an objection, but the council will review any proposals that come in as part of the normal planning review process.
- The flashing speed warning traffic sign is not working again. This had been reported by the Clerk, but this would be followed up again with KCC Highways.
- Changes to parish boundaries were discussed and residents expressed concern that village matters may be overlooked by a council focussed on Westwood Cross.

### **80/24-25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7.15pm.**

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm.**