



## MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Guy Wilson

Clerk: Vacant

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### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.15 pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.**

**Present: Parish Councillors** Guy Wilson, Ian Amato, Sam Bambridge, John Dearing, Roy Matthews and Henry Robinson

**In Attendance:** Abi Smith (TDC). Mrs Hazel Chandler (Volunteer of Manston Park checks)

#### **85/23-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies

#### **86/23-24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **87/23-24. MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November meeting were circulated to members.

Cllr Wilson read out the minutes from the 13<sup>th</sup> November meeting and thanked Cllr Amato for chairing the November meeting.

**Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record and accepted the amendment, the minutes were agreed. Minutes were signed by Cllr Amato.**

A resident spoke about the public session time at the November meeting, there was not any mention of the Christmas tree lights in the minutes which had been spoken about. It was felt thanks should have been sent out to those who were involved in putting the lights up. Manston PC had previously promised to buy new lights this year, but this had not been done. Cllr Amato explained it was too late for this year, but some will be purchased for next year. Mince pies had been provided for the evening by Cllr Wilson.

#### **88/23-24. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

Cllr Wilson explained Manston now had 2 bank accounts and he has provided a spreadsheet of payments. Cllr Wilson ran through the payments on the list a total of £741.98. Once a new clerk is in place, hopefully tomorrow all finances as per below will be sorted out.

- a) Authorisation of payments, circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) Setting up Unity Bank with authorised signatories
- c) Natwest Bank
- d) Bank Reconciliation

1 Signed by the Chair: ..... Date:.....

- e) Auditor
- f) Budget

### **89/23-24. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

*The last three months have brought their challenges with the resignation of three Parish Clerks for various reasons that I do not propose to elaborate on.*

*The councillors and I have discussed the appointment which was advertised in October. We are in the throes of preparing a job description and a contract of employment for a new Clerk who will, hopefully, be appointed shortly.*

*I apologise for the non-posting of the December agenda and the minutes of the November meeting on our website.*

*Apologies also that no planning applications, decided or otherwise, have been received this past month nor have we been notified of any road closures.*

*I must thank all the councillors for their unswerving support during these turbulent few weeks.*

### **90/23-24. PLANNING**

#### **Applications:**

Cllr Wilson explained that apparently no applications or decisions have been received or circulated this month from TDC. If there were any applications once the new clerk is on board these will be included next month.

Cllr Wilson felt a brief discussion should be had about Preston Park which is currently at the consultancy stage, several went to the caravan park a month ago including Cllrs Matthews and Robinson came along and were shown where the new proposed extra 80 new caravans were to be placed. Cllr Wilson had discussions with all Cllrs with the exception of Cllr Bell about the scheme and the Cllrs in general are not happy about the scheme as proposed. d. Cllr Wilson is happy to contact Mr Godden and chat with him about our concerns which are:

1. Would the additional units produce any serious economic advantages to Manston village which doesn't have much of a shop.
2. Increase in the traffic on Preston Road, Spratling Street and the main road the B2050.
3. Delivery of very wide static caravans on lorries
4. There is only one entrance/exit on to Preston Road.
5. Major concerns about the large vans parked on the road as these are not permitted on the site, this was addressed with Mr Godden when Cllrs met with him.
6. Preston Park is a holiday home resort and described as a "paradise" but people are living there and using the holiday homes as permanent homes. It is advertised as "holiday home owners can freely relax and unwind from the stresses and strains of everyday life".
7. Parking provisions are not adequate although the owner explained to Cllrs that a car park will be added at the entrance for the vans to prevent them being parked on the

2 Signed by the Chair: ..... Date:.....

Preston Road but Cllrs at the meeting considered that this additional parking area would be totally inadequate.

**Westwood Village phase 1** is also in the consultancy stage. Andrew Storey tried to contact Cllr Wilson about a pre application meeting with Senior Planning Officers, but is still waiting to hear back to see how this meeting went.

**Humbers Mill**, land from Manston Court Road to Nash Road and Manston Road near the Margate Cemetery, not heard anything further. Cllr Wilson mentioned he had been told a 28-page document was on the TDC website explaining what is not liked but Cllr Wilson has not seen this. Cllr A Smith said she had not seen the document but will take a look.

### **91/23-24. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Dearing explained that Flete Road is still ongoing awaiting to hear from the Land Registry to come back to us but this has been 6 months now since it was sent to them. Cllr Dearing contacted the solicitor last week, but as it is a small parcel of land this is not considered a priority and has been known to take up to 2 years to progress. Cllr Dearing requested the reference number and contact details and called the Land Registry himself and explained it is a matter of urgency due to safety concerns, the Land Registry have now amended to the expedient list. The Land Registry said if Cllr Dearing had not contacted them this would not have been looked at until next November.

Not specifically highways related but Cllr Dearing spoke about B&B Metals having been challenged about the scrap metal they are dealing with and a consultant on road regulations were not happy about them opening up the old entrance, should be a splay distance of 43m either way and not obstruction over 1.05 meters. The next planning committee meeting is in December and Cllr Dearing will see if this schedules for that meeting.

Cllrs Dearing and Wilson met with Cllr Derek Crow-Brown of KCC and a KCC Highways Officer with regards to Manston PC's revised HIP with the following priorities:

1. Flete Road,
2. Traffic calming using full width speed humps. Officer pushed that they should be cushions. A video clip was sent to point out that drivers treat cushions with contempt.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> priority is to have a 20mph speed limit on Preston Road. Cllr Dearing explained that after the traffic survey results, Preston Road was eligible with an average speed of 24mph or less. The B2050 did not qualify.
4. Speed limit between Manston village and the Dragon roundabout be reduced to 40mph. 30mph is too low but 40mph is allowed.

Abi Smith asked Cllr Dearing about a planning meeting. Did he mean a TDC planning meeting. Cllr Dearing explained that this was with KCC.

### **92/23-24. MANSTON PARK**

Hazel explained everything is safe at the park and the regular checks have been carried out.

### **93/23-24. NOTICEBOARD AT MANSTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Wilson explained Manston Village Hall had been in contact to inform the noticeboard has deteriorated and if we wished a board could be added to the wall of the Village Hall. Cllr Wilson has taken measurements (6ft wide x 3ft deep) and knows someone who could make

one or we could have a bespoke one. Cllr Dearing mentioned Grandfathers Workshop as a possible. Three quotes to be arranged and put forward in due course.

Cllrs felt the new board should stay in the same place in the carpark and not on the wall.

#### **94/23-24. D-DAY 80**

After much discussion on the plans for a D-Day 80 event, it was suggested to hire a catering van and to hold the event at Manston Park, this is on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Wilson suggested to move on with plans to have the event in the park.

**Resolved: All in favour to move forward with an event.**

#### **95/23-24. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS TO NOTE**

##### **Cllr Abi Smith**

Cllr A Smith reported on the TDC Full Council meeting held recently, there were 3 motions proposed, 9 questions from the public, it was a good turnout which was encouraging to see. Good to hear public opinion. A lot going on in the villages at the moment including the Minster Marshes consultation, which ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

##### **Cllr Bambridge**

1. Manston news – Nothing this month, apart from RSP have hosted the Conservatives around the airport and are due to host Labour next week.
2. I did submit a question to full council as a follow up to my question on the closure of the B2050 by Walkers Construction. Asking how TDC had progressed in lobbying KCC to stop the road chaos. I asked as I still hadn't heard anything from the Joint transport board. Apart from being told by various people that it has fallen into disarray. I also asked about the consideration to all the cars whose engines sit idling pouring pollutants into our environment whilst caught in the traffic congestion everywhere at temporary traffic lights. However, my question was rejected on the grounds that it was too similar to my question the month previously.
3. I attended the Sea Link National Grid consultation meeting at Minster to see their plans. Cllr Reece Pugh felt that a better location would be where Richborough Power station was as this is a brown field site used for a similar purpose. At full council, all parties voted jointly on a motion to object to Sealinks proposals for the Minster Marshes.
4. At my local plan meeting this week Officers talked about the additional proposed houses and sites coming forwards towards the 2040 housing target. Today I sent a message to Adrian Verrall one of our housing officers heading up the local plan work:

*“Following on from our Local Plan meeting last week, I am very interested in what both Cllr Reece Pugh and Cllr Helen Crittenden have been proposing around building upwards. As you know we're all concerned about losing more green field sites, and considering most of the housing need is for more affordable properties I think it would be a good idea to assess the viability of securing land where we could build a few high rises together, with underground parking preferably. This development ought to come with onsite facilities and could be a*

*very attractive option for buyers, in addition to requiring a smaller area of land. How could we go about assessing this?"*

Cllr Abi Smith commented there is a Facebook page to Save Minster Marshes if people wish to object as they have guidance on their page.

Cllr Wilson wanted to recap that the cable will go from Suffolk, down through Goodwin Sands and through Pegwell Bay, under St Augustine's Golf Course and farmland and mole underneath and come up at different points. This could endanger wildlife, particularly birds.

### **95/23-24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Wilson spoke about the hedging being cut back at Manston Park. Cllrs Mathews and himself met at the park to discuss cutting back the foliage around the perimeter, one quotation had been received from a local company at roughly £450 per day. The Landscape Services company that currently maintain the park have put in a price for the year and have been asked to come back to quote for cutting back the hedges further. Cllr Wilson suggested our current provider be used to take on the extra work as they already maintain the area. All Councillors were happy to explore this further.

Cllr Wilson discussed a contract of employment for a new clerk and suggested appointing the previous clerk, Caroline Flynn who originally left due to personal reasons. All were in favour of the contract and employment of Caroline Flynn.

Cllr Amato asked Cllr Dearing what is required to reduce the speed limit on Preston Road to 20 mph. Cllr Dearing informed that a new HIP proforma is required to add the new priorities, the new clerk can arrange this or Cllr Dearing will contact KCC Highways. To move this further the Clerk can liaise with the Highways Officer.

### **96/23-24. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Mr Goodban reported there were 2 drums left on Preston Road by fly tippers, the rest of the rubbish was taken away. Cllr Amato explained the drums are full of oil and this was reported to TDC, who removed the loose rubbish, but as the barrels had been moved onto someone's land, they are unable to remove it and the landowner is now responsible for removal.

There was a discussion by Mr Goodban on the soil levels being raised by the housing developers in St Stephen's Park and the legality of this action. Cllr Wilson asked if Mr Goodban could contact TDC to ask if permission is required for this and to report back to Cllr Wilson.

The subject of overgrown hedges alongside the roads was mentioned by Mr Goodban and how wing mirrors were being caught, causing damage and how overgrown the hedges are near the reservoir at Manston Court Road, Preston Road and Valley Road. Cllr Wilson suggested the new clerk report this to KCC.

A resident asked about the traffic calming plan going to a nonsensical decision to have 20 mph on Preston Road but not Manston Road where it is most needed. Cllr Wilson said 20 mph would be a good idea but not possible through the main road of the village due to the speeds being above the 24mph during the traffic surveys, where regulations state it needs to be below 24mph and Cllr Dearing has challenged this with KCC but Highways will not allow this.

Cllr Wilson said a lot of time has been spent working with KCC Highways for traffic calming and finding suitable solutions that come within the KCC Highway regulations which Manston PC is tied by. Wingham PC have also been contacted to find out how the 20mph speed was achieved, Wingham is a very different area to Manston.

**97/23-24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7.15pm.**