



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 12th January 2026 at 7.15pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.

Present: Parish Councillors: Paul Bell, Henry Robinson & Guy Wilson

In Attendance: Cllr Luke Evans (KCC), Cllr Peter Evans (KCC), PC Andy Howe, Gary Groombridge (Community Warden) and 10 members of public.

94/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Elliott, Cllr Amato, and Cllr Matthews.

95/25-26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

96/25-26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th November had been circulated.

RESOLVED: The minutes were proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded Wilson as a true record of the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes should be signed by Cllr Amato who chaired the meeting.

97/25-26 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Council noted that a vacancy had existed since May 2025 following the resignation of Cllr John Dearing. As the statutory notice period had passed without a call for an election, the Council was permitted to fill the vacancy by co-option.

An expression of interest had been received from Mr Stuart McRae, who attended the meeting and gave a short presentation outlining his background and reasons for wishing to serve.

Members agreed unanimously that Mr McRae would be a valuable addition to the Council, bringing significant commercial experience and a strong commitment to supporting the village community.

RESOLVED: Mr McRae was nominated by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Wilson. The vote for Mr McRae was unanimous.

98/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman took the opportunity to visit all of those present a Happy New year and provided the following updates.

- There were ongoing disruptions to local water supplies due to problems at Southern Water's pumping stations. Updates were being published on the Manston Parish Council website and social media channels. Residents were advised to report issues directly to Southern Water in the first instance; however, in an emergency they may contact the Parish Council, who would provide assistance where possible.

- The Skidz drifting school appears to have finally taken heed of the instructions from Thanet District Council to cease operation.
- The Chairman provided an update on the current plans for the future of Manston Airport. The full report had been published on the Manston Parish Council website as part of the meeting papers, and hard copies were available on request from the Clerk.

Cllr Luke Evans informed members that a site meeting would take place at the airport on Saturday 31 January. The Chairman confirmed he would attend and report back to the next Full Council meeting.

99/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT

- 1) **New defibrillator** - The Clerk reported that the landlord of the Jolly Farmer Public House had confirmed their agreement to the installation of a new defibrillator to replace the damaged unit, and that the existing power supply may be used. Three quotations for the replacement equipment had been circulated to councillors for consideration (Appendix A). A budget allocation of £2,000 was noted. An electrician would need to be appointed to carry out the installation.
- 2) **Parish Forum / Parish Charter** – The Clerk has joined a working party with TDC and other parish Clerks to develop a Parish Charter to improve working relationships.
- 3) **Increase Clerk's working hours** –The Clerk reported that working hours logged since October 2024 averaged approximately 12 hours per week. A proposal was presented to increase the contracted hours from 8 to 10 per week to better reflect the workload. The additional annual cost to the Council would be £1,761, and the revised budget submitted to this meeting was confirmed as able to accommodate the increase.

RESOLVED: to increase the Clerks hours **Proposed by Cllr Bell and Seconded by Cllr Wilson.**

100/25-26. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) **Authorisation of Payments & Bank Reconciliation:** To approve the monthly payments list, 2 Cllrs to sign the to confirm bank transfers online with Unity Bank.
RESOLVED: All unanimously agreed the payments and bank reconciliation
- b) **Draft Budget 2026/27 (including changes to the Reserves)** draft budget for consideration prior to precept and tax base. The budget was resubmitted to the Council with proposed changes to the Clerk's salary. Increase the Clerk's hours to 10 hours per week. **Proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Wilson**
- c) **To approve the addition of a further signatory authority for Unity Bank.**
RESOLVED to add Cllr Amato as a Signatory of Unity Bank. **Proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Wilson.**
- d) **To approve opening a saving account for parish council reserves.**
RESLOVED: to open a 32-day notice account with an interest rate of 2.75%.
Proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Wilson
- e) **Asset Transfer – RESOLVED:** To request transfer of the war memorial garden from Thanet District Council to Manston Parish Council. **Proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr McRae.**

101/25/26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW AND ASSETT TRANSFER

Councillors were asked to identify any assets within the parish currently owned by TDC that could be considered for transfer to Manston Parish Council ahead of the Local Government Review. It was noted that a future Unitary Authority may have reduced capacity or interest in maintaining local assets, and therefore early transfer to parish councils may be advantageous.

A six-acre plot adjacent to Manston Park was highlighted as an existing TDC-owned asset. However, it was considered unlikely that TDC would agree to transfer this land, as it may be reserved for potential future development.

102/25-26 PLANNING.

F/TH/25/1255 – Location: Grenham Lodge, Manston Road East, Ramsgate.

Variation of condition 2 for planning permission F/TH/23/0437 for the 'Erection of 12No two storey semidetached and detached dwellings, comprising of 9No 3-bed dwellings and 3No 4-bed dwellings together with associated access, parking and landscaping' to allow changes to external materials, addition of brick plinths, and lean-to tiled front canopy roofs to front entrance doors, addition of 2no. windows to plots 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and changes to internal layout on plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12.

This application has been raised by a member of the public at the meeting in December. The original application was discussed at the Full Council Meeting on 17th April 2023 and there were no objections. However, comments about the site entrance being a traffic hazard had been submitted to TDC by Cllr Elliott.

There were no further objections.

F/TH/1015 – 40 High Street, Manston - Amended Plans Erection of first floor side extension, part single storey, part two storey rear extension, and part single storey, part two storey front extension, together with roof alterations including erection of 1no. dormer window to rear, following demolition of existing garage, porch and conservatory

There were no objections.

Hydrogen Transition Energy

The Council had been advised that there will be an in-person public consultation on Saturday 24th January at 9.30am until 2pm in Manston village hall.

Manston Airport

Following the Chairman's report on the airport, a member of the public commented on several related matters. They noted that the commercial footprint of Stansted Airport is comparable in size to the district of Thanet. It was also stated that the flight path at the Ramsgate end cannot be developed. The member of the public further advised that modern aircraft can now take off into the wind and therefore will not take off over Ramsgate. Concern was raised that the new roundabout may increase traffic flows into Manston.

The issue of Section 106 funding associated with the airport was raised. Cllr Luke Evans reported that he had spoken with James Wraight, who confirmed he had attended a meeting regarding the S106 agreement and that the funding remains available. Cllr Evans will provide updates as further information becomes available.

103/25-26. HIGHWAYS

B2050 Traffic Calming Bollards

Damage to the traffic-calming bollards on the B2050 has been reported via the KCC Highways fault-reporting app (reference: 917902 – current status under investigation 14/01/2026).

Speed Restrictions

The 20mph speed limit has now been implemented on Preston Road. The introduction of the 40mph speed restriction on the B2025, from the Haine Road roundabout to the village entrance, has been delayed due to staff sickness but will be rescheduled.

Traffic Volume and Speed Concerns

A lengthy discussion took place regarding vehicle speeds and the increasing volume of traffic using the B2025 through the village, with concerns again raised about resident safety. It was suggested that a traffic survey be conducted over a 7-day period at various times of day. Several members of the public expressed willingness to assist with traffic monitoring. The Clerk will contact KCC Highways to discuss this further.

Haine Road (Dragon) Roundabout

Concerns were raised about the layout of the Haine Road roundabout, commonly referred to as the Dragon Roundabout, particularly the absence of a designated left-hand lane. It was felt that the current layout is unsafe due to the lack of a clearly marked left-turn lane.

104/25-26. MANSTON PARK

- a) **Park Barrier.** Check status of the barrier. Cllr Bell confirmed that he would check the batteries on the barrier and would charge the batteries as required,
- b) **Cllrs received the Monthly park check for January 2026** noted the following. Park benches that still need varnishing, this would hopefully be done in the spring. Worn goal mouths were reported. The Clerk has contacted Paul Hughes about levelling and re-seeding the goal mouths.
- c) **Trees on the Park boundary**
Members discussed reports of subsidence affecting properties in Spratling Street, which may be linked to trees located on the boundary of Manston Park. The Chairman advised that the title deeds confirm the land and the trees adjacent to the affected properties are not owned by Manston Parish Council, and that the landowner is Thanet District Council (TDC).

105/25-26. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS TO NOTE

Cllr Luke Evans (KCC) provided the following report mainly focussed on the KCC budget. The proposed budget for the next financial year has been released.

- Current KCC debt is £732m, with a forecast of £1bn within two years.
- The council was £21m overspent, with significant pressures in the adult social care budget.
- Budgets have been reprofiled, including changes to previous net-zero commitments, resulting in a reduction in overall debt for the first time in 15 years.
- All existing contracts will be reviewed.
- £30m has been allocated to reserves for the coming year.
- KCC aims to remain among the three lowest council tax authorities nationally.
- Over the past 12 years, council tax increases have been set at the maximum level permitted without requiring a referendum.
- The A299 Thanet Way was raised at Full Council on 18 December, including discussion on possible reclassification as a trunk road. Central Government would only consider this if the road is brought up to a high standard.
- KCC will seek grant funding to carry out necessary works.
- Average speed cameras will not be installed on the A299.
- Adult social care expenditure has been reduced.

Cllr Peter Evans (KCC) provided the following updates.

Updates relating to Thanet District Council

- Work continues to press for road improvements ahead of the Sealink development.
- Thanet District Council is considering potential changes to certain public rights of way, including bridleways.
- Jackey Baker's Sports Ground has received investment.
- Thanet District Council has awarded £535,000 to the Pie Factory.

Kent County Council (KCC) Update

- The KCC budget was not released in September as grant figures were not received until December.
- The current Government has provided KCC with a three-year funding settlement.
- Funding for a political advisor has been identified following staff retirements.
- Reform councillors have returned 5% of their councillor allowances to community projects

Community Warden, Gary Groombridge provided the following update.

Village Presence and Engagement

- Continued visual presence across all villages.
- Information drop-ins at Minster Library have concluded; further sessions will be scheduled.
- Ongoing partnership with *Heart in the Community* wellbeing charity.
- Wellbeing group at the Salvation Army Hall, Minster, held on 5 December with increasing attendance; next session on 16 January.

Community Groups and Activities

- Digital skills workshops planned (currently on hold); twelve residents registered interest.
- Continued attendance at the Minster Men's Shed.
- Visit to Rivers Court (Housing 21) and delivery of a scam-awareness session with Trading Standards on 10 December.

Resident Support and Casework

- Drink-driving concerns in Minster reported to PC Andy Howe for follow-up with the Neighbourhood Task Force and Special Constabulary. Advice provided to a resident receiving scam text messages; text preference service set up.
- Assisted a St Nicholas at Wade resident with the telephone preference service.
- Noise complaint from a resident logged on the CMS system; no further action requested.

Wellbeing Groups – St Nicholas at Wade

- Continued support for wellbeing groups at Bell Meadow Pavilion and the Sun Inn.

Highways and Environmental Matters

- Potholes in Minster reported; reference received.
- Damaged sign at Minster/Mount Pleasant roundabout reported to Kent Highways; reference received.
- Rubbish build-up along verges between Cliffsend and Monkton reported to TDC and Kent Highways; advised that annual clearance is standard procedure.
- Mud build-up on a road in St Nicholas at Wade reported; reference received.

Community Drop-ins Community drop-in session held at Manston Village Hall on 7 January.

Kent Police, PC Andy Howe

Andy Howe is currently unable to undertake physical duties. A female colleague may be willing to assume the role.

Police Calls – 1–31 December 2025

34 calls from Manston. Majority were traffic-related, including reports of obstructive parking at the Preston Road / Spratling Street junction. 5 calls related to the Migrant Centre. Multiple calls concerning the Jolly Farmer, including several public order incidents over the Christmas/New Year period.

Recorded Crimes – 1–31 December 2025

- 32 crimes recorded (excluding incidents originating in France at the Migrant Centre).
 - Several assaults linked to the Jolly Farmer: Licensing implications under review.
 - 9 reports of domestic incidents/harassment, mostly connected to the Westwood Estate.
 - 1 burglary (non-dwelling) involving theft of a bicycle from an outbuilding.
- Vehicle Crime
- Increase in theft from vehicles and vehicle interference over the festive period.
 - Police responded to reports of two males trying car doors in Cliffsend on 3 January at 02:00; suspects tracked but lost near St Augustine's Golf Course.
 - Residents reminded to ensure CCTV/Ring/Blink devices are active and vehicles are locked. Suspicious activity should be reported via 999.
- Arrests
- Two known offenders targeting insecure vehicles in Thanet have been arrested, though links to recent incidents are unconfirmed.
- Other Police Activity
- Divisional Support Officers made a positive stop of a drug-related vehicle in Manston.
 - Neighbourhood Task Force active throughout the Christmas period tackling shoplifting and seizing multiple e-scooters, e-bikes, and vehicles across the district.

106/25-26. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

Clarification was requested about the Planning Application for the expansion of Preston caravan. Cllr Wilson advised that the appeal went to the Planning Inspectorate which is the highest level and the plans to extend were approved.

A resident raised the issue of foliage blocking the site line of the Grenham Lodge development. It was confirmed that a request to remove shrubbery was submitted to KCC in 2025 (call ref: 871416) and the call has been marked 'work completed'. The Clerk agreed to add a comment to the Grenham Lodge planning application. Introduction of 20mph on Preston Road is most welcome. PC Howe advised do not expect everyone to adhere to the speed limit. There was a suggestion to add speed bumps but the general consensus was that these create road noise and acceleration that adds noise. General rule of thumb is that speed limits do drop in general.

107/25-26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th February 2026, 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm