

Manston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.15 pm at Manston Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Amato (in the Chair,) Dearing, Bambridge, Robinson & Bell

In attendance : Mr. G. Eaton, Clerk to the Council, KCC Cllr Crow-Brown, TDC Cllrs Wright & Smith, Mrs. Hazel Candler (volunteer for Manston Park checks), and 6 members of the public

72/23-24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wilson

73/23-24 Declarations of Councillor's Interests in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of Councillor's interests in items on the Agenda

74/23-24 Minutes

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2023 should be amended as follows 65/23-24 Planning - should read Andy Godden

75/23-24 Finance Matters and authorisation of payments

a/ authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the Meeting. The invoices had been approved for payment and cheques had been signed by Cllrs Wilson & Dearing

b/ the bank reconciliation was noted and approved

c/ AGAR conclusion of 2022-2024 audit – this item was deferred to the December 2023 Meeting

d/ budget 2024-2025 – the draft budget as circulated was noted and approved

e/ quotations for Manston Park works – this item was deferred to the December 2023 Meeting

76/23-24 Chairman's Report

Cllr Amato read Cllr Wilson's Report -

Welcome everybody. I am standing in for Guy who wishes to apologise for his absence this evening – he has gone away for two days attending a funeral of a long-standing friend.

I would like to give a warm welcome to our new Clerk – Geoff Eaton – who has taken over from Caroline Flynn as of today. He has only just been given all the paperwork and the computer, but hopefully we can go through the agenda quickly and if there are any difficult issues arising, they can be dealt with once Geoff is up to speed with our affairs and Guy is back.

This month has been relatively quiet in the Parish but not elsewhere in the world where there are wars and strife.

We are due to discuss the 2024-25 Budget this month but have not been able to do so with the change of Clerk but will hope to carry out a review in the next few weeks.

The calling in of the B and B Metals planning application is not scheduled for the November Planning Committee. We are awaiting further details.

Last month, without our Clerk, Guy inadvertently missed a discussion of Preston Caravan Park whose owner, Mr Andy Godden, is going to put a planning application in for an extra 100 plus units to be put on the site over a five-year period and using the same entrance in Preston Road. Councillors were invited to a presentation and walk around a month or so ago.

Cllr Dearing, Cllr Crow-Brown and Guy Wilson had a constructive meeting with Lezanne Cesar of KCC Highways two weeks ago.

77/23-24 Planning

F/TH/23/1366 – Coldswood Farm, Coldswood Road, Ramsgate – formation of equestrian sand school to the rear of existing stables together with the erection of 1.2metre high fence and gates to perimeter

There were no objections to this application

F/TH/230629 – B and B Metals, Flete Farmyard, Flete Road, Margate – change of use of units 3 and 4 to storage and distribution of scrap metal (retrospective)

Update only - The Parish Council had objected, and the application had been 'called in' to Planning Committee to adjudicate

78/23-24 Highways

a/ Public Rights of Way – there were no issues for discussion

b/ 20mph/HIP – Cllr Dearing reported on a recent meeting with Highways (Lezanne Cesar) and felt that there would be a long fight to get traffic calming measures including speed humps installed, but felt that the 20mph speed reduction in Preston Road might be approved

The members of the public raised various concerns over Spratling Street being used as a 'rat-run', and that during recent resurfacing works only one side of the road had been resurfaced

79/23-24 Manston Park

Hazel Chandler gave a brief summary of her recent park inspection – there had been reports of noise and swearing at the weekend and the Police had attended although no details were available

80/23-24 Manston Parish Village Hall

There was a general discussion regarding the noticeboard which is in a poor state of repair and a new board required. It was agreed that quotes should be sought including from the British Legion

81/23-24 D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024

There was a brief discussion about how this important occasion could be commemorated and it was suggested that the beacon could be lit along with a bring your own picnic. To be considered further at the December 2023 Meeting

82/23-24 Individual reports to note

KCC Cllr Crow-Brown

Cllr Crow-Brown updated on the recent road closures and is continuing to raise his serious concerns with Highways especially regarding the ongoing issues in Spratling Street and Preston Road which need addressing. Various issues and concerns about the Dragon roundabout were also considered.

Cllr Crow-Brown also discussed KCC's dire financial position and confirmed that the planned closure of several waste and recycling centres had been shelved. In response to a question regarding \$106 monies Cllr Crow-Brown confirmed that Manston wasn't going to receive any such funding.

TDC Cllr Bambridge

TDC Cllr Wright

TDC Cllr Smith

- The motion for TDC to pause planning approvals on developments above 10 houses was debated at length by the full council and received cross-party support, but sadly was not successful. We will keep trying!
- Good news: TDC was awarded £685,275 of government funding to develop brownfield sites for housing and intends to put that towards building 49 affordable homes in Dane Valley.
- There is a campaign to 'save' the Minster Marshes from a major development by the National Grid – a 15-acre, 100ft-high building on land that has become the habitat of many rare species and is described as Thanet's "last bit of wild".
- Four public meetings by the "Save Minster Marshes" Facebook group, supported by the Thanet Green Party have been held so far in Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Minster and Sandwich and were very well attended. Public consultation documents have been distributed to local libraries including Minster, as well as through letterboxes. They must be returned with feedback by 18th December. Residents are encouraged to attend public consultation events as follows:

1. Wednesday 15 November, 2.30pm-7.30pm at Cliffsend village hall, 55 Foads Lane
2. Thursday 16 November, noon until 5.30pm at Minster village hall, 1 High Street
3. Friday 17 November, 10am to 3pm at Guildhall, Cattle Market, Sandwich
4. Wednesday 29 November, 2pm-7pm at Cliffsend Village Hall
5. Saturday 2 December, 11am to 3pm at Royal Harbour Academy (upper site) Marlowe Way, Ramsgate
6. 'Ask the experts' session at Royal Harbour Academy on December 1, 5pm-8.30pm.

83/23-24 Public discussion and items for the next agenda

Members of the public had spoken during the Meeting on various topics including highway matters, the B and B planning application, and an expected planning application at Preston Caravan Park. There were no further public questions or items for the next agenda

84/23-24 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.15pm at Manston Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm