



MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Guy Wilson

Clerk: Mrs Caroline Flynn

Email: manstonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2024 at 7.15 pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.

Present: Parish Councillors Guy Wilson (Chairman), John Dearing, Roy Matthews and Henry Robinson.

In Attendance: Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, Cllr L Wright (TDC, KCC), Mrs Hazel Chandler (Volunteer of Manston Park checks)

98/23-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ian Amato (Personal Reasons)
Cllr Sam Bambridge (Unwell)
Caroline Flynn (Prior appointment, as agreed)
Cllr Abi Smith (TDC)

99/23-24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

100/23-24. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on the 11th December meeting were circulated to members.

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record, Cllr Dearing proposed and Cllr Robinson seconded. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

101/23-24. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments, circulated prior to the meeting.
Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr J Dearing
- b) Bank Reconciliations
Resolved: Signed by Cllrs Wilson and Dearing.
- c) Budget & Precept for 2024-25
Resolved: Cllr Wilson proposed to accept the budget of £34,367 and precept of £34,420, seconded by Cllr Matthews and unanimously agreed.
- d) Internal Auditor
The previous auditor has retired and a new internal auditor is required.
Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Dearing to appoint Tony Kilbee as our internal auditor for the year 2023-24.

e) Annual Grounds Maintenance for Manston Park

Cllr Wilson had arranged for further quotes for the additional hedge cutting and the annual quotation had been received. Cllr Wilson contacted the contractor and arranged to meet on site to discuss the extra cutting of Manston Park, on inspection it didn't seem the contractors had done much cutting back this year. Cllrs Wilson and Matthews will check this year that the work is being done, when the contractors are on site. The contractor will provide a new annual quotation to include the extra hedge cutting.

Hazel asked if the hedge by the carpark could be cut along Spratling Street, Cllr Wilson will meet with Hazel for the exact location to pass over to the contractors.

Resolved: Cllr Wilson proposed to accept the existing annual contract with the additional cost to cut extra hedges, this was unanimously agreed.

102/23-24. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Christmas has come and gone and I wish to record my thanks to the unknown local lady who supplied some lights for the tree in the memorial garden for the ceremony on a bitterly cold night. We supplied lots of mince pies for the celebrations in Saint Catherine's Church. The attendance was excellent with several councillors coming along as well.

Since the last meeting we have appointed a new parish clerk, Mrs Caroline Flynn, who is unfortunately unable to attend this evening due to having made another important appointment prior to being appointed by the council.

B and B Metals told me a couple of months ago that they were looking for new premises and have now ceased to occupy the fleet farm storage yard. I have no further news on the planning application for retrospective change of use. The council has lodged an objection and it has been called in.

Just prior to last month's meeting, Andrew Storey, a developer, submitted a planning application for the Westwood Village 2 housing development. This runs from the Marks & Spencer roundabout, along Haine Road to the south and along Manston Court Road to the north. It is a massive scheme which had not been validated at the time of our last meeting.

The Preston Park planning application has been called in and the owner wrote to me last week to say that he and his Architect would not be attending the meeting this evening as originally planned hoping that the council would withdraw its objection. I had explained that it was no longer in the hands of the Manston Parish Council. Kent Messenger posted an interesting article about the planning application in the last day or two.

All in all, quite an eventful month. Now we must face 2024 with all the challenges that it will bring.

103/23-24. PLANNING

Applications:

- a) **OL/TH/23/1592, Land To The East Side Of Preston Road And South Of Manston Court Road RAMSGATE Kent.** Outline planning permission for new homes, associated open space, landscaping, infrastructure work (including a

new spine road) and a 6-form entry secondary school (all matters reserved apart from access)

Applications commented on under The Scheme of Delegation:

a) F/TH/23/1559, Preston Caravan Site Preston Road RAMSGATE Kent CT12

5AR Erection of 110 Caravans with associated parking, bin stores, hardscaping and landscaping. **Manston PC Strongly Objected.**

Decided Applications: No decided applications for this meeting.

104/23-24. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Dearing said there were no further updates for Flete Road since the last meeting. Cllr Dearing spoke about the HIP for Manston PC, he explained the number of items had been reduced and went through the priorities on the form which is ready to go to KCC Highways.

105/23-24. MANSTON PARK

Hazel Chandler provided the park check, everything in is in order.

106/23-24. MANSTON PARK ROSPA ANNUAL INSPECTION

Cllr Wilson was unsure of the ROSPA inspection so will query with the Clerk.

107/23-24. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS TO NOTE

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown (KCC)

Valley Road Lydden

Paul Valek has replied to my hastener re Valley Road vegetation. KCC Highways are in the process of serving formal notice to the caravan site as they have not carried out the necessary work that KCC requested.

Roadworks

The area is seeing many road closures being self-declared by utilities companies as an emergency. It simply cannot be right that a utility company can self-declare an emergency, meaning they close a road and start digging it up, and informing KCC within two hours. None of us have an issue with genuine emergencies, but the law is silent on what constitutes an emergency. Highways have been informed that if a broadband company's customer loses their connection, that is an emergency...which isn't quite on the level of a water main spurting 10 metres in the air, or a power cable sparking across a road. KCC cannot possibly coordinate roadworks without advance knowledge, and it is becoming increasingly apparent that far from being "emergencies," much of this work is known about by the utility companies well in advance.

To give a statistic, around 30% of all utility works are now being undertaken via the "emergency" route. Causing havoc on the roads and, at times, leaving KCC to cancel their own long-planned road improvements, projects and maintenance works to avoid complete gridlock. Even when KCC attach conditions to permits, be they retrospective or otherwise, the financial penalties available to KCC to levy are palpable – officers have made clear that

3 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

when they request staffed traffic lights, often they won't get them due to the cost of staff being more than the cost of the fine!

My highways cabinet member met with senior members of the team to discuss what we can do to ensure we, as the highways authority, have more control over what happens on Kent roads than we do at present. The frustrations we all have are shared by KCC officers. Highways also discussed the need to ensure that where there are road closures – and there always will be the need – KCC have well-signed, well-placed, well-timed diversion routes that are easily followed, with as much notice being given as possible to those who will be caught in them.

Highways will look at how KCC use their existing powers, what they would like to be able to do and, if their powers don't go far enough, press the Department for Transport/Government to allow KCC to keep our roads moving for the benefit of our residents and businesses. There is also work taking place, which will be of importance until such time (if) the fines levels are hiked, to build up a prosecution protocol so KCC can take the worst offenders to court.

Westwood Cross Traffic Flows

Having seen the traffic gridlock in Westwood over the Christmas period I asked KCC Highways for a strategic review of traffic flows. The response I received is not acceptable, so I will bring up the subject at the KCC Highways meeting this Thursday.

Richborough Household Waste Site

You will be aware there was a proposal to close the Richborough Household Waste site and three other sites in Kent, saving £1.5 million. As a member of an informal working group, I have lobbied strongly for Richborough's retention, especially given Thanet's population is expected to rise by approximately 40,000 in the next ten years with the alternative site used by many from Thanet especially on the Southeast of the Isle. At a group meeting before Christmas Cllr Linda Wright and I were part of the group voting against the closure. Hopefully, this will be the last of the matter.

Cllr Linda Wright (TDC)

Adult social care huge cuts for this in the budget. Officers can only spend a small amount without authorisation to be in balance with the budget.

Traffic, from the 5th February Birchington Square will have road works for the next few weeks and will be closed for utility works. This will cause problems with the buses going to Canterbury and into Thanet. Information for this can be found on the Birchington Parish Council Facebook page and is on Manston Parish Council website under the news section.

Schools – Cllr Wright is trying to campaign to have toothpaste and toothbrushes for primary school children to ensure all have access to look after their teeth.

Cllr Wilson mentioned he had been speaking with the clerk to ask District and County Councillors to produce a written report prior to the Manston meetings.

108/23-24. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

- The website meeting dates had the wrong year on, this will be relayed to the clerk.
- A resident requested that the minutes be added to the noticeboard. Cllr Wilson assured this will be done and explained we will be purchasing a new noticeboard.
- A resident asked about Preston Park and why there was not a debate. Cllr Wilson explained that Manston PC had already put objections forward to TDC and the owner of the caravan park felt it would not be constructive to attend.
- Preston Park resident explained that she owned part of the proposed land for the new caravans at the rear of her property.
- Village Green status of Manston Park had been mentioned by a resident. Cllr Dearing explained what this was and the protection it would give Manston Park from any part of the land being taken for development.
- A resident spoke about a bridle path near Preston Park which goes along Spratling Street where there is a locked gate for which the owner has the key and asked if Manston PC knew the process for unlocking the gate? Cllr Wilson agreed to contact the gate owner.

Cllr Wilson thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

109/23-24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th February 2024, 7.15pm.