



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 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.

Present: Parish Councillors Paul Bell (Chairman), Ian Amato, Roy Matthews, Stuart McRae, Henry Robinson, Guy Wilson & Graham Elliott

In Attendance: Cllr Luke Evans, Cllr Peter Evans, Gary Groombridge (Community Warden) 16 members of public.

1/26-27. ELECTION OF CHAIR & THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF OFFICE

RESOLVED: Cllr Bell was nominated by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Matthews. The vote for Cllr Bell was unanimous.

2/26-27. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR & THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF OFFICE

RESOLVED: Cllr Amato was nominated by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Robinson. The vote for Cllr Amato was unanimous.

3/26-27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

4/26-27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5/26-27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th April had been circulated.

RESOLVED: The minutes were proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Bell as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

6/26-27 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that 47% of expenditure this year related to capital costs for new or replacement equipment, including the park barrier, a new see-saw, and a new defibrillator at The Jolly Farmer. A further 22% of the budget was spent on maintenance, including upkeep of the park, and the remaining 31% covered revenue costs such as salaries, subscriptions and memberships.

The Chair confirmed that the Chair's Pendant is now securely stored at the Thanet District Council offices.

Reference was made to rising crime figures in Thanet, with a reminder for residents to remain vigilant.

The Chair thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their support during the first year in office.

7/26-27. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments, circulated prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Bell and Seconded by Cllr Amato
- b) Year End Bank Reconciliations were approved by Cllr Bell

8/26-27. REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

RESOLVED: Members unanimously agreed to accept the Risk Management Statement for 2025-26.
The Clerk and the Chairman signed the statement.

9/26-27. REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT AND SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The internal audit reported was received by Cllrs and noted, along with the Internal Control Statement.

RESOLVED: Council agreed the System of Internal control for 2025-26 be approved and the Chairman and Clerk signed and dated the Statement on behalf of the Council; all were in favour and carried. The Clerk and Chairman signed the System of Internal Control.

10/26-27. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2025-26

RESOLVED: The Annual Governance Statement be approved and that the Chairman and the Clerk signed and dated the Statement on behalf of the Council, all were in favour and carried.

11/26-27 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS FOR 2025-26

Members considered the Accounting Statements provided by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer who had prior to the meeting signed and dated section 2 of the AGAR for 2025-26.

RESOLVED: The Accounting Statement be approved and signed and dated by the Chairman on behalf of the Council, all were in favour and carried.

12/26-27 THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS DATES – to note the dates have been set as Tuesday 23rd June 2026 until Monday 3rd August 2026.

13/26-27. PLANNING

KCC/TH/0050/2026 - Land at Manston Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4JW (THE)
Cllr Elliott reported that an objection had been submitted to KCC, focusing on road traffic safety, the loss of Grade 1 agricultural land, air quality, and water usage. The Council has been advised that the application may be considered by the KCC Planning Committee in September 2026, at which point representatives may speak. One Councillor and one resident expressed an interest in speaking, and this will be communicated to KCC.

F/TH/25/1255: Grenham Lodge Manston Road East Ramsgate. Variation of conditions to planning application F/TH/23/0437

Councillors agreed to object to the variation of planning permission, which removes a footpath and a dropped-kerb crossing point.

14/26-27. HIGHWAYS

HIP update – an updated HIP had been received which included recent speed restrictions on the B2050 and Preston Road.

The Council received an email from a Leys resident raising concerns about parked cars and speeding traffic on Preston Road. Issues noted included excessive speeding, untaxed vehicles parked on the highway, and illegal waste being left at the roadside. These matters will be raised with PC Owen Crush. Speed Watch was discussed, and Cllrs Bell, McRae and Amato agreed to participate, including undertaking the required training.

15/26-27. MANSTON PARK

- a) The park check was received. Dog fouling and litter continue to be an ongoing problem. Rough areas of tarmac in the car park were also noted. Cllr Matthews was thanked for varnishing the benches.
- b) **RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Oakley Jones for tree work on the boundary of The Leys and Manston Park. Proposed by Cllr Bell and Seconded by Cllr Robinson**
- c) Football pitch update – goal posts have been installed, goal mouths levelled and grass seed added.
- d) Damaged perimeter fence – The Leys Management company have raised concerns about damage to the perimeter fence adjacent to their property. **RESOLVED: to arrange for contractor to cut back ivy in dog park. Proposed Cllr Matthews, Seconded Cllr Bell.**
- e) The council received an email from a Spratling Street resident regarding noise from the dog park caused by groups congregating and chatting at the bench. The resident asked whether the bench could be relocated elsewhere in the park. Cllr Bell will investigate.

16/26-27. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS TO NOTE

Cllr Luke Evans

Cllr Evans highlighted the financial improvement at KCC with the introduction of a new Commercial strategy on 23rd January, this has resulted in £55m contracts being awarded to Kent companies. KCC have reduced debts and council tax bills were now lower than other areas.

Thanet Way roadworks will commence on next week and are scheduled to take 6 weeks with work continuing 24/7.

Cllr Evans reported on his 'Councillor Commerce Conversations' initiative, through which he is visiting local businesses to discuss their needs and offer support. He noted that the project will also provide opportunities for free publicity through community-focused online channels and invited suggestions of businesses that may wish to take part.

Cllr Evans confirmed that he had 'called in' the HTE application.

Cllr Peter Evans

Cllr Evans provided updates from across Thanet, including the planting of 100 trees, a new skate park in Margate, the introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders in Ramsgate and Broadstairs, changes to food-waste collections, and a trial of large black bins in Margate.

Cllr Evans reported that tenants are now moving into the newly acquired council houses in Thanet. He also confirmed that he would be happy to assist the Parish Council in reviewing planning applications if required.

PC Owen Crush – not in attendance but provided the following.

Thanet Villages. Total crime reports: 77 reports (28 marked as non-crime, one caution administered Manston

- 26 calls were made to Kent Police for Manston for a variety of different incident types.
- Traffic offences reports were given out by officers on proactive patrol to motorists, and separately a person was searched and a quantity of cannabis seized for which an out of court disposal was administered. An uninsured vehicle was also seized.
- have also been reviewing reports of nuisance parking in various villages, taking reports for antisocial behaviour, liaising with councillors, and have answered around thirty calls for service over the course of the last month.

PC Crush would be holding a Police Surgery at Manston Village Hall on Friday 15th May from 5pm to 6pm.

Gary Groombridge, Community Warden

17/26-27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

Several residents thanked the council for submitting an objection to the HTE Planning Application.

18/26-27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 10th June 2026, 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30