



MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Guy Wilson

Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Carr

Email: clerk@manstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2025 at 7.15 pm, Manston Village Hall, Manston.

Present: Parish Councillors Guy Wilson (Chairman), Ian Amato, Paul Bell, Roy Matthews, Henry Robinson and 12 members of the public.

In Attendance: Cllr Derek Crow-Brown (KCC), (Cllr Abi Smith (TDC), Hazel Chandler (Park Check Volunteer)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF OFFICE

The current Chairman Cllr Guy Wilson opened the meeting and confirmed his intention to stand down as Chairman after 3 years therefore leaving a vacancy for a new Chairman.

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

Cllr Bell signed the Declaration of Office would take over at the start of the May 2025 Full Council Meeting which follows this meeting.

The Chairman provided the following report: First and foremost, I would like to thank all the councillors for their unswerving support during my tenure. We have worked as a team on the various aspects of life in our parish.

Thanks also to all previous Parish Clerks including Ashley Jackson and Caroline Flynn and to our current Clerk Elizabeth Carr all of whom have played an important role in the administration of the council not least keeping a tight rein on what the chairman says.

Thanks to Councillors Linda Wright and Abi Smith for coming along to our monthly meetings and giving their reports.

Thanks also for all those members of the public and past Chairmen, Rex Goodban and David Steed who attend on a regular basis and who are happy to share their experience.

A big thank you to Hazel for looking after the park each week and coming to all our meetings.

Thanks also to Councillor Paul Bell for his gallant efforts in getting the war memorial railings erected before VE Day last Thursday and dealing successfully with loss adjusters and an insurance company to reach a settlement.

A big thank you to St Catherine's Church for putting on a lovely afternoon tea with sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream to celebrate 80 years since the end of the Second World War on European soil. It was very well attended.

The Chairman commented on the recent elections noting that in the past week we have witnessed a transformation of the political landscape with KCC under the control of Reform UK instead of the Conservative Party. I would remind everyone that Manston Parish Council is non-political. We have lost Derek Crow-Brown who has shown amazing dedication to KCC and the Thanet Villages as the KCC Councillor. He has had an excellent attendance record at our monthly meetings. His contributions have been informative and welcomed by us all. I am sure that we all wish him and his family well whatever the future may hold. The newly elected KCC councillor for Birchington Rural including Thanet Villages is Luke Evans, and his father Peter Evans was elected as a TDC councillor to replace Sam Bambridge. Our Clerk has invited both father and son to this meeting and, of course, to all future monthly meetings except for August.

I am sad to announce the resignation of Councillor John Dearing who has given unswerving support for the village and been formidable in his approach to KCC Highways for many years. We have worked well together and had a mutual understanding since I came on board about ten years ago. John can now spend more time wind-surfing.

After three years as chairman, I have decided to relinquish this position after this meeting. The job certainly has had its challenges which I have quite enjoyed.

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said:-

*To everything there is a season,
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time for war and a time for peace
Ecclesiastes Chapter 3*

My season as chairman is over and a new season begins and I wish our new much younger chairman well and am happy remain on the council's back benches for the time being.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN – to receive any nominations.

RESOLVED: Cllr Amato was nominated by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Matthews. The vote for Cllr Amato as Deputy Chairperson was unanimous.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Please refer to the minutes of the Full Council Meeting, 12th May at 7.30pm.

4. UPDATE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

Please refer to the minutes of the Full Council Meeting, 12th May at 7.30pm.

5. APPOINTMENT TO REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was agreed the Cllr Wilson would continue to represent the Council on matters of planning and Cllr Bell would represent the Council on matters relating highways.

6. MEETING DATES

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 11th May 2026.