

# MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of MEETING held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.30 pm in Manston Village Hall

**Present:** Parish Cllrs. R Goodban (Chairman), M Denyer, J Fletcher, V. Munday (after co-option min. 2018/09) and L Samme, County Cllr C Hibberd, Dist. Cllr M Roberts, and some 14 members of the public.

**Apologies** Community Warden Macdonald.

2015/09      **Declarations of interest**

The Attendance and Declaration Register was on the Table throughout the Meeting. No Interests were declared.

2016/09      **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

These were proposed by Cllr Samme, seconded by Cllr Fletcher and resolved to be a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chairman.

2017/09      **Matters arising from the above Minutes**

There were none, all being dealt with under the Agenda.

2018/09      **Co-option of two Parish Councillors**

It was agreed to proceed with co-option, in spite of there not being only one candidate. Mr Vincent Munday, of Haine Rd. discussed his interest in co-option with Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Goodban and seconded by Cllr Denyer and resolved unanimously to co-opt Mr Munday as a Councillor and he made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2019.09.      **Correspondence and Communications**

1. Digital services

- TDC electronic publication of Meeting packs –the Council noted TDC’s advice that they would provide selected packs in paper form for 6 months and during that time provide training to Councillors and Clerks and seek to improve Broadband provision in rural areas.
- Broadband services –the Clerk reported further advice from residents of poor or non-existent service in the Parish. Another a resident advised that to offer the Airport additional telephone capacity, BT “handed over” to the Airport the Manston exchange and residents’ lines were switched to Minster exchange, several miles away; R Gale MP and Glenn Back at TDC had been advised of this.

2. Other correspondence

TDC – advice of Casual Vacancy for a District Cllr. – Cllr Roberts introduced Mr Peter Landl, a candidate for election to the Meeting.

- re. Jolly Farmer PH – Licensing - advertisement of Application by Enterprise Inns for revised, extended opening hours and sale of late night refreshments; Cllr Denyer advised that the Licensee intended to operate the premises only occasionally for the extended hours. Councillors were asked to pass their views and those of residents to the Clerk who would respond on the Council’s behalf.

2019/09 **Correspondence and Communications** cont.)

2. Other Correspondence.

Men of the Trees and – Kent County Playingfields Assoc. – it was agreed not to take up invitation to enter Trees in the Village Competition and to subscribe to the KCPFA.

2020/09. **Reports**

1. County Councillor – Cllr Hibberd explained that Councillors' activities would be curtailed until after the County elections on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Kent Highway Services were taking advantage of longer hours of daylight to undertake major resurfacing where it was estimated this would result in long-term savings but they would not work in residential areas at night. KHS would also work on cutting back vegetation to ensure sightlines at junctions were clear and signs visible. He again emphasized that residents should advise him of their highway concerns, which he would do his best to resolve.

2. District Councillors – Cllr Roberts reported that the Planning Application TH/08/1466 had been withdrawn following an objection from Southern Water, and a revised application was expected, with a 55,000 gallon water tank, to overcome these objections.

- Cllr Roberts was still working to overcome water supply problems of properties at Woodchurch, which still relied on a narrow pipeline, supplied by TDC, originally installed for the RAF base; he would appreciate any advice as to which properties rely on this supply and he was concerned that it would be inadequate in an emergency.

3. Rural Police Officer and Community Warden – no report was available in the absence of PCs Burgess and Reed and of the Community Warden.

2021/09 **Town and Country Planning**

1. Applications:

- TH/08/1466 – Land adj. to Two Chimneys Caravan Park, Shottendane – create 9-hole golf course, woodland/nature reserve, jogging/walking/cycle track, BMX circuit, amenity area, lakes and maze – Withdrawn.

- L/TH/09/0198 – Manston Court, Manston Ct. Rd. – internal alterations & extension to SE elevation

- Up-Date on earlier applications – TH/08/1389 – former Church of St Mary Magdalene, Woodchurch – the Clerk reported advice from a concerned neighbour (on a Saturday) of demolition of walls, and felling of trees. No TDC emergency phone number to report this could be identified. The Planning Team Leader at TDC had later advised that there was no legal protection in place for the walls or trees, and no action could have been taken to prevent this work.

2. Planning Decisions and Correspondence

- DeFRA Draft Noise Action Plan – the Council wished to respond to the formal consultation.

- Meeting with Planning Officers re. draft Local Development Framework – the Meeting with Mr Brown and Mr Fitt had now been arranged at 6.30 pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, prior to a Parish Council Meeting. Findings of the Parish Plan Survey would be considered in drafting the LDF..

- Question to TDC re. monies held from s.106 Agreement payments - the Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer was researching this and would respond in writing in some detail.

2021/09 **Town and Country Planning (cont.)**

3. Manston Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Denyer reported discussion of TDC's handling of negotiations with BA with a view to their basing their cargo fleet at Manston. The Committee Chairman had been very critical of the brief consultation period offered to the Committee and he asked for and obtained a vote of confidence from the Committee; Cllr Roberts reminded the Meeting that a speedy decision had been essential to facilitate the negotiations.

-a resident's concern regarding heavy fuel fume pollution in the Village was discussed; this was unexplained but had been recorded only once by monitors.

2022/09 **Parish Plan Report**

Cllr Samme reported that over 1500 comments and suggestions had been received; analysis was complete and the Report drafted; graphs etc. awaited completion and the Action Plan was being developed.

**Adjournment of Meeting for Public Discussion**

There were no matters for discussion and the Meeting was Reconvened.

2023/09 **Highway matters**

(Note: it was agreed that this matter should be discussed after Co-option of two Parish Councillors, to facilitate the handling of the business of the Meeting.)

1. Rural highway infrastructure inc. Manston Court Rd. – Cllr Goodban welcomed residents from the Road to the Meeting, following their exchanges of emails with the Council. Regarding their wide-ranging concerns which were shared by the Council which had followed them up with Kent Highway Services (KHS), the responsible authority. The increased volume of traffic on the highway system generally resulted in many problems and some roads, such as Spratling Street, had suffered more deterioration. KHS inspected the Road monthly and had now adopted resurfacing priorities based on need and obtaining the best economic outcome from their repair work. Only the Manston Rd. B.2050 would be repaired during 2009-2010 and Manston Court Rd. was likely to be resurfaced in 2010-11, as was Spratling Street and Lane.

Representatives of the residents outlined their concerns:-

- the New Haine Rd. had not reduced the traffic in the Road;
- suggestions to block the to the west of Bradgate Road had not been taken up;
- the use of sat-navs, particularly by HGV drivers, clearly increased the volume of traffic.
- the need for an independent survey of the Road

(Cllr Goodban reminded the meeting that in responding to the Planning Application for homes at Westwood (TH/06/0650) the Council had employed a specialist Consultant who had examined the Road as part of the wider network serving Westwood. KCC's Cabinet Member for Highways, and his senior Engineer had met the Parish Council on site and toured the network and Cllr Ferrin had asked for a strategic plan covering the Westwood highway network. The approval of TH/06/0650 included provision of a footway from Lydden Hill to the A.256 Haine Rd. under a s. 106 Agreement (the subject of a residents' petition in 2005).

- grit from the road was being thrown up onto the footway and later swept back
- grit in the road reduced braking efficiency;
- the lack of interactive speed signs or speed bumps;
- lack of any resurfacing during the last 20 years;
- the Road was not of the required standard and detracted from the value of the adjacent properties.

223/09

## **Highway matters (cont.)**

### 1. Rural highway infrastructure inc. Manston Court Rd. (cont.)

Residents were also concerned at:-

- the perceived lack of support given to them by Councillors at every level.
- the very limited powers to prosecute under the Speed Watch programme . although Thanet Waste lorries no longer used the Road, as they were no longer based at The Dump, where it was understood a demolition firm wished to be based; restrictions on their routes to avoid the Road had not been sought;
- no restrictions on the use of the Road was included in the Permission for the homes at Westwood. (TH/06/0650)

In response, Cllr Hibberd emphasized damage to highways by high levels of traffic was a problem county-wide – vehicle numbers had increased almost 7-fold to 34m. nationwide since 1945. Some progress had been made with elimination of flooding through improved management of gully clearing; the Rural Regeneration Group had obtained funding for a “speed gun” for the exclusive use of rural Police Officers. The Police were not in favour of a barrier to stop up the Road. KHS was keen to address the areas of concern but was constrained by lack of finance and would resurface the Road in accordance with their new priority system. Residents should continue to relay their concerns and requests for repairs to KHS, which had to work in accordance with highway regulations.

Cllr Roberts was concerned that traffic surveys etc. resulted in too few prosecutions and lack of Speed Watch powers. He was aware of the frustration of Highways Officers due to their limited powers and budgets and was happy to undertake a role as co-ordinator working with the residents and Parish Council.

In conclusion, Cllr Goodban thanked those who had taken part in the discussion and was pleased to see so many residents present, indicating the level of concern. The Parish Council was keen for solutions to be found, but he pointed out that it needed to avoid creating problems elsewhere in doing so; for instance, there had been concern that a barrier in Manston Ct. Rd. would be a problem for emergency vehicles and commuters.

2. Proposals for Lord of the Manor junction with E. Kent Access ph.2 – a copy of the highway design drawing had been circulated to Councillors who were concerned at the design of this junction, with a light-controlled “giratory”. KCC’s Jerry Crossley was willing to accept views from this Council beyond the consultation period, but could not accept representations on. Approved Planning matters. In 2005 when previously consulted, this Council had objected to the design and were now concerned that it would not offer a speedy route from Minster roundabout to Westwood, to attract traffic from the rural road “rat runs” in Manston. Many additional factors had increased pressure on these routes since 2005. Cllr Hibberd indicated that it was not likely that a railway station would be built near the Lord of the Manor but he would look into the basis of the junction design, bearing in mind actual and improved development since 2005, which was served by this route

3. Resurfacing of B.2050 – Manston Court Rd. to Haine Rd. – 29.04 to 08.05.09 – the arrangements for closure from 1900 hrs to 0500, the diversion routes and undertaking not to work at night near homes were noted.

4. Other matters – there were none.

2024/09

## **Rights of Way**

1. PRoWs in Manston - cutting back of an overhanging tree in the Cemetery would be requested, as it was a danger to riders on Half Mile Ride, who had to avoid a new bollard on the bridleway at that point.

Provision of Maps - the map identified still had to be laminated.

2025/09 **Works**

1. Heritage Board - the Clerk reported that Serco's price for installation was still awaited, to enable completion of the insurance claim.
2. Bus shelter – work not yet scheduled.

2026/09 **Manston Park**

1. Report on maintenance and Work Schedule – the Clerk awaited advice from Minster PC of the range of work which their Groundsman would undertake. The Clerk would obtain a price for 3 short protective stakes for each new trees.  
- as some dog fouling was occurring, a note in the “News” would request dog owners to “clear up” and would also remind residents that the land at The Leys was private and they should use the car park in Spratling Street when visiting the Park. The Community Warden would also be advised.
2. Report on improvement projects and grant applications – the Clerk reported that KIACC had offered a £1000 grant, and Cllr Roberts £250 from his Community Fund (which it was hoped would be matched by other Village Ward Councillors), bringing the total grant obtained to £6250 plus the £1000 in this Council's Budget, from which it seemed unwise to commit more funds at present, the full Project cost being £8780 plus an inflation increase up to 5% . Cllr Hibberd supported the holding of these funds until additional grant monies could be obtained.

2027/09 **Finance**

1. Payment of Accounts - it was proposed by Cllr Denyer and seconded by Cllr Fletcher and resolved - to ratify payment of  
Vchr. 001200 Serco 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment on maintenance contract £603.16  
- and to pay:  
Vchr 001212 Clerk's March Salary and expenses £477.94  
001213 Manston Village Hall Cttee. Rent for March 22.50  
001214 KALC Subscription 261.09  
001215 NALC – subscription to Local Council Review 13.50  
001216 Truprint Litho – March & April “News” 148.36  
001217 RA Goodban and Son – Park hedge trimming 109.25

The Clerk advised that £1383 would be payable in May for insurance in 2090-10.

2. Draft Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 - were presented by the Clerk. Final Accounts would be circulated as soon as available and would be presented, after internal audit by Mr Eric Fewkes at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 8<sup>th</sup> May.
3. Notice of Audit of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 had been received and the Return would be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> June to comply with the Audit Commission timetable..

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2028/09

**Other Reports**

1. Chairman's Report - reported on Meetings attended – item 3. below.
2. Newsletter Report - the Clerk had advised the Editor that the copy date of 20<sup>th</sup> could not be met in April, due to this Meeting being deferred to the 17<sup>th</sup>. New arrangements for distribution were discussed, to include Cllr Munday.

3. Report on Meetings attended

TDC Parish Forum – 19<sup>th</sup> March - the Chairman had attended the TDC Parish Forum where discussion had centred on the change to electronic meeting packs. The Council Leader and the Head of Democratic Services had not been aware of the deficiency in broadband provision in the rural areas and it was agreed TDC should take this up.

KALC – TAC – 26<sup>th</sup> March - the TAC Meeting had also been concerned with the introduction of electronic meeting packs and too the junction designs of the East Kent Access and the involvement of Parish Councils in the drafting and negotiation of s.106 Agreements.

4. Clerk's Report - the Clerk reported on work flow, with end of year peaks.

2029/09

**Other Matters to report**

There were none.

2030/09

**Dates of Forthcoming Meetings**

1. Parish Council Meetings - 8<sup>th</sup> May at about. 8pm (after Annual Parish Meeting) and 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm, after the working meeting with Doug Brown and Colin Fitt at 6.30pm (this working meeting is not open to the public)
2. Arrangements for Ann. Parish Meeting – 7pm 8<sup>th</sup> May – the Agenda to follow the standard format, with a Report on the Parish Plan (by Mr Hatcher or Cllr Samme) and general discussion.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 10.30 pm.