



## Manston Parish Council

PARISH CLERK: Sara Archer, 204 Monkton St, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JN  
Tel:01843 821989 Email: manstonparishcouncil@fsmail.net

### Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2014 at 7.00pm at RAF Manston History Museum, Manston

**Present** **Parish Councillors** Jenny Fletcher (Chairman) [JF], Linda Samme (Vice Chairman) [LS], William Bell [WB], John Dearing [JD], Christine Holmes [CH],

**In Attendance** Sara Archer (Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer) [SA], District Cllr Linda Wright  
Plus 15 members of the public.

Cllr Fletcher opened the meeting and welcomed everybody in attendance. Two representatives from URS Solar Planning Ltd had been invited to discuss the proposed Solar Farm near the Airport and take any questions raised by the members of public in attendance.

The public would be asked to vote at the end of the presentation and the Parish Council would make representations regarding the proposal on behalf of the public as appropriate.

Cllr Fletcher advised the meeting of the recent problems caused by the development of the Solar Farm at Preston Rd, namely the loss of views and agricultural land. It is envisaged that the proposal by URS would address these concerns and provide better screening, fencing, access for work vehicles and remain in agricultural use as grassland. A direct contact would be identified to ensure any problems encountered during the development could be resolved promptly.

Concern was raised with regard to the language barrier of the workers and the screening of the solar panels. It was advised that a hedgerow would be planted appropriately for a wildlife corridor and to shield the panels without impacting on the solar harvest. The fencing would be light mesh with timber posts to create a less industrial feel to the development.

Unfortunately there are no local companies experienced in the construction of the Solar Farms, therefore foreign workers would be employed for the development, however, they would be able to speak English and a Site Manager and Project Manager would be assigned as a direct point of contact to ensure the minimum disruption to residents as possible.

It was confirmed that certain conditions should be implemented, for example, working hours, traffic management, visual impact etc which would be enforced by the Local Authority. The planning proposal would be forwarded to the Parish Council for perusal prior to submission to TDC.

New legislation guidance regarding the use of prime agricultural land had recently been issued, however, it was suggested that this particular project was in compliance with the Local Plan and would not impact on the bio-diversity of the area.

The point was raised that there is already 63 acres of Solar Farm in Manston and it was felt the development would be better suited elsewhere, however, the proposal would use the remaining connection allowance to the National Grid and there would be no more capacity for further Solar Farms to be developed in the same area.

Plans for this project are likely to be submitted to TDC in May.

Thanks were extended to the representatives for attending the meeting and giving a full and detailed response to the queries raised.

Those present were then asked to vote for or against the proposal and are recorded as follows:

For = 1, Against = 19, Abstained = 1

These views would be taken into account when responding to the formal application and individuals were encouraged to submit their objections direct once the planning application had been submitted.

Signed.....

Date .....

2890/14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllr Vic Champs, Cllr Roger Latchford, Hazel Chandler

2891/14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
The Declarations of Interest Form was passed around for those in attendance to sign. Cllr Fletcher Declared an Interest with regard to item 2895/14 (d) – Portlands appeal update.

2892/14 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
It was proposed by Cllr Samme, seconded by Cllr Dearing and resolved to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014. These were signed by the Chairman as a true record. No meeting was held in March.

2893/14 **CHAIRMANS REPORT**  
Cllr Fletcher advised that she had recently attended a Parish Council Forum meeting in which dog fouling and the purchasing of local amenities was discussed.

Cllr Wright was then invited to speak and updated the meeting with regard to the current position of the Airport. A statement from Sir Roger Gale and Laura Sandys MP was read which explained that discussions were taking place with the owner of the Airport in order for it to continue as an operating Airport although the outcome remained uncertain.

Cllr Wright also advised she was raising a motion at TDC to try and secure the future of the RAF Museum and Spitfire & Hurricane Museum.

2894/14 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**  
a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments which was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Samme. Cheques signed as appropriate.  
b) It was agreed to purchase an aluminium noticeboard and use the old noticeboard at the Park.  
c) It was noted that the grant had now been received for the purchase of the finger signs which would be worded – MANSTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB and VILLAGE HALL. The Clerk would make arrangements for the work to go ahead.

2895/14 **PLANNING**  
a) A list of all planning applications was circulated prior to the meeting. Manston Grange was discussed and concerns had been raised with TDC. Cllr Grove would be contacted and requested to call in the application. **Action SA**  
b) Manston Green – The possible closure of the Airport may impact on the development.  
c) Solar Farm proposal - discussed at length previously.  
d) Portlands – Cllr Fletcher left the meeting. Cllr Bell advised that both the appeal and claim for expenses had been dismissed. The occupants had a year in which to vacate the premises, dismantle the Chalet and remove the caravan from the site.

It was proposed that in future a Planning Committee of four Cllrs was elected to consider all planning applications in order to ensure a more prompt response could be submitted to the planning department. Cllrs received a weekly planning list and those not on the Committee would be able to view the applications on-line if they wished.

Cllrs Fletcher, Samme, Bell and Dearing formed the Planning Committee.

2896/14 **HIGHWAYS**  
Cllr Dearing, reported that he had contacted Cllr Latchford with regard to funding towards traffic calming, however, he had not received a response to date and unfortunately Cllr Latchford was not present at the meeting.  
a) Cllr Fletcher advised that in Hazel Chandler’s absence, a working party had been formed to continue to monitor the Rights of Way and maintain the footpaths.  
Cllr Fletcher would contact URS to make enquiries with regard to accessing the footpath beside the proposed Solar Farm. **Action JF**

2897/14 **MANSTON AIRPORT**  
Cllr Bell advised the consultation period for the Airport was open ended. Sir Roger Gale was in discussions with the owner as confirmed previously by Cllr Wright.

Signed.....

Date .....

A meeting of the Consultative Committee was being held on 13<sup>th</sup> May.  
Manston Parish Council reaffirms its support for the Airport.

2898/14

**MANSTON PARK**

No issues to report. The hedge along the Leys would need to be maintained when appropriate.

2899/14

**INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) County Cllr Roger Latchford was not present therefore no report was available.
- b) District Cllr Linda Wright circulated information from a recent CC2150 meeting she had attended. Grants may be available from UK Power Networks but the deadline for applications was very near.
- c) The Community Warden was not present and no report had been submitted.
- d) Airport Consultative Committee – As previous – item 2897/14
- e) Parish Council Forum – As previous – item 2893/14
- f) TRRG – No meeting held.
- g) Newsletter – no update. Outstanding invoices to be chased.
- h) Clerks – The audit was in hand and the renewal of the insurance policy was to be confirmed.

2900/14

**DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7:00pm in the RAF Manston History Museum.

The meeting closed at approximately 21.00hrs.

Signed.....

Date .....