

# MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL

held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Manston Village Hall

**Present** Parish Cllrs R Goodban (Chairman), M Denyer, J Fletcher, D Huckle and L Samme; also present Dist Cllr M Roberts, Community Warden A Macdonald and 3 members of the public. The Clerk was in attendance.

**Apologies** Roger Gale MP, County Cllr C Hibberd, PC Kim Burgess, PC Darren Reed

### 2089/09 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Fletcher declared a Personal Interest in item 2095/09 1. Application TH/09/0170 Portland, Flete Rd.

### 2090/09 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

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

### 2091/09 **Matters arising from the above Minutes**

1. min. 2076/9 – Broadband Provision – the Clerk had heard from another Village resident that the BT service was deteriorating; a BT engineer had blamed this on the distance of the subscriber from Minster.

### 2092/09. **Resignation of Parish Cllr WJ Hatch**

Cllr Hatch's resignation was formally received with regret. TDC had been advised and their formal notice of the vacancy would expire shortly, with no indication so far of an election being called. The Clerk had written thanking Cllr Hatch on behalf of the Council for his work. It was agreed that the two Vacancies for Councillors would be published in the "News" and the Co-opting included in the Agenda of the April PC Meeting.

### 2093/09 **Correspondence**

1. TDC – advice from the Democratic Services Manager of electronic publication of Meeting packs – this form of publication was felt to be inadequate for Councillors and time-consuming for the Clerk, whose letter of concern to the Democratic Services Manager had been referred to the Corporate Operation Team, who had implemented this change. The Chairman would raise this at the TDC Parishes Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> March

### 2094/09 **Reports**

1. County Councillor – in the absence of Cllr Hibberd, no report was available.

### 2094/09 **Reports (cont.)**

2. District Councillors - Cllr Roberts had taken up the problem of inadequate broadband services, and the related problems of TDC's decision to use an e-document system. He was working closely with Cllr Hibberd, due to the latter's heavy responsibilities at KCC. They were concerned at the apparently unnecessary programme of street light replacement.

- with regard to the recession:- the Councillor reported that a scheme to support home owners financially was being set up locally; he was concerned that there was so far no advertising of the fast-craft service from Ramsgate, but believed that it would attract European shoppers to the town, due to favourable exchange rates.; he was seeking a common-sense approach to employment creation in Thanet.

**Cllr Roberts** left the meeting at 8.25 pm.

3. Rural Police Officer and Rural Warden – the Parish's new Community Warden, Allen McDonald was welcomed by the Chairman and Councillors, and he was familiarizing himself with the Parish, and knew East Kent well. He particularly aimed to tackle dumping and fly-tipping in the area and welcomed reports from the public. He would be introduced through the "News" and would hold regular "surgeries" at the Village Hall.

2095/09

### **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 over 23 ha. – this Council has objected, particularly due to the large area of farm land required for amenity space for a relatively small number of visitors to the Park, with the public excluded; the proposed bunds were considered an undesirable feature in open countryside.

TH/09/0142 – Siting of Beach Huts on Thanet Foreshore areas – no objection.

TH/09/0170 – Portland, Flete Rd. – continued use of land for the siting of a mobile home for two years – Cllr Fletcher had declared a Prejudicial interest in this matter, and withdrew from the Meeting whilst it was discussed – details were being circulated.

#### 2. Planning Decisions and Correspondence

TH/08/1433 - 1 Jubilee Cottages – erection of rear extension, after demolition of existing – Granted

TH/08/1454 – 7 The Green – Conservatory at side - Granted

TH/08/0811 – Rosemary Nurseries –conversion of redundant agricultural building to 1-bed dwelling - Notice of Appeal against Refusal

Mr D Brown – request for consultation meeting on his preparation of policies for TDC's LDF re. Airport etc. – it was agreed to invite Mr Brown to attend at 6.30 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Traffic Commissioner – application for Operating Licence for goods vehicles at DDS Depot at Manston Rd. Margate (the former Thanet Waste site) was noted.

Enforcement matters - the Clerk reported that various matters were outstanding and continued to be investigated by the Enforcement Team at TDC.

2095/09

### **Town and Country Planning**

### 3. Manston Airport Consultative Committee

It was noted that the negotiations for a contract for freight operations with BA had been unsuccessful; also noted that the Committee's next meeting was on 24<sup>th</sup> March, Cllr Denyer being this Council's representative.

2096/09

#### **Parish Plan Report**

Cllr Samme reported that analysis of the questionnaire data was complete and at the last Working Group Meeting Victoria Lawson from ACRK had attended and offered a good deal of useful advice to the Group, on the way forward. The relationship of the Parish Council with the Group was clarified – the Council having initiated the Project and gained funding for it from DeFRA. The Council remained detached from the project, but very supportive of it and might have involvement in implementing some aspects of the Action Plan, which would be undertaken by a variety of service providers and others, as appropriate. The Clerk presented a Financial Statement for the Plan, regarding the cash held by the Council on behalf of the Plan Working Group.

#### **Adjournment of Meeting for Public Discussion**

A resident of The Leys reported a strong smell of aviation fuel in the Village and Cllr Denyer agreed to take this up at the next KIACC Meeting.

#### **The Meeting was re-convened**

2097/09

#### **Highway matters**

1. Rural highway infrastructure – the Clerk had received emails outlining the concern of Manston Ct. Rd. residents regarding the perceived lack of measures by KHS to reduce traffic volume and speed. Some crumbling of the surface at the bottom of the hill would be reported; otherwise the surface appeared sound. Cllr Goodban would take up with the JTB the suggestion that the signs warning HGV drivers that the road was unsuitable should be of a larger size.

- the Clerk reported that the Rural Regeneration Group had been awarded a grant to purchase a speed recorder for use of the rural Police team.

2. Other matters – the Chairman reported on a seminar at the KHS Ashford Depot, demonstrating the efficiency of email links between the call centre, engineers and inspectors and work teams, enabling them to prioritise repair work, and enabling those reporting faults to track progress with rectifying them.

2098/09.

#### **Rights of Way**

1. Walking routes within Manston – the Clerk had advised the KCC PRoW Officer of application TH/08/1466, as a bridleway runs along the eastern boundary of the site..

2. Provision of Maps – the Clerk reported that this was in hand, the Access Map still requiring annotating with PRoW reference numbers

2099/09.

#### **Works**

1. Heritage Board - a quotation for installation was still awaited from Serco.

2. Bus shelter – an indication of when work might be done was still awaited.

2100/09

### **Manston Park**

1. Report on maintenance and Work Schedule

The Clerk thanked the volunteers who had repaired the wire fence on the boundary of the gardens and dog area. TDC's Leisure Officer had approved use of the rubber door stops to steady the double gates and regarded them as a safe solution if installed by a volunteer.

Hedges on Eastern side of Park and between Park and dog area had been flailed; a complaint was received about the poor finish, arisings left, effect on birds etc. and the complainant was not convinced that this cutting method was necessitated by budget constraints or that the hedgerow would recover.

Junior Swing seats have been replaced by the TDC Technician and the chains checked and bearings greased, at an expected cost of c.£150.00

2. Report on improvement projects and grant applications – Replacement Safety Surface - the Clerk reported that a total of £5,000 had been received from KCC in grants but the £2280 application to Awards for All had been refused. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply to the District Councillors' Community Project fund and to the Airport Community Fund, as suggested by Cllr Roberts; also the Budget would be examined to identify further savings to increase the £1000 already committed to the project. The Clerk advised that the supplier, Wicksteed Playscapes was applying a 5% increase on its prices (bringing their quotation to £9219), but their Sales Manager has agreed that this would be negotiable. It was agreed that the Clerk would advise Councillors of progress and a decision on the purchase could be made by email/telephone consultation

3. Use of Park for Events – there were no bookings currently.

4. To accept a Quotation for the Maintenance Contract for 2009-10

The Clerk reported that two Quotations had been received:

Serco Ltd.	£ 2155.80
Saunders House	£2631.76

Two other contractors had been invited to quote but had not done so. It was proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Samme and resolved that Serco Ltd. should be appointed as Maintenance Contractor for the year beginning 1st. April 2009.

2101/09

### **Finance**

1. Payment of Accounts - it was proposed by Cllr Denyer, seconded by Cllr Huckle and resolved to pay:

Vchr. 1205	AJ Twyman – Clerk's February Salary & expenses	£500.84
1206	Manston V Hall Management Cttee – rent February	22.50
1207	Cllr Goodban - KHS Seminar at Ashford – mileage	24.00
1208	Truprint Litho Ltd. – production of February "News"	74.18
1209	Serco Ltd. – cut back hedge on W. side of dog compound	298.08

2. To report Precept request and other relevant matters – the Clerk reported that the first half of the Precept payment was awaited in May; the exact amount of the Agency Payment was not known, but no reduction seemed likely.

2102/09 **Other Reports**

1. Chairman's Report - Cllr Goodban reported on the JTB Meeting, which had not been concerned with rural highway matters.
2. Newsletter Report - it was agreed that the April edition should feature the new Rural Police Officer and Community Warden; also the "Love Food" campaign and the Park.
3. Report on Meetings attended :-  
Local Board Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Cllr Samme and the Clerk had attended and reported on presentations on Childrens' Centres, the Thanet Works Project and Apprenticeships and re-organisation of the Thanet CAB. A resident had raised concerns over the lack of buses on Sundays and in the evening.  
Rural Regeneration Group - 10<sup>th</sup> March – it was agreed that the Clerk should discuss youth club provision with Cllr Fiander at Cliffsend, as young people living in the Villages had difficulty in accessing provision and were perceived as a nuisance when they met informally. It was noted that theTDC Parish Forum would meet on 19<sup>th</sup> and TAC on 26<sup>th</sup> March.
4. Clerk's Report – the Clerk emphasized her concern at the switch by TDC to e-documents with not notice or consultation, and at its negative effect on the running of the Parish office.

2103/09 **Other Matters to report**

1. Trees – Cllrs Fletcher and Goodban agreed to plant additional trees, which they were donating, in the Park over the coming weekend.

2104/09. **Date of forthcoming Meetings**

1. Parish Council Meetings - on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm (preceded by a working meeting between the Councillors and Mr Brown at 6.30 pm) and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.30 pm, being the Annual Meeting of the Council.
2. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting - Clerk to report that unfortunately Matt Clarke felt unable to attend a Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009, as originally planned, as the final draft of the Master Plan would not be completed.  
- it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.00pm, prior to the Parish Council Annual Meeting. A further Parish Meeting would be called when Mr Clarke felt it would be appropriate to speak on the Master Plan.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

**Resolved to be a correct record (subject to any handwritten amendments)**

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....