

MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 8th May 2008, at 7.30 pm, in the Nursery School wing of Manston Village Hall

Present: Parish Cllr R Goodban (Chairman), N Carmody, M Denyer, J Fletcher, J Hatch and L Samme, together with County Cllr C Hibberd, Parish Cllr D Neville (Chairman of Minster PC), Community Warden L Peskett and 6 members of the public, with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: Parish Cllr D Huckle, Dist Cllr M Roberts and PCs Burgess and Jane

1128/08 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Fletcher declared a Prejudicial Interest in item 1138/08 1.(TH/08/0458). The Attendance and Record Sheet remained on the table throughout the Meeting.

1129/08 **Election of Chairman**

Cllr Goodban was nominated by Cllr Samme, seconded by Cllr Denyer and unanimously declared elected in the absence of other nominations.

1130/08 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Fletcher was nominated by Cllr Samme, seconded by Cllr Denyer and unanimously declared elected in the absence of other nominations.

1131/08 **Election of representatives to serve on other bodies:**

The following representatives were nominated by Cllr Denyer, seconded by Cllr Hatch and unanimously declared elected, there being no other nominations:

Area Committee of KALC – Cllr Goodban

Rural Regeneration Group – Cllr Fletcher

KIACC – Cllr Carmody

KCC Local Board – Cllr Samme

1132/08 **Appointment of Tree Warden and Footpath Warden**

Cllrs Hatch was nominated by Cllr Carmody and seconded by Cllr Fletcher, to fill both the above roles, and was unanimously declared elected.

1133/08 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 10th April 2008**

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

1134/08 **Matters arising from the above Minutes**

It was agreed that these would be dealt with under Agenda items.

1135/08 **Correspondence**

1. TDC – details of Standards Code Training for Parish Councillors had been received (and it was noted were still relevant, for Councillors who had attended the training in November 2007). Councillors were asked to make their own arrangements to attend.

1136/08 **Reports**

1. County Councillor - Cllr Hibberd reviewed the past year and advised:

- that KCC was still rated a 4* Council and the national league table would be published in July;
- most of the complaints to KCC were about highways and further reports of potholes were encouraged, the campaign to deal with them running until August; other complaints regarding roads, pavements, overhanging trees and streetlights were also welcome.
- KCC was seeking a local tax for roads, levied on Continental HGVs, which passed through the County in very heavy numbers
- education standards and results in the County were generally good;
- studies were ongoing to identify likely future flood-risk areas;
- due to Kent being a popular retirement area, KCC was petitioning the Government for additional funding for elderly care;
- solutions were being sought to enable those living off bus routes to benefit from the Bus Pass scheme, and the passes for 11-16 year-olds would be introduced in Thanet in 2009;
- following the review of Local Government structure, the continuation of the two-tier system in Kent was to be ratified; access would be improved, with enquiries being passed by the initial recipient to the appropriate department at District or County level;
- KCC is required to scrutinise the effectiveness of the Health Service in the County; current consultation is examining provision of a “Poly Clinic” in Thanet, and more emphasis is to be placed on wellbeing and prevention of illness.
- Cllr Hibberd continued to discuss with KHS his concern at the high volume of traffic using Manston Court Rd. ; the New Haine Rd. was due for completion before Christmas.

2. District Councillors – no report was available and Councillors were concerned to have closer liaison with the District Members for the Ward.

3. Rural Police Officer and Rural Warden – the Warden reported some complaints regarding stiles; she continued her traffic counts (and would undertake an evening count) and was surprised at the considerable number of vans using the B.2050; also bus services were very punctual.

1137/08

Report of Annual Parish Meeting and matters arising from it

The draft Minutes were agreed to be correct, and would be approved at the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting. There were no matters arising from them not dealt with in the Agenda of this Meeting.

The Film “Thanet under Threat” was discussed briefly and felt to highlight issues of concern to this Council.

At 8.20 pm, the Community Warden left the Meeting.

1138/08 **Town and Country Planning**

1. Applications:

TH/06/0650 – Urban Extension at Westwood inc. KHSTransport Plan & s.106 Agreement - Cllr Goodban reported briefly on the Council’s meeting with Brian White and Doug Brown. He was concerned at the failure to include provision of a footway with other highway improvements, so that although finance was to be provided, the timing of the work itself was not firmly scheduled. Cllr Hibberd advised that the Planning Authority should ensure that the work was done at the appropriate time.

- a copy of the signed s. 106 Agreement had been provided to this Council.

1138/08 **Town and Country Planning** (cont.)

1. Applications (cont.)

TH/08/0372 and TH/08/0373 – Thanet Animal Centre, Woodchurch – siting of portacabin for use as training room and mobile home as Manager's Accommodation.

- noted that there was no objection, but this Council recommended that permanent buildings should replace these in a few years.

TH/08/0146 – Land adj. Doris Villa and Fairfield, Flete Rd. – outline application for six detached homes, with garages and new access – objection – contrary to Local Plan policies - site designated as countryside; is not brown field but last use was agricultural/paddock, to which the site should be returned; access problems; over development; lack of main drainage and access to amenities.

It was agreed that Applications TH/08/0146 and TH/08/0458 had much in common and should be Rejected for the same reasons.

Cllr Fletcher declared a Prejudicial Interest in the following application, and left the Meeting:

TH/08/0458 – Portland, Flete Rd.,- construction of one detached dwelling – the Council objected to this proposal, which was contrary to Local Plan policies, the site being designated as countryside, not brown field; access problems - up a steep track off a single-lane road; lack of main drainage and no access to amenities without a car; current temporary permission had been granted to the current occupants for specific reasons only. Councillors noted the refusal of TH/03/1331 to retain the caravan on site and also the quashing of the subsequent enforcement notice was for technical reasons, and not on the basis of Planning policies

Additional papers had been received shortly before this Meeting, and it was proposed by Cllr Goodban, seconded by Cllr Hatch and resolved that:

Due to the confidential nature of the following business, whereby publicity might prejudice good practice in conduct of the Meeting, the Press and Public should be excluded from the Meeting.

After discussion it was agreed unanimously that whilst the design statement was likely to be valid, this statement and the statement of personal details relating to the applicants should be disregarded, and the Application should be refused on planning grounds alone.

Cllr Fletcher returned to the Meeting, which continued with the Public and Press present.

Flooding problems in Flete Rd. were discussed, as members of the public believed that more development there would worsen the situation; they called for a site meeting with Highway engineers and discussed possible remedies, such as planting hedges on field boundaries. The timing of the storms when the fields were not being cropped had enabled a great deal of soil to be washed off.

TH/0/0400 - Manston [Business]Park- China Gateway Warehouses and Factories (B.1c, 5&8 - Councillors objected to Ph. 2 and 3 which are on sites designated as countryside (CC1 and 2), contrary to Local Plan There were major concerns regarding effects on the local highway network and adverse effects on local residents' enjoyment of the amenity of their homes. . Mr Brown was willing to accept comments up to the end of June, with an interim response. It was anticipated that following his report to the June Planning Committee, a site meeting would be arranged., It was hoped that a Manston Councillor could attend a meeting with Mr Brown on 12th May;

Cllr Neville spoke on behalf of Minster Parish Council; although their Village would not be affected, they were concerned for the quality of life of residents of Alland Grange and Pouces Cottages. They were mindful of the history of The Loop and the considerable efforts and available funding to regenerate the Thanet economy and believed that these proposals supported the development of the Airport business. However, they were concerned that that there should be no pollution as a result of such a development

1138/08 **Town and Country Planning** (cont.)

This Council was very concerned at the impact on the highway network of thousands of employees commuting to the site, although links to the motorway network for delivery vehicles were good. As the majority working on the site were predicted to be assembly workers (likely to be on the minimum wage) it was not clear where they were likely to live.

Cllr Hibberd reported that Acol Parish Council were pressing for Columbus Way to be extended to Shottendane Rd., in effect bye-passing Acol Village. A link to the north east to Nash Road and Enterprise Way was also suggested.

The Application would be discussed at the Thanet Area Committee of KALC on 15th May. It was agreed that this Council would oppose the entire proposal, due to the highway implications; if these were satisfactorily resolved, they would support Phase 1 and oppose Phases 2 and 3.

TH/08/0515 – Foxwood, St Margaret’s Rd., Woodchurch - Front Porch – details awaited

2. Planning Decisions and Correspondence

1. Resolution re. consultation s.106 Agreements – it was noted that this was to be discussed at TAC on 15th May. In principle it was acceptable to KALC, subject to their F and GP and Executive Committee’s approval.

2. KIACC – no response had yet been received from Paul Twyman regarding the status of the Committee or its likely meeting date.

3. Parish Boundaries – the Clerk reported that www.election-maps.co.uk showed all electoral boundaries.

1139/08 **Parish Plan Report**

Cllr Carmody reported that the high rate of return of questionnaires – exceeding 50% of “News” recipients and over 200 awaited analysis, in a few week’s time. The Clerk reported that a £250 grant had been received from Cllr Roberts through the TDC Community Grant scheme.

1140/08. **TDC proposal for transfer of assets**

TDC had publicised this in “Thanet Matter” with consultation sessions in the three towns, but no mention of assets in the Villages. Prices for insurance purposes for replacement of the War Memorial railings were awaited and the premium was likely to be considerable; insurance of the Memorial itself would be considered. It was agreed to include this matter in the next Agenda, for fuller discussion; a maintenance specification and Agency Agreement for upkeep were also relevant.

Adjournment of Meeting for Public Discussion

Members of the public would value the opportunity for discussion with District Councillors at these Meetings, and District Members would be advised accordingly.

In response to a query, the schedule for road sweeping in the Parish is to be investigated.

The Meeting was reconvened.

1141/08. **Highway matters**

1. Manston Court Rd. – copies of emails from Mr Beeston regarding his campaign, supported by Mr Gale, for action to improve traffic conditions in the Road had been circulated to Councillors.

2. Other matters

- Cllr Denyer reported that KHS would inspect the condition of the footway outside The Old Forge House, after replacement of the hedge had revealed uneven patches.

- Cllr Denyer also reported that a van had crashed into the fence of Oaklands on the B.2050, when it failed to negotiate the chicane. The driver had not reported the accident, but the Police were unlikely to take action.

- Pothole Campaign bulletins from KHS were being circulated

1142/08 **Rights of Way**

1. Gates on Bridleways - there was nothing further to report.

2. Other matters

- it was understood that the surface of TR22 beside Wood Farm Cottage wall was now satisfactory.

- the Clerk would follow up the complaints to the Community Warden regarding access on TR 31 and TR23.

1143/08 **Meeting Accommodation and Meeting Dates**

1. Hall Rent increase and Meeting Accommodation

It was unanimously resolved that: - from 13th June Council Meetings would be held on the second *Friday* of each month, in the Main Hall. The rent would be £7.50 per hour and the Clerk would circulate dates to all concerned.

1144/08 **Works**

1. Village Signs - awaiting approval of grant application to Southern Water before these are installed.

2. Heritage Board display - outstanding

3. WWI Village Honours Board – awaiting response from Margate Methodist Church Officers regarding the availability of the Board, which has been removed from the Church.

4. Noticeboard Repair - The Clerk reported that the Insurers had agreed to any necessary work being completed; the Board was to be packed professionally and taken by carrier to the makers for repair and supply of a new post.

1145/08 **Manston Park**

1. Reports on maintenance and Work Schedule inc. Dog Exercise Area

- AH Gardening's start date for this work was awaited.

- The Clerk was authorised to accept the cheapest quote for felling the large elder tree adjacent to 18 The Leys.

- a professional inspection of the play equipment was due, the last having been done in late 2006.. It was noted that this requirement is emphasised in the new Insurance policy documents.

2. Reports on improvement projects and grant applications

- a date for site meeting with the suppliers, prior to installation of the Record RSS Synergy Performer Unit was awaited.

- further adjustment to the closure of the pedestrian gate had been requested.

1145/08 **Manston Park** (cont.)

3. Tree Planting

- awaiting approval of grant application to Southern Water

4. Use of Park for Events

- Cllr Fletcher advised that the Village Hall Committee had decided to cancel the 2008 Fun Day in July, due to lack of personnel to organise it.
- The two Dog Shows will go ahead; the Committee have been asked for written confirmation that their AON insurance policy covers £5m PLI for events.
- KALC would arrange for a legal expert to check the draft Letting Agreement.

1146/08 **Finance**

1. Payment of Accounts - it was proposed by Cllr Samme, second by Cllr Carmody and resolved to pay the following:

Vchr 1140 Clerk' April Salary and expenses	£464.75
1141 Cllr D Huckle – mileage	6.98
1142 Manston Village Hall Management Cttee – Rent	52.50
1143 Allianz Insurance plc- insurance renewal premium 2008-9	1144.75
1144 Truprint Litho Ltd.	75.79

2. Unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008

The Clerk presented these Accounts, which were unchanged from the draft accounts presented at the April Meeting. It was agreed that they should be annotated to show that the grants for the Local Plan Project were held by the Council on behalf of the Strategy Group. Advertising charges were being invoiced and the VAT claim compiled. It was proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Goodban and resolved to adopt these Accounts and for them to be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

County Cllr Hibberd left at 9.50 pm

These accounts would be audited by the Council's Internal Auditor, whose report and the completed Audit Return would be presented to the Council Meeting on 13th June and then submitted to the Audit Commission for 16th June (with a weeks grace agreed in submitting this, to tie in with this Council's Meeting Calendar), so that the Audit would be completed by 31st July.

It was noted that the 2008 Audit schedule was tighter than in 2007, and would again be tighter in 2009, with the Audit to be completed by the end of June,, in line with a Government Directive on which NALC was consulted.

1147/18 **Other Reports**

1. Chairman's Report

- East Kent Partnership – housing needs assessments were being undertaken in the Dover area to identify types and sizes of houses required, and it was found that results did not tie in with Government density targets for development.

2. Newsletter Report

- the Clerk explained that the next issue of "Thanet Matters" had been published early and would be distributed with the June "News"; generally the "Matters" appeared quarterly.

3. Report on Meetings attended

Parish and Town Council Forum – a presentation on TDC's Risk Management strategy – a presentation on the Westwood Cross Traffic Management Plans with no new features; the New Haine Rd. was likely to be completed before the end of 2008. – TDC's plan to formalise Agency Payments Agreements – Parish Charter progress report.

- Local Board presentations indicated - good progress with building the new Ramsgate Library, which was ahead of schedule – fresh thinking on land use at the EuroKent Business Park, with mixed development – CTRL - speedier rail travel only on the new stretches of line between Ashford or Ebbsfleet and St Pancras, and a 30% surcharge on that mileage.

1147/18 **Other Reports**

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk shared the concern that there was little liaison with District Councillors for the Thanet Villages, and was asked to advise them of the revised Meeting dates and that their presence would be valued at future Parish Council Meetings.

1148/08 **Other Matters to report**

At the suggestion of Cllr Carmody, it was agreed that Matt Clarke, the Airport Director, should be asked to attend a meeting in the autumn, to talk about plans for the Airport.

1149/08 **Date of forthcoming Meetings**

1. Parish Council Meeting on Friday 13th June 2008.

Signed as a true record, subject to any hand-written amendments

Chairman **Dated**