

MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING on Friday 14th November 2008 at 7.30 pm, in the Manston Village Hall

Present: Parish Cllrs. R. Goodban (Chairman), N Carmody, M Denyer, J Fletcher and L Samme; also 3 members of the public, with the Clerk in attendance.

Apologies: received from Parish Cllr J Hatch, Mr. Roger Gale MP and County Cllr C. Hibberd

2028/08 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Fletcher declared a Personal Interest in the Appeal re. TH/08/0106 – Doris Villa, Flete Rd. and a Prejudicial Interest in Planning Application TH/08/1301 – Portland, Flete Rd.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 10th October 2008

2029/08

It was proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Samme and resolve that these Minutes were a correct record and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman

2030/08 **Matters arising from the above Minutes**

It was agreed that these were dealt with under Agenda items.

2031/08 **Correspondence**

1. Freedom of Information –the Commission had advised that a new Model Scheme had to be adopted and publicised by 1st January 2009, and it would be placed on the Agenda of the December Meeting. The Clerk was seeking clarification of the requirement to “proactively publish” information, rather than to respond to requests, incorporated in the current Scheme.

The Clerk was concerned at the large number of “consultation papers”, from NHS and other public sector bodies, which must be costly, but seemed to add little to service improvement.

2032/08 **Reports**

1. County Councillor – no report was received from Cllr Hibberd, but the Chairman reported that a meeting had been held at Cllr Hibberd’s request, with those who farmed in Manston and the KHS Officer responsible for drainage and other installations, Norman Bateman. A constructive discussion had taken place. (min. 2035/08 1. refers).

2. District Councillors – no report received.

3. Rural Police Officer and Rural Warden – no report received, but it was noted that there were a number of ”doorstep” scams operating in the rural area.

2033/08 **Town and Country Planning**

1. Applications:

TH/06/0650 – Urban Extension at Westwood inc. KHS Transport Plan & s.106 Agt. – nothing further to report.

TH/08/0400 - Manston Business Park – China Gateway warehouse and factory – nothing further to report, but it was noted that the Airport Master Plan required a road through the site, parallel to Spitfire Way.

TH/08/1297 – Roundabout on junction of B.2050 and A.256 – feature planter on dragon theme – details being circulated

Cllr Fletcher declared a Prejudicial Interest in the following matter, and withdrew from the Meeting whilst it was discussed.

TH/08/1301 - Portland, Flete Rd. – erect a detached dwelling – details were being obtained, and the extent of advertising of this application would be queried.

2. Planning Decisions and Correspondence

TH/08/1039 – Castlemayne Stables – operation as livery enterprise – Lawful Use Certificate GRANTED

TH/08/1102 – Etheldene, Castle Mayne Ave., Woodchurch – erection of 2-storey det. Dwelling - REFUSED

Cllr Fletcher declared a Personal Interest in the following matter:

Notice of APPEAL - TH/08/0146 Land Adj. Doris Villa and Fairfield, Flete Rd. – erection of 6 houses – details of grounds had been requested to enable response by 12th December.

Draft SE Plan (RSS) Consultation – an additional submission was made, based on the Planning Consultant's draft; KALC Thanet Area Committee had taken this up, and their Clerk was writing accordingly to the Thanet MPs.

Draft Master Plan for Kent International Airport - the Chairman reported briefly on the Meeting with Airport CEO, Mr Matt Clarke. It was noted that a major increase in flights, with over 2m. passengers per year, would lead to major changes in road infrastructure, and could result in closure of the B.2050 through the Village; this would be the subject of extensive consultation with residents and other road users, such as emergency services. When this had been proposed previously, residents' views had been divided on the matter.

2034/08 **Parish Plan Report**

It was noted that Expenditure to date was £312.39, with Income of £2310; production of the Report and Action Plan would be costly.

Cllr Carmody reported on a successful Open Day on 8th November, to inform residents of responses to the questionnaire; basic information on responses was being posted on the Parish website. The Steering Group would analyse the responses to select ideas for inclusion in the Action Plan.

Adjournment of Meeting for Public Discussion

In response to a query from a member of the public, steps were discussed to follow up concerns regarding use of an access to a building site (not in the Parish). This access was to be closed as a condition of Planning Permission for the site.

Concerns were also noted on lack of sweeping, particularly of leaves.

The Meeting was reconvened

2035/08 **Highway matters**

1. Manston Court Rd. and rural highway infrastructure

Speed Survey in Manston Court Rd. – the report had been circulated and it was noted that most speeding was only marginally in excess of 30 mph and it seV traffic along the Road had decreased, probably after the closure of the Thanet Waste depot. It was agreed that a similar Survey should be requested on the B.2050.

Spratling St./Lane junction - white lining had been redone; and signs were ordered.

Drainage – the Chairman reported on Cllr Hibberd’s meeting with local Farmers, also attend by Norman Bateman, the KHS Officer responsible for drainage and other highway installations. All gullies and other Highway infrastructure items were being logged and operations teams measured the arisings from gully clearance, and time taken to clear each one. Analysis of this data transmitted to the KHS/Contractors’ joint management team, at the East Kent HQ in Ashford, enabled work to be scheduled most cost-effectively, using the latest IT methods. Considerable savings in time and mileage were achieved, with a more efficient service.

- All concerned were willing to work together to solve problems, made worse by changes in the weather pattern. It wss noted that the Farmers feared that if they constructed banks or bunds to hold back water on their land, they might be liable if these were breached by the weight of water. Mr Bateman stressed the importance of obtaining KHS approval for dropped kerbs, to ensure that a small ridge remained, to prevent water running into the property under all but extreme storm conditions..

KHS Local Council survey – the Chairman would complete this on the KHS website.

2. Other matters – Cllr Ferrin’s £3000 Parish Grant proposal – it was agreed to request installation of a pavement on the North side of the B.2050 East of the Forge House to Highlands Grove; also repairs to the pavement at the top of Lydden Hill on Manston Ct. Road.

3. KHS Liaison Manager – this new role was outlined at the KHS Seminar, attended by the Chairman on 15th October. Anneliese Mortlock, based at TDC, was to be invited to attend a KALC Thanet Area Committee meeting to discuss her role, which is to deal with requests regarding renewal of highway “furniture” or installation of new items, whilst repairs requests should be made to the 24/7 KHS phonenumber 08458 247 800. It was understood that anyone telephoning TDC’s Gateway regarding Highways should have their call immediately transferred to KHS.

2036/08 **Rights of Way**

Walking routes in Manston – it was agreed that a note in the “News” interest should ask for an indication of interest in guided walks in the Parish on the PRoWs, perhaps with explanation of historical features.

2. Provision of Maps – it was agreed that one OS 1:25000 map should be bought for use at Council meetings. Further consideration would be given to replacing the map in the Park, on which the PRoW routes had faded, if it were possible to open the case, and reseal it.

2037/08 **Works**

1. Siting of Heritage Board and Notice Board – it was proposed by Cllr Carmody and seconded by Cllr Denyer and resolved that a request should be made to reinstall the Notice Board nearer to the wall in the Village Hall car park, bearing in mind that the wall’s footings had to be avoided; some reinforcement of the posts was required; also that a request be made to the PCC for approval to site a new wooden Greenbarnes Heritage Board in the Church Yard. The Clerk would proceed with these requests, and the matter could be finalizing after consulting Councillors further by email.

2037/08 **Works (cont.)**

2. Bus shelter – an order had been placed with Mr Collins of Garden Houses Ltd. to re-place the roof shingles and any other boarding etc. as required.
3. Honours Board – had been officially passed over by the Chairman to St Catherine’s Church on Remembrance Sunday, and it will be displayed on the West wall. Its inscription was on the Parish website.
4. Christmas Lighting – Chairman had arranged inspection of the equipment by Mark Sullivan-Martin of St Peter’s, an accredited electrical contractor) and will collect and install them at the beginning of December.

2038/08 **Manston Park**

1. Report on maintenance and Work Schedule

Following their site visit, Councillors agreed that all the hedges should be cut back at the top and both sides. The general policy thereafter would be to cut all the hedges every two years, on a staggered basis to encourage Spring flowering and berries to form on those not cut the previous Autumn. The Clerk would consult the neighbouring farmer to the East and the Chairman agreed to make the necessary arrangements with his contractor, as in previous years.

Dog Area – the Chairman agreed to obtain and fix “flick” latches on the double gates.
- fence – a resident had reported a hole in the fence on the West side which allows her dog into the Flats gardens; this could not be identified and it was agreed that no action could be taken at this stage. Cllr Carmody and Mrs Chandler checked this fence regularly when inspecting the Park.

Swings - the Clerk had asked TDC’s Leisure Officer for a price for supply and installation of new junior swing seats by his technician,, who is available for small specialist tasks such as this and may be able to paint the swing frames in the Spring. He had also been asked to solder the loose “jail bar” on the Multi-Play unit.

2. Report on improvement projects and grant applications – the Clerk reported that as agreed a revised application has been submitted to KCC for a £4000 Local Schemes Grant, based on a cheaper quotation; Cllr Fletcher would put this request to the Local Board Meeting on 25th November and once the value of the grant is known, applications will be made accordingly to Awards for All and the Colyer Fergusson Trust; also an application for £1000 to Cllr Hibberd.

Request for skate park provision in the Park, from a young person living in the Village was considered, and it was agreed that further consideration could be given only if there was a large group keen to use such a facility,

3. Tree Planting – following a site meeting with Tim Offord of Marleybrook Nurseries, it was proposed by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Carmody and resolved to add £200 from the Council’s reserves to the Southern Water grant (£282) and to order 8(eight) 8-9ft. saplings, as quoted in Mr Offord’s letter of 5th November (one each of silver birch, field maple, beech, mountain ash and lime, plus 2 permanent purple copper beech and 1 scots pine). Councillors would visit the Park and draw up plans indicating planting sites, so that A and H Gardening could be asked to remove the turf. Planting was needed as soon as possible, to enable the trees to establish their root system, and minimize the need for water in the coming Summer.

4. Use of Park for Events – the Draft Letting Agreement was in hand.

5. Maintenance Specification and Contract for 2009-10 – it was agreed that the contract should specify grass length increased by 1 inch (2.5 cm) which should result in better coverage of the ground in winter and lessen browning in very dry periods.

2039/08 **Finance**

1. Payment of Accounts – it was proposed by Cllr Denyer and seconded by Cllr Fletcher and resolved to ratify payment of:

Vchr. 1175 KALC Chairman’s lunch at AGM on 8.11.08 £ 8.50

and to pay:

Vchr. 1176 Clerk’s October salary and expenses	591.56
1177 Manston V.Hall Management Cttee – rent for Meeting 30.10.08	15.00
1178 Serco Ltd – supply and install pedestrian gate to Park	1098.67
1179 Audit Commission – Audit fee 2008	334.88
1180 Linda Carmody – Parish Plan expenses, incl. Open Day	50.81
1181 Linda Carmody – Garden Club expenses re. Park planting	8.90
1182 Truprint Litho Ltd. – printing Nov.08 “News”	75.79

2. Budget 2009-2010 – it was agreed that the December Meeting of the Council would be mainly concerned with creating a final draft of the Budget.

2040/08 **Other Reports**

1. Chairman’s Report - Cllr Goodban reported that he had attended the District Council course on Equality and Diversity, and its provisions were discussed.

2. Newsletter Report - Cllr Samme reported that she had taken over Woodchurch deliveries. A formal letter of thanks was to be sent to Mr Edmonds for undertaking this for so long. The Clerk reported on a satisfactory invoicing and payment situation. Cllr Fletcher would check the December edition before it was printed, as the Chairman was not available to do so.

3. Report on Meetings attended:

TDC Parish Forum 23rd October – senior TDC Officers had given brief reports on their areas of responsibility, including changes to Planning regulations related to permitted development and ongoing work to formulate an affordable Budget, as income was reduced in the present downturn.

Thanet Rural Regeneration Group 28th October – Cllr Fletcher reported on a presentation by the local organizer of CROP – Citizen’s Rights for Older People - an advice service for the over-60’s, similar to CAB, whose volunteers were able to visit clients in their own homes.

KALC Thanet Area Cttee – 30th October – after the resignation of Cllr Kinsella, Cllr Dennis Neville had been elected Chairman and Cllr Goodban Vice-Chairman. Among other matters, concerns regarding China Gateway and the SEERA Plan draft had been discussed. The Committee wished to invite a number of speakers to its Meetings, including the Dist.Councillors for the Villages and the KHS Liaison Officer.

KALC AGM on 8th November - the Chairman reported that all resolutions, including that from Thanet had been adopted unanimously (or almost so). Concern was expressed that NALC had not been sufficiently assertive in putting its Members’ case with national Government departments, and the County Association would review its membership at the end of the year.

4. Clerk’s Report – the Clerk expressed concern that directives from national Government and its “quangos” were frequently unrelated to the real needs of a small Local Council, or the way in which its work was done – the recent directive from the FoC Commission was an example; also the standard rates for audit by the Audit Commission, based on the Council’s turnover (boosted by a generous grant), but unrelated to the complexity of the accounts or the work required by the Commission in checking the Return.

2041/08 **Other Matters to report**

None.

2042/08 **Date of forthcoming Meetings**

1. It was noted that Parish Council Meetings would be held on 12th December 2008 and 9th January 2009.

2. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting , which must be held between 1st March and 1st June 2009, were discussed and it was agreed that Matt Clarke, the CEO of Manston Airport should be invited to speak. The Parish Plan would also be an important item on the Agenda.

It was noted that the Council's Meeting on 8th May would be its Annual Meeting..

Resolved to be a correct record (subject to any hand-written amendments)

Signed (Chairman) **Date**