

MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING

Held on Friday 9th October, 2009

Present: Parish Cllrs. J. Fletcher (Chairman), W. Bell, M. Denyer, R. Goodban, V. Munday, L. Samme, also present was County Cllr. C. Hibbert, P C K. Burgess and 9 members of the public, with both the Clerk, and the outgoing Clerk in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Gale M P and PCSO D Reed.

2099/09 Declarations of interest

The Register of interest remained on the table throughout the Meeting; Cllr. J. Fletcher declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in Planning TH/09/0170.

2100/09 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 18th September 2009

Cllr. Denyer asked for an amendment to the minutes of the meeting of the 18th September to be minuted, to include: “ Due to the five accidents in Manston Road during the last 12 months, he specifically asked for the road to be closed, and also that it was Cllr Fletcher who would do the pots, and not the Gardening club(ref: 2091/09).

It was proposed by Cllr. R. Goodban and seconded by Cllr. L. Samme and resolved that these were a correct record, subject to the two amendments recorded above, and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman accordingly.

2101/09 Matters arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising.

2102/09 Vacancy for Parish Councillor

The procedure is being followed, currently pending advice from TDC about our ability to co-opt.

2103/09 Correspondence and Communications

1 Digital Services:-

The Chairman asked Cllr. Goodban to report on the TDC training course, “Modern Gov” meeting held on Tuesday.

The Course outlined how to maximize use of the limited Broadband service provided, e.g. download HTML files rather than PDF. It went further to

illustrate how to make best use of the Modern Gov web site and how, by a simple registration process, the web site will exclude those area not selected, thus avoiding the mass of information that may not be of interest. Weekly planning reports will continue to be sent out as at present.

Lyndon Gurr of KCC (Technology solutions Research) sent an e-mail reply to the Parish concerns about Broadband provision. It appears that BT can not solved the problem. However, KCC did distribute grants to various Parishes to help, but there was no money left for this year. Manston has to prepare to make an effective bid next year.

Cllr. L Samme offered to go to the Thanet Local Board meeting on Tuesday, and will report back at a later date.

2 Other correspondence –

There was no other correspondence.

2104/09 **Reports**

County Cllr. C. Hibbert reported that KCC was locked in debate with Government in anticipation of substantial cuts in funding next year. The effect will be either a cut in Services or cuts across the board (preferred). The draft budget should be available in December and the final meeting in February.

The Capital Grant application by the Parish has been accepted. The result will be on Tuesday.

The Highways Grant of £2,500 can be spent at the discretion of the Parish Council. His recommendation was to avoid any ambitious scheme that would involve “design” as these costs reduce funds available for the project. Cllr Samme asked what might £2500 purchase. By way of example, this sum might provide 100 yards of pavement. Improving site lines and kerb stones would maximise value. Cllr Goodban favoured improving site lines, at the “dragon roundabout” as an example, or moving back the SWA fence at the Preston Road and Manston Court Road junction by 10 feet.

Cllr Denyer reported that the path beyone St Catherine’s Grove was like a mud bath when it rained. The owner had offered to give it to the Parish Council so that someone can put a pedestrian footpath on it.

Cllr Goodban reported that EDF had been tree cutting in Valley Road leaving piles of chippings behind in the road. Cllr Hibbert will ring Highways as a “Matter of Public Safety”.

Cllr Fletcher reported that the developers of the Vincent Farm site by the Vincent Road and Manston Road junction were putting up fencing which will reduce the site line back to how it was when the weeds were high.

Cllr Munday reported “please reinstate the fight turn from Haine Road into St John’s

Avenue”. Highways have created an absolute demon there, which did not exist before the “no right turn” was introduced.

Cllr Hibbert responded saying that there were now 20,000 cars using Haine Road, per day and Highways insisted that the “no right turn” was necessary to prevent traffic backing up. He would re open the matter, but was not hopeful. After more discussion, it was felt that some drawings would be helpful to support a Village Petition to the Joint Highways Board.

The Parish was asked to report to Cllr Hibbert what Broadband requirements there are, as there are rumors that there may be a grant available. Manston is the only village in Thanet showing consistent interest in the matter.

There were no District Councillors present to report.

The Community Warden’s report was read out by Cllr Bell.

Cllr Denyer asked about the planning issue raised last meeting concerning the Panini sign at the golf range. The clerk reported that he had no definitive answer yet, but, initially, it look to be unnecessary.

PC Kim Burgess reported that of the 31 crimes in September, there were only 3 in Manston.

He advised that the accident statistics report, due to be received from Highways, will reflect only about 1/3 of the true total, as not all accidents are reported.

2105/09

Town and Country Planning

Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions and Correspondence

Cllr Fletcher, having declared a prejudicial interest in appeals on the Portland site, left the meeting.

Cllr Goodban (Vice Chairman) in the Chair, stated that, due to the complaint against him, he would hand over the chair.

Cllr W Bell was nominated, as proposed by Cllr Munday and seconded by Cllr Samme to take the Chair.

Cllr W Bell, in the Chair, advised the meeting about progress of TH/09/0170 and TH/08/1301 advising that the appeals would be heard on Tuesday 27th October at 10.00a.m in the TDC Offices in Margate.

It was agreed to ask Cllr Neville of Minster Parish council to speak on behalf of Manston Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Denyer and Seconded by Cllr Samme, it was resolved that the public and press should be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential matter related to this item of business.(This was actually due at the end of the meeting) Cllr Bell in the Chair: It was resolved that the Clerk, with guidance from his predecessor, should draft responses to these two Appeals; copies would be circulated prior to posting.

Cllr W Bell read out the notice concerning the Receipt of Notice of Appeal against refusal of TH/09/0450 application for retrospective change of use of storage area on first floor of Admin Building as a residential flat at Preston Parks Caravan Park

Cllr Fletcher returned to the meeting at 2032 hrs.

Manston Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr Denyer reported that there was an encouraging report in the local paper about next year's holiday flight schedules.

Appointment of Lead Members on Planning

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Bell (proposed by Cllr Goodban and seconded by Cllr Samme) would be lead members to join the Chairman on the working party.

2106/09

Parish Plan Report

The Chairman reported that everyone should have received a copy by now, but, if not, put your hand up now, although Cllr Munday still has half of his allocation to deliver on Monday.

Adjournment of Meeting for Public Discussion

- 1 Spratling Street has been closed recently, and has been "patched up" rather than "re-surfaced" as per the Public Notice. Cllr Hibbert will look into this and report back. Whilst on this matter it was noted that Preston Road was "resprayed" as an alternative way for repair.
- 2 There was an enquiry for "Unsuitable for HGV" signs on roads in the Parish. Speed restrictions were discussed.
- 3 Another speed calming possibility it was to adapt the Memorial by the Jolly Farmer into a roundabout, as an alternative to the previously proposed road closure. Cllr Goodban reminded the meeting that this was objected to by the bus company when previously suggested some years ago, as the buses could not navigate such a curve.
- 4 PC Burgess advised the meeting that there was only a "perceived speed problem in the village, but he was happy to plan another survey if thought necessary, pointing out that 30 m.p.h. was legal. He also advised that the 20 m.p.h. limits seen in other areas, were only advisory and unenforceable. Reference Preston road signs, KCC have moved away from "Width restriction" signs to deter lorries as modern 4x4 private vehicles are so wide. "Unsuitable for HGV" signs are only advisory. The cost of installing street lights to Spratling Street was though prohibitive, but it was recognised as the logical way forward to reduce the speed limit from the current national 60 m.p.h. to 30 m.p.h..
- 5 Cllr Hibbert concluded that there is little that can be achieved until there is an accident involving a person and PC Burgess said that he can't remember one in 8 years. Cllr Denyer was aware of a lady being injured in that time.
- 6 There was discussion about the Parish Plan, in some detail. However, the meeting was reminded that the Parish Council has had no more

time to consider it than anyone else, but it was well received and had useful background statistics that would be very useful to the Parish Council in the future, as it expressed a “weight of public opinion”. As an example, it could support the Parish Council lobbying TDC over the New Development Plan.

7 It was asked if the Parish Council could record ALL accidents and drainage problems for the future. Perhaps the Community Warden could be the collecting point.

8 Cllr Hibbert reminded the meeting of the TDC Local Development meeting on Tuesday. Cllrs Fletcher and Goodban will attend. Also, he then advised the meeting that Highways can only plan their scheme of works after the budget has been agreed.

9 On the matter of Broadband, the meeting was advised that, for the cost of a postage stamp, an “accelerator” could be obtained from BT to speed it up.

2107/09 **Highway matters**

1. Rural highway infrastructure inc. Manston Court Rd., Manston Rd., Margate and Haine Rd.

The is a very strong letter, dated 23rd August 2009, from Roger Gale to KCC about Manston Court Road, following the e-mail from M Beeston of 24th August 2009. It was read out and supportive.

2. Proposed KCC Grant for highway works 2010/11

This is £2,000, but no guidance given as to how to spend it, if we get it. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

3 Other matters

The Parish Council will try to get a “speeding count” from KCC in anticipation of future further action, if necessary. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

2108/09 **Rights of Way**

1. Walking routes within Manston - no updates at this time.
2. Provision of Maps - on hold waiting feedback
3. Riding Routes project - KCC Highways, Bridleways projects manager, Mr Colin Finch would like to attend a public meeting to advance this for the Parish.

2109/09 **Works**

1. Heritage Board Audrey Twyman is chasing up
2. Bus shelter This is penciled in to be done by the contractors on the 12th and 13th of November.

Manston Park

Report on maintenance and Work Schedule:-

Super Park Inspection is ordered in conjunction with liaison with Minster. Chris Tull

will be contacted to chase up Serco about their mowing and to explore the repair to the see-saw handle (Safety Report of 28/9 refers). The best time to contact him is 08.30 hrs on 577528.

Report on improvement projects and grant applications
There is a £250 grant towards this.

Annual Professional Inspection No Update

At this point there was a break from the Agenda so that the chairman could give the very warmest of thanks and appreciation to the Audrey Twyman for her sterling support as the Parish Clerk and handed her a token of appreciation.

Audrey Twyman gave a very friendly response and wished the Parish good luck for the future, and she will keep an eye out, especially as she hopes to bring her future grandchild to the park.

13. **Finance**

1. Payment of Accounts. It was proposed by Cllr Samme and seconded by Cllr Denyer and resolved to pay the accounts, per the list attached.
2. Audit of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009 - no further action
3. Appointment of Lead Members for Finance This was discussed and Cllrs Munday and Denyer will assist the Chairman with this working party.
4. Budget 2010-11 The above working party is to prepare this.

Other Reports

1. Chairman's Report - nothing further
2. Newsletter Report - delivery arrangements are working well
3. Report on Meetings attended - Cllr Samme is to attend Rural regeneration meetings where ever possible
4. Clerk's Report - nothing to report

15. **Other Matters to report**

16. **Date of forthcoming Meetings**

1. Parish Council Meetings:- 14th November and 11th December 2009

Signed: (Clerk to the Council)