



Manston Parish Council

Date: 11th July 2022

To: Members of Manston Parish Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Parish Council. The meeting will be held at the Manston Village Hall, on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.30 pm for the purpose of transacting the business mentioned below.

AGENDA

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Subject</u>
39/22-23	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
40/22-23	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS, Election of Chairman To register any new interests or de-registration by Members, and co-opt any new members.
41/22-23	MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING for approval (Appendix A) To re-approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 th June 2022
42/22-23	FINANCIAL MATTERS for approval (Appendix B) a) To note and resolve to agree receipts and payments as listed. Two Cllrs to sign cheques. b) To note the cash book circulated.
43/22-23	Chairman's Report to note (Appendix C)
44/22-23	PLANNING to note (Appendix D) a) To note planning applications
45/22-23	HIGHWAYS to note a) To note any issues regarding the Rights of Way b) Flete Road update on land purchase c) To receive any appropriate updates from the Highways representative.
46/22-23	MANSTON PARK to note a. To review park check.
47/22-23	INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR REPORTS to note To receive updates from a) County Councillor b) District Councillor c) PCSO d) Community Warden e) Clerk - purchase of jubilee signs
48/22-23	Defibrillators
49/22-23	PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA
59/22-23	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 12th September 2022 at 7:00pm at Manston Village Hall

Manston Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr John Dearing

Clerk: Miss Ashley Jackson

Email: manstonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th June 2022 at 7.00 pm At Manston Village Hall, Manston

Present **Parish Councillors** Cllrs John Dearing (Chair) Roy Matthews, Guy Wilson, Ian Amato

In Attendance – Ashley Jackson (Clerk/RFO) 3 residents

27/22-23 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

28/22-23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Declarations of Interest Form was passed around for those in attendance to sign. No declarations were made.

29/22-23 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by Cllr Dearing to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2022. Seconded by Cllr Matthews. These were signed by Cllr Dearing as a true record.

30/22-23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments which was proposed by Cllr Dearing, seconded by Cllr Matthews all in favour. Signed as appropriate by Cllr Matthews and Cllr Wilson.
- b) The Cllrs acknowledged receipt of the cash book which the clerk had circulated showing income and expenses to date.
- c) The Council considered and approved the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31 March 2022. The Chair and Clerk signed the Statement on behalf of the Council.
- d) The Council considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22. The Chair and Clerk signed and dated the Statement on behalf of the Council.
- e) The Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements and supporting documents as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer who had prior to the meeting signed and dated Section 2 of the AGAR for 2021-22. The Chairman signed and dated the Accounting Statement on behalf of the Council.

31/22-23 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Dearing's report is attached as an appendix. (Appendix C)

Cllr Tritton left the meeting. Cllr Wilson thanked Cllr Dearing for his report.

32/22-23 **PLANNING**

The planning list was circulated to members. No objections raised.

33/22-23 **HIGHWAYS**

- a) To note any issues regarding Rights of Way – nothing to update

- b) Flete road update – Cllr Dearing is waiting for solicitors to confirm update.
- c) Highways -nothing further to update

34/22-23

MANSTON PARK

Seat – Cllr Dearing gave an update following the accident in the park, the matting beside the slide sunk, a boy fell and banged his head. Cllr Dearing contacted the lady and met Cllr Matthews and they filled the hole with expandable foam. Wicksteed have advised that the repair will be £2900 – Clerk to ask a revised quote for whole area and an inspection. New child swing too.
Hazel thanked Cllr Matthews and Amato for the new signs in the car park. Gap in the hedge.

35/22-23

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cllr Crow-Brown – Cllr Dearing thanked Cllr Dearing for his work on the PC. Armed Forces Covenant meeting at Folkestone, Colonel from the regiment in Manston advised they were given one weeks notice – but he wanted to thank the local community. PCSO Adrian Butterworth received an award too. Joint transport meeting attended – Margate do not have a town council, so he asked for ward Cllrs to raise their own highway improvement plans. Nash Road was discussed again, where the road narrows as there are so many accidents. He thinks that they will put new signs there. David Steed contacted again re the drains that had blocked due to the storm. Blue badge holders – people have not received their badges, seems to be an issue due to working from home.

Cllr Abi Smith advised that she has been to a few jubilee events. She also had a tour of Monkton Nature Reserve. She advised that TDC has been consumed with internal business and hopefully they can move forward now.

36/22-23

DEFIBRILATORS

Cllr Wilson has taken delivery – Cllr Dearing will contact the electrician and arrange these to be fitted.

37/22-23

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

New café to open on 1ST July – the access is unclear at the moment.

Cllr Matthews confirmed his bin still had not been emptied, Cllr Smith to chase up.

38/21-22

DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7:00pm 11th July 2022 in the Village Hall @Manston.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm

MANSTON PARISH COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS
Closing Financial Statement, Ashley Jackson, Clerk.

DATE PREPARED 11th July 2022				
Bank Balance as at June 2022				£
Cheques out				
Date	Cheque Number		Details	
11/7/22	2060		Miss A Jackson – wages July	338.68
11/7/22	2061		Miss A Jackson Expenses	154.83
11/7/22	2062		Miss A J Jackson – wages Aug	338.68
11/7/22	2063		HMRC	253.80
11/7/22	2064		Ian Amato	90.00
			TOTAL	1175.99
Payments in				
Date	Details			

Payments checked by *Date*

Payments checked by *Date*

(2 Cllrs who are non-signatories need to sign Schedule of Payments for payment once satisfied with goods or services have been received, invoice additions OK, VAT OK and bona fide supplier).

This will be my last chairman's report as, after this meeting I hand over to Cllr Guy Wilson. I will stay on the council as the highway rep.

At the April council meeting, when we discussed plans for the Jubilee celebration, we appeared to have, in the public seats, an influx of members of "the killjoy society of Great Britain". And a competition ensued trying to think of even more reasons to stifle the celebration. It was as if we never had a successful beacon lighting before and were total novices. I floundered, caught off guard by the mood of the meeting and no one, either in the public seats or councillors, defended our previous record.

After the meeting, someone commented that I didn't know how to delegate so I decided to demonstrate the problem that I faced. I sent out an email asking for volunteers to form a beacon lighting committee. No one responded so I cancelled the ceremony. Then with only a week to go, councillor Tritton decided to organise a beacon lighting with residents. I presume he thought I was bluffing and was waiting for me to change my mind and perform a miracle. At the last minute he decides to become an organiser and it was a success with no mishaps.

I'm pleased that Robin decided to take an active role in a project rather than waiting for someone else to organise it. And that is normally the problem, even if a council chairman is a willing cart horse, if they do not get ready supporters, he or she will have to run the council as a one-man band, and that chairman will eventually give up, being both mentally and physically drained. I'm lucky that Cllr Matthews and resident, Hazel, keep me informed of park problems, and Roy is always on hand for help with practical issues. And I'm grateful to the two of them, but things are going to change.

Guy takes over this month and, in July, he will hold his evening soiree and hope to delegate different roles and tasks. He told me he will not be as hands-on as myself, I can understand that. I will carry on with highways' items but Guy will need a lot of support and, if he doesn't get it, he will quit and no one will fill the void. The parish council would collapse. And supporting the council isn't just about taking on different tasks, it's about trying to recruit extra councillors. We are always short of councillors. Whenever I get strong opinions, complaints or requests from residents, I always, as part of the process of listening to them, try to recruit them into the council. In that way, I was successful with Irene Dolan and, recently, with Ian. But how often have other councillors, while talking to residents, tried the same approach?

Also, where a councillor has a strong view about a project, how about taking it on themselves rather than passing it on to the chairman. When you become more involved with a problem, you quickly find all the pitfalls and obstacles that forced other people to make, what you believe was, the wrong decision. Practical problems often thwart grand ideas and a typical example is the problem with the Manston siren which hasn't operated since early 1993. It was seriously corroded and it was only a timely warning, from Phil Spain at the Ramsgate tunnel group, that moved us to get the siren recovered before it collapsed across the road causing a very serious problem or worse. Suggestions that we should reinstate it in the Jolly Farmer car park, between two power poles that were erected after the siren was originally installed, and getting it powered up again, totally ignored a whole raft of practical problems and hazards. In fact, in frustration at a parish councillor's year long criticism of my efforts, I did offer him the chance to take on the job, listing the painful process to achieve his wishes, but he was too busy. So, after CR Steel reconditioned the siren and, with majority support from the parish council, I had it installed in Manston park.

In the 11 years I've been on the parish council, very few jobs that the parish council have taken on have been completed in less than a couple of months: often the jobs end up taking years. That's why it's annoying when someone thinks you can just snap your fingers and a job will be done. It often involves lots of phone calls, numerous emails and site meetings and, often, you have to settle for a compromise.

I make no apologies for giving you a precis of my work while on the council, it probably sounds like I'm blowing my own trumpet and you'd be right, and it's surprising how often, when you do something for the benefit of a group of residents, that you don't hear one thank you.

For instance, when a resident of the Leys raised the problem that the large rubbish bins, that serve the Leys residents, took up a whole valuable parking space, I decided to go through a process of lending a small parcel of land, belonging to the park, to the Leys' residents. I then had a section of park fence moved and a concrete pad installed, all at the council's expense of just over £2,000. This provided a usable place to park these large bins and also provided an extra parking space. So by this process, with no expense to the Leys residents, they gained two extra parking spaces. I didn't get one message of thank you. And it was the same when I got the kerb installed against the grass bank of the Leys' housing. Due to cars parking tight against the banking, this had ground out the bank and, in wet weather, mud frequently would spread across the road, creating a skid pan. Also, the roots of some of the trees have

become exposed. One tree is already leaning dangerously towards one section of the Leys housing. And, last year, we had the shedding of one very large branch that had ended up leaning precariously against a tree, and which councillor Matthews and myself dealt with because TDC, the freeholders of the site, were not prepared to deal with. My thoughts were that if the tree roots suffered further damage, more branches, or even complete trees could fall, causing property damage or injuries. The kerb work cost the parish council over £10,000. And both projects involved several site meetings and phone calls, but again, there was no thank you, even from a parish councillor who is a resident of the Leys.

My first job, when I joined the parish council in June, 2011, was to persuade highways to install full width speed humps in my part of Manston Court Road. The Highways Engineer wanted to install a series of cushions ie the small useless speed humps but, with the support of James Wraight, of highways, I got my full width speed humps. That was the first time I met James and he was one of the two most supportive people in highways. The other official was Paul Valek, head of local highways. Both officers have been incredibly helpful over the years, and never treated me as if I were a nuisance. I wish all civil servants were cast in the same mould.

In Oct 2014, chairman Jenny Fletcher, and Cllr Bill Bell, resigned abruptly, leaving Cllr Linda Samme to take over as chairman and I agreed to be vice chairman. Linda was a very efficient and conscientious chairman and we worked well together with Linda concentrating on the politics and financing, and I concentrated mainly on the highways issues and other practical problems, often working with Cllr Roy Matthews.

Previously, Chairman Fletcher had negotiated the installation of two reactive speed signs, to be installed one either end of the Drome Garage Hamlet. For reasons best known only to the young Highways planner, he put one of the signs down by the Manston crossroads, totally defeating the object of having the signs. It took me a year including negotiations with both highways and with the ministry of defence, so that we could have the sign moved to a kerbside strip that belongs to the military. In the process, I also made contact with the chief accountant of Charles River, as one of their employees, Marc Dunk, a cyclist, had died when he was hit by a lorry as he had turned into the Charles River plant. The accountant, Gary Andrews, in memory of Marc, very kindly contributed £500 to the cost of moving the sign, a price that we had to pay for a planner's mistake.

When highways' contractors sent us the final bill, I noticed they had charged us for the use of temporary traffic lights during the work. I knew they had only coned the road so I challenged the extra cost and they reduced the bill by £700! And the whole process of simply getting one sign moved, had only taken 1 year, 2 site visits, endless emails and any number of phone calls.

In late 2014, we decided that the railings around the war memorial required renovation. The paint was peeling and, in many places the railings were very rusty, whilst, in one place, it was obvious that a car had rammed them.

A lady councillor, who has since left the parish council, offered to take on the task. She decided she would approach two separate charities with a view of financial contribution to the work. The two charities that she targeted, would provide a large slice of the cost but we would have to use one of their chosen contractors and they were very expensive. Bearing in mind, we would still have to make up the balance. In the end, we realised that we would probably end up out of pocket by a considerable amount and decided to look for a simpler solution. So we abandoned the charity idea and took up the offer from a volunteer group, from Pfizers, to rub down and repaint the railings. They did a good job but by 2015, the rust was coming through again so I contracted a local firm, Climagate to replace the railings with galvanised and painted replicas of the original. I then commissioned Roberts, a local stonemasons, to renovate the actual memorial. Both companies did an excellent job.

Last year, ex chairman David Steed contacted me and said he was going to try to get a pedestrian crossing installed in the village. He had spent a considerable sum on a private traffic consulting firm. I had previously tried to get that same pedestrian crossing and so I sent David a short history of my efforts.

My efforts started in February 2015, after several residents had approached me about a pedestrian crossing in the village, so I contacted Becky Walsh of highways. She told me that, first, I would need a traffic census taken which would cost £350. Within a few days, she upped the price to £476, a 36% increase. I paid the price, we had the census and, months later, after looking at the results, she said we could have the crossing. She quoted the prices, £5,300 for the design and £14,000 for the build cost, a total of £19,300. I accepted the price.

This was in June 2015 and she also told she was moving on and I would have to deal with someone else. Michael Hardy took over in July but no one had bothered to send him the notes on the pedestrian crossing and I spent an hour

explaining what had happened so far and I sent him the results of the traffic survey that Becky had commissioned but not furthered to him. On the 30th July, I had a meeting with Michael at his office in Ashford and he used Google eye to examine the site and agreed that I could have the pedestrian crossing. Several months later, he came back to me and said I couldn't have the pedestrian crossing due to certain regulations on pavement width and close vicinity to junctions. I challenged this decision by sending him photographs of pedestrian crossings in Thanet that ignored the same regulations. After a couple of months, he came back to me and said that those particular pedestrian crossings were installed before the new regulations. In frustration, I contacted Roger Latchford, our county councillor and, as a result, I had a site meeting with KCC traffic consultant Andy Corcoran in February 2016. He eventually came back to me with the suggestion that we have two reactive speed signs, one either end of the village. And in July that year, I had a site meeting with Toby Butler from the reactive speed signs department of KCC. And in December 2016, after nearly 2 years from when I started the project, and at a cost of £12,000, we got the reactive speed signs, a poor compromise of my initial application for a pedestrian crossing. Sometime later, a resident advised me that the money would have been better spent on a pedestrian crossing!

Coming back to David Steed's team of private traffic consultants, their far more ambitious and superior scheme will be between £100,000 and £140,000 against Becky Walsh's 2015 estimate, of £19,300. That's inflation for you.

At the beginning of 2018, I got the local steel company, Climagate, to renovate and reinforce the Beacon's basket as it had become seriously weakened by rust. This was in preparation for the "Battle Over" celebration that was taking place in the coming November. The celebration took place on Sunday, the 11th November and was a great success with everyone getting involved. Cllr Tritton's partner, Daphne, did a brilliant job with the catering, no one had allergy problems, there were no lost children, and no one got burnt.

In the autumn of 2019, I realised that the two Shields that hung from the beacon were in a poor state. Also, the beacon pole was leaning over from the vertical. I had CR Steel remove the Shields from the beacon and sent away to be shot blasted and then galvanised. I then negotiated with a local signwriter to have the signs repainted with both the RAF Manston insignia and the Manston coat of arms. In December 2019, local farmer, David Steed, assisted by Councillor Matthews and myself, righted the beacon pole and secured the base with postcrete. And in February 2020, CR Steel rehung the Shields. I was really proud of the end result.

Other times, you put effort into some scheme or project, and either it doesn't work as intended or your efforts are treated with utter contempt. A good example was the "unsuitable for HGV" signs that I asked KCC permission to install at different points around the parish. A parish resident had suggested that if the worded signs were replaced by the icon sign which featured an image of a lorry with a red bar through it, it might be a deterrent, particularly to drivers if they assumed it meant no access to HGVs. It took me 2 months to get the necessary permissions including a separate licence to install one of the signs on a lamppost at the entrance to Preston Road. I collected the new signs from the Roger Casement factory at Herne Bay and, one Sunday morning, a neighbour assisted me in replacing all the worded signs. In the event, the signs seemed to act like a magnet to HGVs and, after our efforts, even more HGVs came through the parish!

Some you win, some you lose.

I had also installed traffic mirrors in two locations to improve safety when pulling out from a side road with restricted view. In both cases, the mirrors have now been smashed, either by poor driving or mindless vandals.

Although I do remember a councillors' meeting in the Jolly Farmer to discuss a traffic mirror. This was between a lady representative from the highways department and 3 members of our parish council, Linda Samme, Cllr Vic Champs and myself. A garden wall and fence caused a blind spot when a driver, emerging from the high street, looked towards Ramsgate. We had asked for a traffic mirror to be installed opposite Manston high street. The lady blocked our request, citing a number of pointless reasons. Then we found out that they could not block the mirror installation if it was on private land and, as we had just taken ownership of the memorial garden, Linda bought a traffic mirror and Terry Samme, Linda's husband, and myself installed it one Sunday morning on the signpost that is in the memorial garden.

My longest-running project, and it's still ongoing, is the Flete road traffic calming. In the autumn of 2016, a resident of Flete Road approached the council to ask if some form of traffic calming could be achieved in their road. In the space of 18 months, there had been nine serious vehicle collisions. The speed limit for this narrow lane, with 2 blind bends, was 60mph. Miraculously, no one had been killed or even seriously injured but cars had been written off.

I began my approach by asking if the speed limit, could be reduced to 30 mph. Fiona Wiles, of highways KCC, replied that the police record indicated there was no need for traffic calming in that road but ended the letter by assuring us that they took road safety very seriously. This tends to be the cut and paste response that you receive for any request for road safety improvements even if you are prepared to pay for the work.

At the suggestion of a local highways officer, and after checking with all the residents of Flete Road, I applied to have the road closed at one end. This was fiercely opposed by a local who was not a Flete Road resident and their objections were supported by a lady county councillor who represented villages at the time.

Two years into the negotiations, we were suddenly offered the chance of a traffic calming scheme with half of the road having the speed limit reduced to 30 mph, and four speed humps installed, protecting a good part of the northern end of the road. We readily agreed to the offer and, in the summer of 2020, three of the speed humps were installed but the fourth did not have adequate street lighting which is a basic requirement to ensure that night drivers see the humps. Instead, where the last speed hump would have been, they have painted a virtual speed hump which fools none of the regular rat runners.

So I have spent the last two and a half years liaising with the KCC lighting department to organise a streetlamp for that last speed hump. The KCC department insisted that we should own the strip of land that will contain the lamp. So I negotiated with the landowner to buy that strip. The legal part of that process started last December and is still ongoing. Once we have actually purchased it, I then have to deal with a solicitor acting for KCC and he will put together a "deed of easement" to allow KCC legal access to the strip when they carry out the lamp installation and any ongoing maintenance. Come this autumn, the project will be 6 years old and, judging by the pace so far, I'll be lucky if the project is completed within the next 2 years.

In early 2018, I contacted James Wraight to apply for the installation of a footpath at the top of Manston Court Road which would provide a safe, clean footway to connect the existing path to the footway systems of Westwood Cross. Up to then, residents had to walk in the road or along a muddy field to reach Westwood Cross. As usual, James was brilliant in securing 106 funding and organising the planning which included not only the foot way but its illumination. Councillor Guy Wilson assisted in the negotiations with the landowner and the path was finally installed in the summer of 2019.

Other projects that I raised, included having the 2002 Golden Jubilee teak bench renovated last December. The bench is situated opposite the memorial garden. Also, giving a £2,000 donation to the village hall committee to upgrade their heating.

I also proposed a £2,000 grant towards the St Catherines' organ renovation fund despite one councillor's objection.

My argument and belief is that the parish council exists to help and support all parts of the community, not just the well attended facilities. I know that the church is a wealthy institution and it remains wealthy by leaving the small, poorly attended churches to survive, very much, on charity. I'm an atheist but I regard this church as important as other assets in the parish, as it provides support for the small but loyal congregation.

Being chairman requires plenty of patience and a lot of work that occurs between the monthly meetings. Things that make it much easier or more difficult depends on the county councillors that you're dealing with. When I became vice-chairman with Linda, Roger Latchford was the county councillor for villages, and he was excellent. We really felt the loss when he stepped down. In recent elections, we gained county councillor, Derek Crow-Brown, who I know will be very supportive and a good friend of the parish.

It also helps, when doing practical work, particularly, in the park, to have a good willing co-worker. Councillor Roy Matthews has been completely reliable and a willing partner. Many thanks for that Roy. I would also thank Irene Dolan who, for a short while, was my excellent vice chairman.

And last but certainly not least, Linda Samme was the best Parish Council Chairman that I've known. On the last day of September, 2019, Linda died after living with a cancer that she knew was terminal. She had only resigned from the council, the previous year. A very brave lady, excellent chairman and a good friend.

And that is the end of my last chairman's report. I now handover at the end of this meeting to Cllr Guy Wilson and I wish him luck.

Cllr John Dearing

Planning List – 11.7.22

Ref & Location	Description	MPC Action & Outcome
Recycling Centre, Woodchurch Road, BIRCHINGTON, Kent	Variation of Condition 7 attached to Planning Permission F/TH/04/0050 for the "Change of use and creation of hardstanding for storage of accident damaged vehicles with associated landscaping" to stack vehicles to a maximum height of 7 metres	No comment