

MINUTES OF THE MANATON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 14th JULY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT MANATON PARISH HALL

Present: Cllr W Boughey (Chair), Cllr B Warne, Cllr M Wylie, Cllr J Kidner,
 In attendance : County Cllr S Morgan,
 Mrs L Moorese (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

AGENDA ITEM		Action
ITEM 1 – The Chair to open the meeting and receive and approve apologies for absence. Cllr P Martin, Cllr S Mount and DNPA Rob Steemson sent their apologies.		
ITEM 2 – Declaration of interest None		
ITEM 3 – Public participation No public in attendance.		
ITEM 4 - County & District Councillor reports 4.1 No District Councillor's report had been received. (<i>Apologies subsequently received and sent to all Councillors with Report</i>) 4.2 DCC Councillor S Morgan reported that the two main concerns for Devon County Council are potholes and special educational needs. She had noted some recent improvement in repair work by the contractors but there is still scope for further improvement. She mentioned the Road Warden Scheme (Community Initiative) : which is a scheme where Parish Councils receive funding and materials from Devon County to repair small potholes themselves, examples being Lustleigh and Widecombe. Some training for one person is required. The Council had previously considered and decided against the scheme due to perceived burden of training, but it was agreed to investigate the scheme and if local volunteers would be interested		WB
ITEM 5 – To approve minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 9th June 2025 The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved and signed.		
ITEM 6 - Matters arising Further to the concerns raised in June's Parish Council Meeting about a motorhome that had been parked at a dangerous junction the Council agreed to document the obstructed view and contact the owner if the vehicle returns, emphasising that the location is unsuitable for long-term parking. In connection with the digitisation of the telephone service, Cllr Kidner confirmed that he had spoken to the landlord of The Kestor Inn, who is happy to house a backup battery to provide power for a landline in the event of interruption to the mains electricity supply. The cost of approximately £150 for the battery was considered affordable by the Council and worth the investment for the added resilience it would bring to the community.		JK
ITEM 7 - Finances, payments due, accounts and budget 7.1 The Schedule of Payments (previously circulated to the Councillors) was presented and it was agreed by all that the following payments should be made:		
Mrs L Moorese	£245.10	Salary and Mileage
HMRC	£55.60	Staff Tax deduction
Mr Ben Warne	£260.00	Invoice 9.7.2025 ref June grass cutting
Mrs C Boughey	£108.30	DoxDirect Invoice 11/7/2025 Manaton Bulletin
7.2 The Bank Reconciliation for June 2025, which had been previously circulated to the Councillors, was agreed by all, and signed by the Chair and Clerk. 7.3 The accounts for the period ending 30 th June were presented, together with the Budget update for the same period and were duly accepted. Printing costs were noted to be unusually low for the first quarter. The Clerk advised that there was a correction made to the Budget totals due to last month's bill for playground work resulting in total expenditure being revised from £2,556.80 to £2,551.24. The ongoing direct debit to EDF for energy charges was noted, and the Clerk agreed to provide a breakdown to the Councillors when the next invoice is received.		Clerk
ITEM 8 - Parish Council Matters 8.1 The update regarding the Parish Council's website was deferred due to Cllr Frampton's absence. 8.2 To discuss and approve the IT Policy : it was agreed to defer this item until after the website is fully established which was anticipated to be at the September meeting. Financial Regulations Policy The Chair advised that after further reviewing the expenditure authorisation limits within this Policy clarification was required, and after further discussion it was agreed that the revised policy would authorise the following: (i) the Parish Clerk can authorise spending up to £50 independently. (ii) for expenditures between £50 and £500 , the Clerk and Chair must jointly authorise the spending. (iii) any expenditure over £500 requires full council approval. This new policy aims to provide clearer governance and accountability and will close a previous gap where there was no clear process for spending between £200		Clerk

AGENDA ITEM	Action
and £500 . The agreed-upon amendments will be documented and added to the official policy folder and the Parish Council's website as soon as it is established.	
ITEM 9 – Planning Dartmoor Horse and Pony Sanctuary - Cllr Kidner advised that he had still not received a progress report from the Head of Planning at DNPA. He advised he will again contact them for a formal reply and escalate the issue if necessary. DCC Cllr Morgan asked to be kept informed. Blue Haze - A planning application for "Blue Haze" proposes substantial alterations. After discussion it was agreed that there should be a site visit before the Council commented, Cllr Kidner to arrange with a least two Councillors attending. Half Moon – a further application was reported, to replace a dilapidated greenhouse. Concerns were raised about inconsistencies in the application, specifically that the proposed new structure is verbally described to be the same as existing, but images provided show something different (e.g. timber or aluminium construction). Questions were also raised about the proposed relocation of the greenhouse to a more visible location. The Council agreed it was reasonable to raise these questions, even if no formal objections were made at this stage. DNPA had circulated a consultation document to assess if the public was satisfied with the planning process. The reinstatement of the service offering pre-application advice was welcomed, although there was concern about the proposal to stop direct notification of planning applications sent to neighbours. It was also noted that it was for individuals to respond and a response from the parish council was not required.	JK JK
ITEM 10 – Highways Cllr Mount had sent a brief report that yellow outlines had been painted around some potholes, indicating repair to be undertaken.	
ITEM 11 - Parish Assets Assets South : The quality of the uncharged for work rebuilding the field wall near Stumpy Oak car park was praised, and it was agreed that the Council would offer a payment to show appreciation. Cllr Warne advised that he had found a suitable gate for the junction of the boardwalk with the public road, cost £90, and with fittings total cost is expected to be around £115-£120. This was considered a better option than a stile for accessibility reasons, and granite gateposts were already in position. It was agreed that Cllr. Warne should proceed with the usual grass cutting of the Mellowmead field. Discussion of a possible Apple Day postponed to the September Parish Council Meeting. The Chair advised that volunteers have been working to pull the invasive Himalayan balsam along the footpaths, with plans to continue as time permits. Councillors also noted the need to trim overgrown footpaths at Mellowmead, and some expressed a willingness to help as their schedules allow. Assets North: Cllr Martin had submitted a report – there was nothing of significance to note.	JK
ITEM 12 - To receive a report from the Council representative on the Games Court Committee : Cllr Boughey reported that a questionnaire was being circulated in the village asking about use of the court – this was in connection with seeking grants for resurfacing. Parishioners are urged to respond.	
ITEM 13 – To receive a report from the Council representative on the Parish Hall Committee Cllr Wylie provided a comprehensive update on events: 9th August: Manaton Show and Fair. 3rd September: Ian Mortimer (who is a familiar face in the community) will deliver a talk, mostly focusing on local topics. Cllr Wylie confirmed that she had arranged it personally and it will commence at 6.00pm. 1st November: A Barn Dance (Ceilidh) is scheduled, but this may be re-arranged to 24th November. 8th November (Provisional): A Remembrance Tea Party organised by the British Legion. 22nd November: Christmas Fair	
ITEM 14 – Correspondence Received Attention was drawn to notice from DCC of closure of the lane from Hayne Cross to Hayne for a maximum of 5 days from Monday 27th October for work by South West Water.	
ITEM 15 - Date of next meeting : 8th September 2025	
ITEM 16 – AOB Cllr Kidner advised that unfortunately he will be unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting in September.	
ITEM 17 - Matters for future consideration. - Requests for agenda items from Councillors – None - Requests for agenda items from members of the public - None	

Close of meeting: The meeting closed at 8pm

Approved by Manaton Parish Council and signed by the Chair Date:.....