

MINUTES OF THE MANATON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT MANATON PARISH HALL

Present: Cllr W Boughey (Chair), Cllr S Mount, Cllr J Kidner, Cllr M Wylie, and Cllr P Martin
In attendance : DCC Sally Morgan Mrs L Moorse (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 C Frampton, Cllr B Warne, 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. 4.2 DCC Sally Morgan Report DC Cllr Morgan reported that Devon's road network faces a major funding shortfall: £390 million is needed to repair all defects, £101 million to maintain current conditions, but the annual budget is only £58 million. She advised that there are two pilot schemes (rural and urban) to test whether repairing all defects at one time saves money. There is criticism concerning private contractors citing poor performance and communication and she confirmed that stricter quality checks should be enforced. DCC Cllr Morgan encouraged parishes to take part in the Pothole Warden Scheme, where trained local volunteers can repair minor road defects. Volunteers (whether councillors or residents) will receive materials and guidance. Although some members raised concerns about finding volunteers and maintaining repair quality, Cllr Morgan emphasised that the scheme is a cost-effective way to support limited council maintenance resources. Recycling and Special Educational Needs (SEND) Cllr Morgan reported that Devon's SEND services have been judged inadequate but are now undergoing reform. She also announced that from 26 March 2026, kerbside collection of tetra packs and cartons will be introduced. Additionally, she raised concerns that some academy trusts hold large reserves while continuing to rely on council SEND funding, urging fairer distribution of resources. A382 Road Closure to Newton Abbot Cllr Morgan explained that the two-year closure of the A382 is necessary due to reduced funding and limited resources. Keeping the road partially open would increase both cost and duration. She acknowledged the disruption to local communities and businesses but said that a full closure was the only financially viable option. Fly-Tipping and Littering Members discussed fly-tipping and littering, with Cllr Morgan condemned recent incidents and highlighted the financial strain of clean-ups. She noted that investigations are ongoing, while Councillors expressed concern over increasing litter and praised local volunteers for their clean-up efforts. The Chair thanked Cllr Morgan for her informative updates and ongoing support on local issues. Members expressed appreciation for her continued involvement, and she then excused herself from the remainder of the meeting, leaving at 7.18 pm.	
ITEM 5 – To approve minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 8th September 2025 The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved and signed.	
ITEM 6 - Matters arising The Chair advised he was still awaiting confirmation concerning additional funding for the community defibrillator. Councillors discussed the ongoing situation concerning the motorhome parked near a junction as discussed at previous Council Meetings. It was noted that alternative parking is available and whilst no immediate action is required, the situation will continue to be monitored. Battery Backup Installation at Kestor Inn: With respect to the plans to install a battery backup system at Kestor Inn, Cllr Kidner confirmed local support from the pub, identifying the venue as a community hub in emergencies. Installation will coincide with the BT switchover, using a simple plug-in battery pack costing around £100–£150. It was agreed to wait for formal notice from BT before ordering, with funds to be earmarked and included in next year's budget. With respect to the Teignbridge Council's records for the Parish Councillors, it was confirmed that this issued had been resolved. The Clerk explained that upload errors from scanned documents caused the problem but have since been corrected with new equipment. A brief disagreement over displaying signatures has also been settled.	PM JK
ITEM 7 - Finances, payments due, accounts and budget	

AGENDA ITEM			Action
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 Moorse	£200.46	Salary, Mileage & Expenses	
HMRC	£44.60	Income Tax only	
Mr Ben Warne	£260.00	Invoice 6.10.2025 ref Sept grass cutting	
Expenditure approved by Chair			
Torridge Gates Ltd	£141.41	Field Gate : Payment 7 th October	
Mr A A Deptford	£1,134.00	Defibrillator – 8 th October	
7.2 The Bank Reconciliation for September 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 September 2025 were presented, together with the Budget update for the same period and were duly accepted.			
An invoice from TEEC Ltd had been received just prior to the Council Meeting forwarded by the Vice Chair for £36.00 (including VAT) relating to the “.gov.uk domain registration. The invoice was approved by those members present and the Clerk was authorised to make payment – this would be pending second signature at the November’s Council Meeting.			
7.4 Formal approval regarding purchase of replacement Defibrillator.			
With reference to communications previously circulated concerning this matter, the Council noted that the existing defibrillator was over ten years old and out of warranty. A replacement costing £1,134 (including VAT) has now been installed by a volunteer. While councillors supported replacement for reliability and safety, they discussed whether units should be replaced only upon failure or automatically after ten years. It was confirmed regular checks show all units remain fully operational and unused. It was agreed to develop a clear replacement policy and budget for future ten-year renewals, and the Chair will explore possible grant funding from the Show & Fair Committee to offset costs.			
ITEM 8 - Parish Council Matters			
8.1 Update regarding the Parish Council’s website.			
In Cllr Frampton’s absence an update was sent via Cllr Mount and was noted that the “gov.uk” domain successfully registered but site not yet operational. Guidance concerning uploading content and activating the site is awaited, and once live, the website will be publicised locally and reviewed by Councillors. Further clarification will be sought to resolve the “new site, not operational yet” message and ensure progress continues.			
8.2 Formal adoption of the IT Policy :			
The Clerk had previously circulated the amended IT Policy reflecting the changes discussed at the PC Meeting on 8 th September 2025. Members confirmed they were satisfied with the revisions the document was formally approved, signed, and dated by the Chair.			
ITEM 9 – Planning			
Planning Updates and Local Issues:			
Cllr Kidner reported that after a long delay, Dartmoor National Park Authority has acknowledged and responded to the Council’s inquiry and understands the case remains active, with negotiations ongoing between the Authority and applicant.			
Planning Application No. 25/0070 : Becky Falls, Manaton, Newton Abbot, TQ13 9UG Proposal: Fell two groups of trees and 8 individual trees and carry out tree work to one sweet chestnut.			
It was noted that there is continued concern over repeated tree felling, with felled trees often left to rot. Unfortunately, the Parish has limited influence due to the land being privately managed.			
Planning Application No. 25/0081 : Becky Falls, Manaton, Newton Abbot, TQ13 9UG Proposal: The tree identified as the Dangerous Dead Tree at the side of the main road.			
It was noted that a recently fallen tree blocking access was quickly cleared by site staff.			
The Council discussed reports received that the equestrian facilities approved for private use at Town Barton, Manaton may be operating commercially. After discussion concerning various planning permission restrictions, it was agreed that further details should be obtained and the Council updated at the next meeting.			
ITEM 10 – Highways			
Cllr Mount reported the Holwell cattle grid had been cleared, preventing sheep from crossing. The inspection was done at Mr Richard Perryman’s request after a sheep was found grazing on the grid. At the time of the Meeting Cllr Mount advised that it was unclear whether the Heatree grid had also been maintained.			
The Council discussed the Devon County Council Community Road Warden Scheme , which allows local volunteers to carry out minor road maintenance such as small pothole repairs. While members agreed the scheme could help address issues overlooked by the County Council, no one was currently able to take on the organising role.			

AGENDA ITEM	Action
Possible volunteer groups, including the <i>Tuesday Morning Group</i>, were suggested, and storage options for materials were considered. Cllrs Kidner and Martin offered to assist but not lead. The Chair proposed to contact one or two parishioners to see if they would coordinate the scheme and, if not, to issue a public call for volunteers. Members noted that training requirements are now minimal and partly grant-funded, though some equipment costs remain. The Council agreed to explore combining local groups and resources to make participation feasible and to progress gradually while gauging community interest. Cllr Mount made the observation that many pothole repairs fail quickly, and members agreed that a local volunteer effort might achieve better results.	
ITEM 11 - Parish Assets Assets South : Cllr Martin reported that the Cricket club has received approval to remove a conifer. The benches and facilities generally in good condition. One wooden bench relocation still to be confirmed. Assets North: In Cllr Warne's absence, there was no formal update; however, Cllr Kidner confirmed that installation of the recently purchased gate is pending confirmation of who will carry out the work. An additional cost of approximately £50-£60 is anticipated for the brackets and fittings required to erect and secure the gate. Apple Day: Reported as a great success with good turnout, apple pressing, and cider apple collection; fine weather noted.	PM JK/BW
ITEM 12 - To receive a report from the Council representative on the Games Court Committee : The Chair reported limited progress but confirmed plans to seek lottery funding. The online application has commenced, and further details will be forwarded to the Chair so that further information can be obtained and submitted.	WB/Clerk
ITEM 13 – To receive a report from the Council representative on the Parish Hall Committee Cllr Wylie provided an update on recent Parish Hall activities, highlighting the film screening on 3rd October about people living “<i>off grid</i>.” Attendees described the film as “<i>charming</i>,” “<i>absolutely brilliant</i>,” and “<i>haunting</i>.” It was noted as very special experience and mentioned that the film is not widely available online, being shown only at specific screenings. The attendees were reminded : 8th November : A Remembrance Tea Party organised by the British Legion. 29th November from 11am to 3.00 pm : Christmas Fair Barn Dance (Ceilidh) re-arranged date would be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.	
ITEM 14 – Correspondence Received Landscape Recovery Programme The Chair raised the issue of correspondence received regarding the Devon Wildlife Trust/DEFRA Landscape Recovery Programme, which could affect local farming practices in Manaton. The scheme encourages reduced livestock numbers and increased tree planting and natural regeneration, raising concerns among councillors about potential impacts on traditional agriculture and the character of the moorland. The Councillors agreed that the land should continue to support food production and expressed reservations about reduced agricultural output. The Council agreed that Cllr Wylie would attend the upcoming programme meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15th October 2025, with possible additional councillor representation, to ensure the village's perspective is heard. The Council noted the scheme is complex and controversial but agreed to remain engaged due to its significant implications for the local environment and farming community. Air Ambulance Lighting Maintenance The Council received correspondence from the Air Ambulance Service regarding the landing site light, which must now be turned on and tested monthly for approximately one hour to remain operational. Cllr Wylie volunteered to carry out the monthly checks, with the schedule to be recorded in their diary. There was brief discussion regarding the location of the master switch, and councillors confirmed this was a new responsibility not previously required.	MW MW
ITEM 15 - Date of next meeting : 10th November 2025 The Chair then confirmed the date of the next Parish Council meeting as 10 November. Cllr Kidner mentioned a possible scheduling conflict, explaining that he might have to send apologies due to family commitments that evening, though he would still stay informed and share updates on any issues related to his assigned areas.	
ITEM 16 – AOB The Clerk advised the Council of annual leave from 3rd-8th November but confirmed that the agenda, supporting documents, accounts, and draft minutes for the 10 November meeting would be prepared in advance.	Clerk
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 8.04pm

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