

MINUTES OF THE MANATON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT MANATON PARISH HALL

Present: Cllr W Boughey (Chair), Cllr B Warne, Cllr S Mount, Cllr M Wylie, Cllr J Kidner, and Cllr P Martin
 In attendance : 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. The Chair opened the meeting and apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr C Frampton																
ITEM 2 – Declaration of interest. None.																
ITEM 3 – Public participation There were no members of public present																
ITEM 4 - County & District Councillor reports 4.1 No District Councillor's report had been received. 4.2 No County Councillor's report had been received.																
ITEM 5 – To approve minutes of meeting on 13th January 2025 The Minutes having been previously circulated were approved and signed.																
ITEM 6 - Matters arising Playground: Cllr Martin advised that he had attended to the posts in question and has obtained some spare ones for future use.																
Parish Council's 13th January 2025 meeting - Item 16: AOB The Chair asked for further information concerning the matter raised by a concerned parishioner. During the discussion between the Councillors, it was noted that two ash trees had been felled, which contained rare lichens. They were advised that Oxygen Conservation and others are working to transplant these lichens to other trees to try and rescue them. There was debate over whether the felling was justified due to "Ash Dieback," but concerns were raised regarding the handling of the felled trees, which were left in an unsightly heap and appeared to have been treated to prevent regrowth. Some members expressed frustration that the trees were not protected by tree preservation orders, which led to the current situation. There was also mention of the broader issue of the area's general decline. After further debate it was suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of Dartmoor National Park, requesting them to consider placing tree preservation orders on the trees in question, especially given the concerns about the lichens. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would prepare a draft letter to be sent to DNP, expressing the concerns of the community.	Clerk															
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: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Tom Oxton Tree Care</td><td style="width: 33%;">£600.00</td><td>Remedial Tree Work (Invoice SI-103)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mrs L Moorse</td><td>£200.66</td><td>Salary and Mileage</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td><td>£44.40</td><td>Staff Tax deduction</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Following payment was authorised and paid on 28th January 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>EDF Energy</td><td>£53.35</td><td>Invoice for period 1st -31st December 2024</td></tr> </table> 7.2 The Bank Reconciliations for January 2025, which had been previously circulated to the Councillors, were agreed by all, and signed by the Chair and Clerk. 7.3 The accounts for the period ending 31 st January 2025 were presented, together with the Budget update for the same period and were duly accepted. 7.4 Update concerning the EDF contract for D.A.A.L.S. - The Chair advised that a contract had now been signed with EDF for a three-year period and future payments would be made by Direct Debit Mandate, but regular checks on meter readings would continue. Cllr Wylie was concerned that the new tariff was a business tariff, whereas according to her recollection the previous tariff had been a domestic tariff with a lower standing charge. The Chair pointed out that his understanding was that that the previous tariff had in fact been a business tariff. However, it was agreed that Cllr Wylie would speak to EDF to investigate if and why the tariff had changed. Some Councillors had independently investigated alternative providers, and it did appear that no cheaper alternatives were available. 7.5 The Council's various policies fall to be reviewed by 31 March 2025. The Chair considered that the Financial Policy should be updated to the NALC 2024 version. The Clerk to report on this.	Tom Oxton Tree Care	£600.00	Remedial Tree Work (Invoice SI-103)	Mrs L Moorse	£200.66	Salary and Mileage	HMRC	£44.40	Staff Tax deduction	Following payment was authorised and paid on 28 th January 2025			EDF Energy	£53.35	Invoice for period 1 st -31 st December 2024	MW Clerk
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ITEM 8 - Parish Matters 8.1 Update on website for Parish Council In view of Cllr Frampton's absence this matter was deferred until the next Meeting. 8.2 Update concerning quotations and work on the trees as per Arboriculturist's Report. Cllr Warne confirmed that the work had been completed and the invoice for the remedial work had been submitted and now approved.																
ITEM 9 – Planning Planning Application Ref: 0043/25 : Replacement dwelling at Jenny May Cottage, Manaton TQ13 9UZ.																

AGENDA ITEM	Action
<p>Cllr Kidner outlined the basic history and giving information concerning this planning application for the Parish Council's consideration. He outlined that the property was established as a dwelling and the new proposal is a continuation of that use, with a new house replacing the existing one. Discussion followed concerning the design and impact, as well as environmental concerns regarding bats within the existing building (which have required surveys) but has not impacted the planning proposal.</p> <p>In discussion concern was expressed that the previous small flat above a garage was intended to be replaced by a more extensive dwelling with a large garage but it was agreed that if the proposal does not significantly alter the footprint or visual impact and was in accordance with DNPA design guidelines, there would be no objections. Cllr Kidner to respond accordingly to DNPA.</p>	JK
<p>ITEM 10 – Highways</p> <p>Cllr Mount advised that she had been contacted by two residents concerned that during the recent snow several 4x4 vehicles had been reckless both on and off road at Hound Tor and Heatree Cross. The Councillors discussed the difficulty of managing such incidents and noted that reporting vehicle registration numbers to 101 was the best course of action.</p> <p>The ongoing problem of potholes and the inadequate quality of repairs was raised, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would keep pressing DCC Highways on this issue.</p> <p>Cllr Wylie advised that the "unsuitable for wide vehicles" sign near Sandy Meadow appears to have been bent – most probably from being hit by another vehicle.</p>	
<p>ITEM 11 - Parish Assets</p> <p>Lower Bus Shelter: Cllr Martin advised that an elbow joint connecting the gutter to the downpipe was broken – Cllr Warne agreed to inspect and arrange replacement if necessary. The boundary hedge of the adjoining property is growing into the shelter – it was assumed that the hedge is the responsibility of the adjoining owner and Cllr Martin will speak to him about this at a suitable moment.</p> <p>Cllr Wylie advised that the bus shelter only has two bags of salt left for the roads, and it was agreed that the supply should be replenished as soon as possible.</p> <p>Benches: Cllrs Kidner and Martin confirmed that the lichen bench had been returned to the Manaton Green, but the other benches will be returned in the Spring, hopefully after some restoration by a working party. It was also suggested and agreed that parishioners should be notified the next time the benches are moved.</p> <p>Mellowmead: The fallen branch resting on the telephone line had been dealt with. Cllr Kidner advised that he is hoping to arrange for a working party to improve the Stumpy Oak parking area and verges of the lane leading to Beckhams.</p>	BW PM SM
<p>ITEM 12 - To receive a report from the Council representative on the Games Court Committee</p> <p>The Chair advised that there is an intention to resurface, and estimates are being obtained for the resurfacing. Various avenues are being investigated for funding, including the National Lottery. He advised that Teignbridge District Council had also been approached. Discussion then followed concerning the underuse of the Court probably partly due to the poor surface and it is hoped that once repaired the court might be used for additional activities such as pickleball and netball.</p>	
<p>ITEM 13 – To receive a report from the Council representative on the Parish Hall Committee</p> <p>Cllr Wylie advised that the Greek evening had been an enormous success. A plant sale would be held on May Bank Holiday. The AGM is to be held on 9th April 2025, and it was hoped that people would attend this year. There would also be a Wine Call My Bluff evening on the 5th of April.</p>	
<p>ITEM 14 – Correspondence Received</p> <p>The Chair advised that he had received a questionnaire about emergency preparation training needs, which mainly covered snow wardens, volunteers, and their training. The Chair also discussed his prepared response to a request from DALC in connection with devolution proposals for a statement briefly setting out what functions the Council undertakes for Manaton and after further suggestions the Councillors agreed on the response.</p>	WB
<p>ITEM 15 - Date of next meeting</p> <p>Monday, 10th March 2025</p>	
<p>ITEM 16 – AOB</p> <p>Cllr Kidner noted some fly tipping on the upper road to Haytor opposite the track to Leighon - Cllr Mount will report this to the DNP ranger.</p>	SM
<p>ITEM 17 - Matters for future consideration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Requests for agenda items from Councillors – None b. Requests for agenda items from members of the public - None 	

Close of meeting: The meeting closed at 8.15pm

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