

**Manley Parish Council**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6.00 PM  
AT MANLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Councillors: Ian Walton (Chairman), Kate Birkenhead, John Bunting, Colin Ford, John Gilding  
and Peter Sherlock

Parish Clerk - Gaynor Hawthornthwaite

Three members of public were in attendance.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/NON-ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Hugo Deynem – Ward Member, Cheshire West and Chester Ward Council and Manley Parish Councillors Pam Brook and Jane Challoner

**2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2024**

These were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Public Speaking Time/Open Forum**

Two members of the public were in attendance to raise issues relating to Manley Road. This was discussed under the Highways agenda item.

**4. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**4.1 PCSO involvement – debrief from Sandstone Ward meeting**

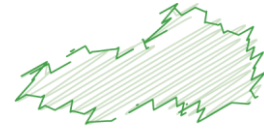
There was discussion at the last Sandstone Ward meeting about the PCSO presence at Parish Council meetings. As part of the Police Service Level Agreement, the PCSO should attend 50% of Parish Meetings in their Ward.

Manley PC had agreed that the PC would notify PCSO Deborah Netherton of any issues or concerns following the PC meetings and that she could also join PC meetings remotely if she wasn't able to attend in person.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**5.1 Flood management – debrief from Sandstone Ward meeting and decide what plans we need to implement.**

Following discussion at the Sandstone Ward meeting about a flooding issue at Ashton Heyes and the need for a flood management plan and sandbags in the area, the PC considered whether it



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would be appropriate for Manley to have a Plan. As the PC were not aware of any major flooding incidents in Manley, it was agreed that a Flood Management Plan was not required. Most of the flooding in Manley is from blocked gullies. It was agreed that if the gullies were cleared as and when required, this would help to resolve the problem of any flooding.

**Action – Councillor Walton to follow up with Councillor Deynem the areas where there are blocked gullies and for them to be cleared when required.**

## 6. HIGHWAYS

### 6.1 Manley Road Speed Limit; discuss the proposal submitted by a local resident and agree follow up actions

Two residents were in attendance to highlight to the PC some of the issues of speeding, signage and visibility on areas along Manley Road and parts of the Sandstone Trail footpath.

The PC received and noted the issues and agreed to liaise with the Ward Member, Councillor Deynem and CW&C Highways about the inconsistencies in speed limits and the improvements to the signage that are required. The PC thought that it would be appropriate to arrange speed monitoring with the PCSO and to then provide evidence of speeding along this stretch of road to CW&C Highways.

**Action – Councillor Walton to follow up with the residents to write a summary report setting out the main problems on Manley Road that the residents put forward, and then liaise with Councillor Deynem and CW&C Highways, in particular:**

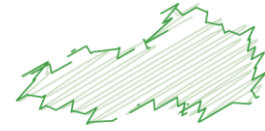
- Improvement to the signage on the stretch of Manley Road – some of the ‘Slow’ signs are located in the wrong place and better signage is required at the junctions, particularly where the concealed entrance to Spicer’s Well which is just over the brow of the hill before the junction of the B5393 and Manley Road;
- The poor state of the road and the number of potholes;
- The inappropriate and different speed limits along the stretch of Manley Road from Alvanley to Manley and to raise again the inappropriate 50 mph limit past the primary school;
- Request a formal review of the speed limits along Manley Road and by the path for the Sandstone Trail and Cheshire Cycle Route;
- To organise speed monitoring by the PCSO on the stretch of road going up to Riley Bank and the B5393 to provide further evidence of speeding;
- To request that the overhanging trees on the highway and footpaths be cut back.

## 7. COMMUNITY

### 7.1 Village Hall update

The hall and kitchen at the Village Hall has now been painted. The snug is in the process of being painted.

A new boiler and new lights have been installed and the blocked drains under the Village lawn have been cleared.



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The Snooker Room has now been segregated from the hall and has separate locks.

The Village Hall has a new volunteer Bookings Secretary. The Village Hall employment costs are now reduced and there has been a saving on the electricity costs and timers have been installed on the bar equipment. These savings should result in an improvement in the Village Hall finances moving into the next financial year.

Councillor Ford had followed up with the Treasurer, Village Hall Committee about whether there should be a cost to the PC for PC room bookings. A 50 % reduction had been agreed for the January PC meeting room booking, but from February 2024, it has been agreed that there will be no cost to the PC for room bookings for Parish Council meetings.

### **7.2 Parish Field maintenance – discuss and agree tender process**

The PC are to obtain quotations from three different suppliers for the Parish Field maintenance for 2024.

**Action – Councillor Walton to obtain quotations from the three suppliers.**

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Pingot Lane appeals – discuss current status and decide on next step**

Councillor Walton had followed up the PC's preferred option to ask the Planning Consultant, Alyn Nicholls to represent the PC at the enquiry, with the Residents' Group, who also supported the PC's preferred option. The PC are to attend the appeal hearing over the 3 days from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

## **9. Approval of the PC Policy Documents**

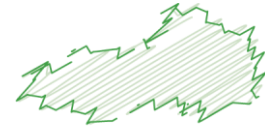
The following policy documents had been reviewed and amended as appropriate at the January 2024 meeting and were approved:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Financial Processes
- Risk Policy
- Risk Assessment
- Privacy Notice and Data Processing
- Assets Register
- Member Code of Conduct

## **10. FINANCE**

### **Review of Current Financial Position**

The MPC bank account balance as at 18<sup>th</sup> December, was £14,067.84



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The PC considered whether opening a higher interest account with the Skipton Building Society, who are offering 3.65% gross pa with their Community Saver Issue 11 account, would be appropriate.

**Action – Clerk to follow up the details and find out how to make an application for this account.**

### **Approval of the 2024/25 Budget**

The draft budget was presented and reviewed at the January 2024 meeting and no amendments were proposed. The final 2024/25 budget had been re-circulated and was approved.

The following were approved for Bacs Payments:

- Room Booking PC Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 – Manley Village Hall - £15.00
- Payroll for last 3 months - £60.00
- Clawson Groundworks - £1260 for drainage repairs at the Village Hall
- Mowing and maintenance of playing fields for the year 2023 - £756.00

## **11. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The following Bulletins and Circulars had been received and circulated since the January 2024 meeting:

### **Chalc**

- Weekly Bulletins and Member Briefings
- Introduction to the Local Council Award Scheme - Online session Tuesday 6th February 1pm to 2pm
- West Cheshire Town and Parish Council Conference – 6<sup>th</sup> March at 5.15 pm in Chester
- Important Information: MailChimp, Data Processing and Privacy Notice
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Home Upgrade Grant scheme for off-gas properties

### **Police and Crime Commissioner**

- Retail & Business Crime Conference

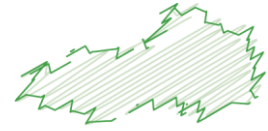
## **12. DATE OF NEXT PC MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.00 pm**

Councillor Sherlock submitted his apologies for this meeting.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Councillor Sherlock asked if there is to be a change in the constituency boundaries for the Sandstone Ward. The PC were not aware of any changes.
- Councillor Ford mentioned that the PC had nominated Councillor Walton to attend the Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May following the



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information received from Chalc, who have been allocated 2 places. The successful nominee will be chosen at random.

- Councillor Gilding mentioned that Waterloo Lane is to be closed for 5 days next week.
- Councillor Birkenhead asked about the car parking on the roads at Delamere Forest that was mentioned at the last PC meeting. Councillor Walton said that this is to be followed up with Delamere Forest Holidays.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm