

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 6.00 PM  
AT MANLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Councillors: Ian Walton (Chairman), Kate Birkenhead, Pam Brook, Jane Challoner, Colin Ford and Peter Sherlock

Councillor Hugo Deynem – Ward Member, Cheshire West and Chester Ward Council

Parish Clerk - Gaynor Hawthornthwaite

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

Apologies from Manley Parish Councillors John Gilding and John Bunting.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

These were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the additional item, which should have been included in the Finance item:

**Item 10 –**

The PC's application for funding from the Ward Member's Budget to go towards the maintenance and repairs of the Village Hall boiler (as recorded in the January 2024 minutes) was successful and the PC received funding of £700. The invoice from Woodhouse of £840 (£700 + VAT) was approved outside of the meeting and a bacs payment was made on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Public Speaking Time/Open Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

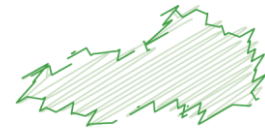
**4. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

No items reported.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**5.1 Wildflower Verges – planting and maintenance. Discuss and agree next steps**

Following an enquiry received from a resident about planting wildflower plants/seeds in the grass verges around Manley, the PC discussed possible areas which may be suitable and agreed to follow up with CW&C Highways to identify areas would be suitable for wildflowers, the costs of



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the seeds and when the planting should take place. Once a response has been received, the PC will discuss how to take this forward, either for this year or next year.

**Action - Councillor Deynem to follow up with CW&C Highway Officers to find out the right time to plant the bulbs/seeds.**

## **5.2 Community Orchard – debrief of recent meeting with CWaC and agree next steps**

Following the March meeting Councillor Brook registered with CW&C the PC's interest in Community Orchards for part of the Village field, opposite Manley Village Hall and a site meeting was held with the CW&C Green Infrastructure Officer on 22<sup>nd</sup> March to look at potential planting areas and the scale of the planting on the bottom corners of the field. The Community Orchard funding is available for the purchase of trees, tree ties & stakes and CW&C can offer up to two places on a fruit tree pruning workshop to help with ongoing management. The Parish Council would have to take on the maintenance and management of the orchard going forward. The PC considered whether this could be a community project where volunteers could assist with the development of the project.

## **6. HIGHWAYS**

### **6.1 Manley Road – discuss and agree actions with CWaC**

Following the March PC meeting, Councillors Walton and Birkenhead have liaised with local residents about their concerns of speeding, signage and visibility on areas along Manley Road and parts of the Sandstone Trail footpath and a letter is being prepared to send to CW&C Highways.

It was noted that some repair work has now been completed on some of the potholes along Manley Road.

Councillor Deynem and the PC are to review the signage in Manley to ensure that they are easily visible. Any signs where the vegetation is obscuring the signs, are to be reported to CW&C. The PC are to review whether the repeater signs are in the right place along Manley Road.

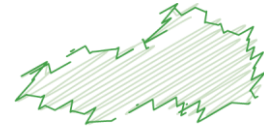
The PC are to continue to monitor the highway issues in Manley and to follow up with CW&C

## **7. COMMUNITY**

### **7.1 Village Hall Update**

Overall, there has been positive comments received about the painting and decorating of the hall, kitchen and snug and the improvements in the kitchen. The Village Hall Committee are looking at how the heating and hive system can be improved.

Volunteers are required for the Spring Fair on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors Birkenhead and Challoner offered to assist.



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## **7.2 Parish Field mowing – Confirmation of Contractor**

Councillor Walton had obtained quotations from three different suppliers for the Parish Field maintenance. The brief was for a fortnightly mow, from April to October/November.

There was a range in the prices on the mowing. The PC agreed to go with a local supplier who is a regular user of the Village Hall and has the flexibility to mow when the conditions are right or when it is needed for an event. The other two quotations were for a fixed schedule of work.

**Action – Councillor Walton to confirm with the approved supplier and to respond to the other two suppliers who provided quotations.**

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor Deynem mentioned that Northern Rail are proposing charges at Mouldsworth railway station - £2 a day. There is a small A4 notice on a post outside the station signalling Northern Rail's intention to introduce car parking charges at Mouldsworth Railway Station from early May 2024. CW&C are following up with Northern Rail the lack of local consultation and engagement. A full evidence base of supporting information is required for a charge to be implemented and an impact assessment is required on neighbouring properties.

Any comments on this proposal should be forwarded on to Northern Rail before 15<sup>th</sup> April.

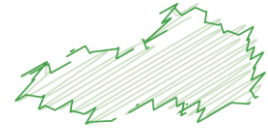
### **8.1 Planning Inquiry (Pingot Lane cases) review of Day 1 and discussion of any actions arising.**

Councillor Walton provided the PC with feedback from Day 1 of the enquiry. Mr Nicholls spoke on behalf of the PC at the hearing and provided a summary of the key points in the PC's initial submission to the Planning Inspector, in particular the green belt issues, the impact on amenity, and the effect on nearby listed properties.

### **8.2 Parish Council contribution to the Planning Inquiry Funds (organised by local residents). Debrief of recent discussions and re-iteration of the Parish Council's commitment (made at the EGM on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023) and requirements from the local residents for the calculation of the Parish Council's contribution.**

Councillor Walton reported that a payment of £5080 had been received from Manley News and will be put towards the payment of Alyn Nicholls's invoice of £7080 for representation at the Pingot Lane planning inquiry.

As previously agreed, the Manley Residents Group are to fund the majority of the payment for this work and the PC are to make a payment of up to £2000 based on a pro-rata calculation of all donors' pledges, as noted in the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting that was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



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## 9. FINANCE

### Review of Current Financial Position

The MPC bank account balance as at 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, was £11,150.28.

The PC are following up the details of a higher interest account with the Skipton Building Society, who are offering 3.65% gross pa with their Community Saver Issue 11 account.

**Action – the 3 bank signatories to visit a Skipton Building Society branch to set up the account.**

The following were approved for bacs payments:

- Tax on Clerk's Salary - £177.40 is due by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 - HMRC
- Cheshire Association of Local Councils Affiliation Fee 2024/25 - £203.68

## 10. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

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- Weekly Bulletins and Member Briefings
- Delamere Forest March 2024 Update

There had been no PCSO update received for March. The lack of PCSO presence at PC meetings in the Ward had also been mentioned at the Sandstone Ward meetings.

**Action – Councillor Walton to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner.**

## 11. DATE OF NEXT PC MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual meeting of the Parish Council to be held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 6.00 pm.**

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Deynem mentioned that he is going to arrange for a CW&C representation to attend the next Sandstone meeting in April, which is being held at Alvanley. A response is awaited from the CW&C Planning team. If they are not able to attend, Councillor Deynem will arrange for an officer from the Environment Team to attend.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm