

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.00 PM
AT MANLEY VILLAGE HALL**

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

PCSO Neil Flanagan (for part of the meeting)

Parish Clerk - Gaynor Hawthornthwaite

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/NON-ATTENDANCE

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

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd JULY 2024

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

Action – Clerk to circulate the approved minutes.

4. Public Speaking Time/Open Forum

PCSO Neil Flanagan gave an update on the Community Speedwatch trial that was held on
24th August – See Item 8.4 below

Neil mentioned that there were no reported incidents in Manley this month.

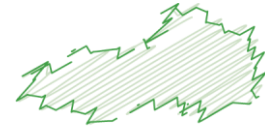
There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. SAFETY AND SECURITY

**5.1 Dead tree on the Parish Field boundary with Trevene. If the tree is Parish Council property,
agree what actions to take.**

The tree in question belongs to the owners of a different property, Tigh Begh, and they are aware
that it needs to be removed.

However, there is another tree on the roadside boundary which, according to a tree surgeon who
was working nearby, needs attention. It was agreed that the PC should obtain a quotation for an
inspection of the tree and whether it needs to be taken down or cut back.



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Action – Councillor Brook to obtain a quotation for an inspection of the tree and any works that are required.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

No items reported.

7. HIGHWAYS

7.1 Manley Road – review residents’ complaints, CWaC Highways response to date and agree tactics to get improvements actioned.

Councillor Walton has contacted Alvanley about the concerns that have been raised by residents about speeding, signage and visibility on areas along Manley Road. Councillor Walton has also contacted CW&C Highways about local residents’ concerns.

The comments and correspondence received from residents about their concerns are to be forwarded on to Councillor Deynem to follow up with CW&C Highways.

The PC are continuing to review and follow up the signage in Manley to ensure that they are easily visible and in the right place; vegetation is cut back that is obscuring signs, and the repeater signs are in the right place along Manley Road.

The following highway issues were reported:

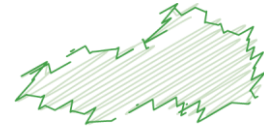
- The two water leaks on Manley Lane (under the railway bridge).

The top dressing from the pothole at the top of the hill that was repaired is running into the drains and is blocking the gullies. Due to the water leaks and the overgrown ground vegetation on the pavements, it is making it difficult to walk on the pavements on Manley Lane.

Action – Councillor Walton to report the blocked gullies on Manley Lane and the overgrown ground vegetation on the pavements, which need to be cleared.

- The speed limit on Manley Lane, going down to Manley Mere, which is part of the Cheshire Cycleway, and regularly used by cyclists, has a 60-mph speed limit and should be added to the PC’s priority list of the roads in Manley that need to be improved and the potholes that require repair work.
- The pavement and road width on Sugar Lane and Cob Hall Lane, leading into Manley Lane, are becoming narrower due to the overgrown ground vegetation.

Action – Councillor Walton to write to CW&C Highways.



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8. COMMUNITY

8.1 Village Hall update

Councillor Walton reported that:

- The Village Hall Committee has been successful in receiving a grant of £10,000 from Cheshire West and Chester Council to install solar panels on the roof at the Village Hall. Work is to commence in October.

As part of the refurbishment project, the walls of the Snooker Room are to be insulated, and the roof is to be re-tiled when funds permit.

The PC unanimously expressed its gratitude to Phil Brook the Village Hall Treasurer, for his efforts in successfully obtaining the grant for the solar panels.

- The Village Hall electricity costs are due to reduce significantly over the next 12 months.

Events at the Village Hall:

- A wine tasting on 16th November 2024
- Artisan Market on 24th November 2024

The Village Hall Committee are considering options for an annual event, to replace the Spring Fair on the May Bank Holiday weekend.

As 2026 will be the Centenary of Manley Village Hall, the Committee are considering ideas for making this a big significant village event.

Action – Councillor Walton to publicise the Village Hall events in the Church Newsletter.

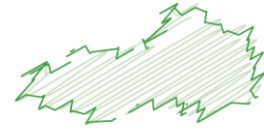
8.2 Decoration of roadside BT telephone junction boxes in Manley. Discuss the process and decide what action we can take

Councillor Birkenhead asked about the possibility of commissioning an artist to paint the roadside BT telephone boxes in Manley and whether it would be possible to get an Arts grant for this work. The PC agreed that the details and application for an Arts grant should be followed up. As 2026 is the Centenary Year for the Village Hall, the PC suggested having a Manley logo painted on the Village Hall wall or outside the Village Hall as a focal point.

Action – Councillor Birkenhead to follow up and report back at the next meeting.

8.3 Information Panel describing the history of Maiden Cross. Review previous attempts, update on current status and decide what can be done.

The PC discussed their unsuccessful attempts in previous years for signage on the roadside and the extortionate costs that were involved in doing this.



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There was a suggestion about the possibility of putting a small fence around the Cross and maintaining the grass around it. It was agreed that this should be followed up with the Woodland Trust.

Action – Councillor Birkenhead to follow up with the Woodland Trust

8.4 Update on Community Speedwatch trial (24th August) and decide on follow up actions.

PCSO Neil Flanagan reported that the trial speed monitoring on the stretch of road outside the Village Hall took place in Manley on 24th August. Councillors Walton and Birkenhead took part in the speed monitoring and recording the information. 60 cars were measured, none of which were speeding.

Neil mentioned that the siting of a speed check area, should be in an area where there is a pavement, and it is safe to stand. Any proposed locations have to be assessed and approved by the Police Road Traffic Officer. The PC are to put together a list of roads, with the speed limits, that they think would be suitable for community speed watch in Manley, before they consider purchasing a handheld speed indicator device.

Action – Councillor Walton to provide Neil with a list of areas in Manley, with speed limits, which may be suitable for speed monitoring.

8.5 Discuss a suggestion (received by Councillor Hugo Deynem) that the Parish Council should consider supporting the Golden Lion in Ashton Hayes by purchasing shares in Ashton Hayes Community Hub Ltd. Decide if investment is appropriate and if so, agree how many shares to buy

The PC considered this suggestion and agreed that they could not support the purchase of shares at £250 for the refurbishment of the Golden Lion in Ashton Hayes as it was not in the Parish of Manley, it would be an unsecured investment (ie not without risk) and not a donation, and the use of public funds for this may not be supported by the residents of Manley and would, therefore, not be appropriate.

Action – Clerk to follow up with Chalc about the use of public funds for purchasing shares in a neighbouring community hub.

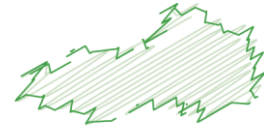
9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

9.1 Pingot Lane Update

There is no further update on this planning application. A decision is expected by mid-October.

9.2 Update on applications in Gongar Lane and Ashton Hayes

Councillor Sherlock gave an update on the status of these applications. In summary, the land at Gongar Lane (which was the subject of an injunction last year) has been taken off the market



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pending a private sale, and the land at Ashton Hayes (Peel Hall Lane) has allegedly been purchased for more than the guideline price.

10. FINANCE

Review of Current Financial Position

The MPC bank account balance as at 1st September 2024, was £14908.20.

Approval of the following payments:

- Payroll for last 3 months - £60.00 – Invoice No: 10098 - Rose Rowland and Co Limited
- Reimbursement to Councillor Walton for the payment to NetNerd for the Domain Renewal - £8.39
- Donation Alvanley Church yard Maintenance - £100.00
- Membership of Mid Cheshire Footpath Society - £8.00

Community Saver Bank Account

Councillors Walton, Ford and Brook are following up the details of a Community Saver Issue 11 account higher with the Skipton Building Society and propose transferring half the reserves that are currently in the PC current account, leaving not more than a year's precept amount remaining.

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

11. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

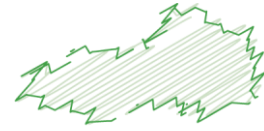
Chalc

- Weekly Bulletins and Member Briefings
- ChALC Board Vacancy
- Centre for Sustainable Energy Webinar: Common planning considerations for community energy projects - Tues 8th October 7.00 - 8.30pm
- Cheshire Sandstone Ridge - Online Survey
- ChALC Online Training: Cheshire West and Chester Code of Conduct - 26th September 6pm to 8pm
- Delamere Forest September 2024 Monthly update

12. DATE OF NEXT PC MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting is **Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 6.00 pm**

Councillor Sherlock submitted his apologies for the 6th November meeting.



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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Councillor Sherlock asked if there was any update on the sale of Manley Church. The PC has heard that the church has been sold, but no formal confirmation has been received.
- Councillor Brook mentioned that the triangular height restrictions sign that is under the railway bridge on Manley Lane has fallen down and is in the grass verge.

Action – Councillor Brook to send a photograph to Councillor Walton so that it can be reported to CW&C.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm