

Minutes of the Meeting of Manaton Parish Council Held at the Parish Hall

7.30pm Monday 12th September 2011

Present: Councillors: R. Drysdale G. Everitt-White, M. Eveleigh, D. Rogers, and J. Tope (Chair & Acting Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **Minutes of the Meeting of 8th August 2011:** It was proposed by Cllr. Everitt-White and seconded by Cllr. Eveleigh that the minutes represent a full and accurate account of the meeting and be adopted. This was accepted unanimously and the minutes were signed by Cllr. Tope.
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

There having been no requests to TDC for an election as a result of the statutory notices posted in the village the Council agreed to leave the matter of co-option of another councillor for the time being in the hope that Mrs Shilston will be able to re-join.

The Dartmoor Quiz – Cllr Drysdale is to ask our DNP Ranger to introduce the subject at the quiz at the Kestor on Wednesday 14th.

The members supported the concept of raising a flag at Manaton Rocks to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee over the extended weekend 2nd – 5th June 2012. Cllr. Eveleigh will discuss this with Jim Crout who has been involved in such exercises in the past.

Cllr. Rogers has purchased the preservative for the playground furniture at the Cricket Field and will apply it with Cllr. Drysdale when a weather window presents itself.

Cllr. Eveleigh confirmed that two new grit bits have appeared with grit, one near the top of Beckaford Hill and the other near the crossroads.

4. Clerk's Report

The Chairman has spent just under 8 hours during in the period between this meeting and the last on Clerk's duties. A volunteer will be sought through the Messenger and notices to take on the role.

At a recent meeting with TDC Cllr. Tope learned that it is not acceptable for the Chairman of a Parish Councillor to also take on the role of Clerk **and** Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Cllr Rogers volunteered to take on the role of CFO until such time as a replacement Clerk is found.

The bank accounts stand at £1,391-89 (current a/c) and £1,495-71 (deposit a/c as at March when the last statement was received).

No Councillor was free to attend the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM on 8th October.

5. Planning

5.1 The granting of permission for a barn conversion at Boodown Farm was noted.

5.2 Following a complaint from a parishioner and concerns raised by a number of others the Chairman, after consultation with Cllr Everitt-White, wrote to DNP Planning Dept raising concerns about developments at "Heatherways" that are not

subject to any planning consent. The Council agreed that should a retrospective application be made it would be unlikely to object but that all Parishioners should be treated equally and all should operate within the rules.

6. Highways

Cllr. Eveleigh will raise the leakage of water at the crossroads next to Town Barton with SWW and ask that this be attended to before the winter as it represents a serious ice hazard.

Devon County Council are offering to deliver 5 tonnes of road salt to any Council wishing to take responsibility for salting its own roads. After discussion the Members agreed that this would not be appropriate in Manaton and that we did not wish to lose our grit bins.

7. Parish Assets

A quotation has been received from Max Bayles Ltd for removing the split trunk on the Red Oak tree on the green and major dead wood from the Oak tree on the approach road of £100.00 +VAT. In view of the urgent nature of the work (the split branch being above the highway) and the low cost it was proposed by Cllr. Tope and seconded by Cllr. Eveleigh that the Council accept this quote without seeking others. This was passed unanimously and the Clerk instructed to write to Max Bayles Ltd and ask that they proceed ASAP.

The grass has not been cut to date this year on Mellowmead. Brian Warne spoke to Cllr. Rogers and told him that "he had not been asked". There is a sum of £40-00 in the budget for this work and the Clerk will write to Mr. Warne asking him to cut the grass at his convenience. In previous years no charge has been made as Mr. Warne has taken the hay from the field but this year the cut will be too late. The Clerk was instructed to add an instruction to Mr. Warne to cut the field next year at his convenience but not before July to preserve the orchids and other wild flowers.

A parishioner has advised Cllr. Rogers that the Mellowmead roadside hedge needs cutting, in particular a willow has partially fallen and is overhanging the verge. Cllr. Rogers will inspect.

Cllr. Pascoe raised the issue of tighter mowing of an area adjacent to the tennis court for children to play on which was agreed to last year but has not happened. The Council's contractor cannot cut it with a lawn tractor due to the rough nature of the grass and a swipe will not produce the desired, playing surface. The Council agreed that volunteers should be allowed to cut this grass area at their convenience but only after contacting the Clerk/Chairman who will give them authority to do so with a short method of work and risk assessment so that they are covered by the Council's insurers. A piece on this will be included in the next Messenger.

Upper Bus Shelter – Cllrs. Eveleigh and Tope have agreed to replace the rotten timbers on 8th/9th October. Cllr. Drysdale will ask if DNP can provide the materials.

The Draft Tree Risk Management Policy presented to the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr. Rogers, seconded by Cllr. Eveleigh and adopted by unanimous vote. Cllrs. Rogers and Tope will carry out the first inspections ASAP.

8. Orders for Payment:

A receipt was presented by Cllr. Rogers for £19-99 inc VAT for preservative for

application to the playground equipment. Cllr. Everitt-White proposed that a cheque be raised and signed for this amount payable to Cllr. Rogers. This was seconded by Cllr. Eveleigh and passed unanimously.

9. Correspondence

The Council agreed to ask to be removed from the mailing list of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project as this project is not relevant to the Parish Council.

The Members agreed not to respond to the TDC "Active Leisure Strategy Consultation" in an attempt to reduce at least some of the expense relating to this facile exercise.

A letter dated 30th August 2011 from the TDC Deputy Returning Officer giving a response to the Council's enquiry concerning the make-up of the charges for this year's uncontested election was received and noted without enthusiasm.

Members agreed not to put forward any projects for the Village SOS project, details of which had been received from Teign CVS.

It was agreed not to make any contribution in response to an appeal from Teignbridge CAB.

The Council adopted Cllr. Roger's proposed response to the DNP Development Plan and the Clerk will endeavour to send this to them.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr. Rogers passed on a request that notices in the Parish Notice Boards are positioned centrally in future for ease of viewing.

After the next full Council meeting a sub-committee will meet in the Kestor to amend the distribution rounds for the Messenger.

Next Meeting: Monday 10th October at 7.30 in the Parish Hall