MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MANATON PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30 PM AT MANATON PARISH HALL ON Monday 13th February 2023

Present: Cllrs: W Boughey *Chairman* N Beyts, B Warne, S Mount
In attendance: M Wylie (Clerk) C Cllr George Gribble and D Cllr Jeffery

AGENDA ITEM	Action
ITEM 1- To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies received from Cllr Keene, accepted.	
ITEM 2 – To receive declarations of interest None.	
ITEM 3 – Public Participation None present.	
ITEM 4 – Reports from County and District Councillors 3.1 C Cllr Gribble reported that DCC are very short of money due to lack of government funding. The budget for the forthcoming year had been the subject of much discussion and would be presented to the full council on Thursday next. The winter had caused more problems with the condition of the road network following decades of underinvestment. Since April 2022 over 27,000 reports of potholes had been assessed, over 10,000 in January alone. The contractor is trying to catch up with the backlog and has increased resources, including weekend working and over 40 gangs operating across the county, the focus being on the safety of the travelling public. The number of potholes awaiting repair had been reduced from about 3,000 to about 2,000. 3.2 D Cllr Jeffery reported that new powers to charge double council tax on second homes are not expected to be available until 2024 at earliest. TDC analysis indicates that there are about 1240 properties furnished but not used as a sole or main residence and that doubling council tax on these properties could generate an additional £2.4 million revenue. TDC had also provisionally agreed to adopt another new power to charge double council tax on properties left empty for 12 months or more. A trial using drones for planning applications is being investigated.	
ITEM 5 – Minutes The minutes of the meeting on January 9th were approved and signed by the chairman.	
ITEM 6 - Matters Arising The chairman asked the clerk for an update on digital banking. The clerk reported that she had found that she had a card reader for the account, but this did not work. The bank had told her to order a new one online, but she was unable to do this as she did not have a password for the account. She will be visiting the bank and will take this up with them to find a way forward.	**Clerk**
ITEM 7 – Finance & Clerk's report 7.1 The Clerk presented the payments due being the Clerk's salary. Approved. 7.2 The Clerk presented the accounts to the end of January and also the budget turnout to date, both were approved by the council. The Clerk presented the 2023-24 budget and precept claimed and both were approved.	
ITEM 8 – Planning **Cllr Beyts reported as follows:** 8.1 Manaton Gate: an application was to be submitted for a new gate within the Grade 11 listed arch leading to the Green 8.2 Pony Sanctuary: he had contacted the chief executive to try to resolve the delay, but to date had received only holding responses 8.3 Barracott: a listed building application had been received to replace a corrugated iron roof with tiles – the Council had no objections 8.4 Sandy Meadow: no decision yet on amended application 8.5 Brian Beasley of DNPA had written to advise that the Church wished to carry out work to a tree not protected by a TPO. The Council did not know which tree was referred to, but had no objection to the proposal. 8.6 Recent emails about the Housing Supplementary Planning Document ("SPD") were noted, the deadline for comments being 27 March with a zoom consultation on 23 February. Cllr Beyts had looked at the document and advised that further response from the Council was not required, as most of what was in it had been covered by the recent Manaton Housing Needs survey. The housing officer Mary Ridgeway might be invited to the APM as a speaker.	
ITEM 9 – Highways Cllr Mount reported that: 9.1 Further potholes had been reported and some had been filled in, apparently on a random basis. She had also reported the second lake that had appeared in the road near Ford Farm and Torhill Farm - however both lakes had now gone. 9.2 20's Plenty signs had yet to be put up and exact locations to be decided. 9.3 Neighbourhood Watch: the Manaton/Water web group had now been established – anyone can join this online to receive notifications 9.4 Manaton Muckers had cleared rubbish from the lanes. The clerk to write to Robin Moore to thank him for organising this.	**SM** **Clerk**
ITEM 10 – Parish Assets	

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10.1 North: Cllr Keene was away, however the clerk had inspected the playground and reported that the wooden steps to the slide needed to be secured – the chairman to try to arrange repair. Rubber on one of the swings needed replacing. 10.2 South: Cllr Warne reported that the trees at Mellowmead needing work remained to be dealt with. He had been in contact with the contractor for the boardwalk bridge to ensure that VAT on materials would be reclaimable.	**WB/CK**
ITEM 11 – Games Court Nothing to report.	
ITEM 12 – Parish Hall Committee Nothing to report.	
ITEM 13 - Parish Elections 13.1 The election paperwork will be published very soon. All councillors will have to apply, but if there should be no more than seven candidates, they will be deemed to be elected and no co-option will apply. The clerk to download the notices and display around the village.	
ITEM 14 - Coronation There will be a cricket match on the Sunday with a cream tea. Ben Baily is organising this. The Kestor is happy to lay on a party on the Saturday evening. The person approached to supply mugs is unable to help and it was agreed to order mugs from the company which supplied the mugs for the Jubilee, sufficient that children of the village (thought to be about 20) could be given free mugs. The Clerk to check what the minimum order would be. Cllr Mount to circulate the parish hall and council mailing lists to see if anyone is interested in organising any further event. The clerk to ascertain when North Bovey are anticipating lighting their beacon.	**Clerk/SM**
ITEM 15 – Annual Parish Meeting The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 22 May with the annual meeting of the parish council on Wednesday 10th May. Possible speakers for the APM were discussed – the Clerk to contact these.	**Clerk**
ITEM 16 - Correspondence received. None	
Item 17- Matters for information It was reported that fibre optic cable has been laid past Beckaford and into the village, attached to the existing poles	
ITEM 18 – Date of next meeting March 6th. April meeting: Wednesday 12 April.	
ITEM 19 - AOB None	
ITEM 20 - Matters for future consideration Grass cutting tenders, Coronation plans, election arrangements.	

Close of meeting: 8.50 pm

These minutes remain in draft form until they are approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman below.

Approved by Manaton Parish Council and signed by the

Chairman……..