MANATON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2016

Apologies for absence received County Cllr Gribble, District Cllr Jeffrey and Cllr Richards

New Councillor The Chairman welcomed William Boughey to the Council

Election to the Council The Chairman introduced Nick Beyts and it was resolved to co-opt him onto the Council.

Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest by Councillors regarding the business of the meeting.

Members of the Public There were no members of the public present.

Approval of Minutes The minutes for 14th December and the 18th January had been circulated and it was resolved to approve them.

Allocation of responsibilities It was resolved that William Boughey take on the Games court, Sally Ann Kirkup – Highways and Nick Beyts – Planning.

Reports from District and County Councillors None present.

Planning Erection of a Cattle shed at Wingstone Farm Ref 0048/16. It was resolved that the council had no comments to make. The clerk to respond to DNP.

Finance and Clerks Report The Clerk reported there were no payments due this month. DALC have confirmed and forwarded the sum of £486.65 (net) to purchase a laptop computer and peripherals for the Clerk to adhere to the transparency code. The Chair approved the purchase. Action: The Clerk and Cllr Drysdale to review the funding submission and arrange purchase. It was resolved that in future bank reconciliations would be carried out on a quarterly basis the next being April 2016. The Chairman requested that the Clerk looked into having view only internet access of the bank account to be able to report on an up to date position of finances in future. It was resolved that Cllr Kirkup would be an additional signatory of the bank account and the Clerk passed the bank form to her to take this forward.

Highways Mike Eveleigh had asked Leon May to look into the state of the trees and the telephone lines along the road adjacent to the Mellowmead land. However, Leon May was not able to carry out the work that would be needed and had suggested Max Bayles. Cllr Butcher had met with Max Bayles who advised that some of the trees needed limbing and that they would be able to carry out most of the work in one day with a team of two men, provided a volunteer could assist with traffic control. The cost of a two-man team for one day would be £480 plus vat. There was more of a problem closer to the entrance to the Mellowmead land where a tree had brought down the telephone cable. Cllr Butcher said that he wasn't entirely clear whose responsibility it would be to deal with all of this. It seemed likely that BT would be responsible for dealing with the trees that had caused or were causing immediate problems to the telephone cable that was serving various properties in the parish, but that the Council would be responsible for trimming trees that might cause problems in the future or were at risk of

falling on the road. Max Bayles thought that there was currently no risk of the latter. Cllr Butcher suggested that a letter from the Clerk to BT to express the Council's concerns would be best in the first place with a view to Cllr Butcher meeting BT on site. However, it was understood that the BT office in Exeter was very helpful and it was agreed that the Clerk would call into the BT office on her next weekly visit to Exeter. If the Council was responsible for any of the work, a second estimate should be obtained. In that connection Cllr Beyts suggested that we should ask a contact of his for an estimate.

Playground Cllr Butcher explained the issues around this asset to the new councilors. He had obtained estimates for the Licence to Assign/Assignment of the Lease of £1,250 to £1,500 plus vat from one firm, a discounted estimate of £350 plus vat from the firm of which he had been a partner until his retirement, and an almost *pro bono* estimate of about £200 plus vat from Bond Dickinson. It was resolved that the Clerk request information on the subject of health and safety inspections from Teignbridge District Council.

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Mellowmead There would be a public meeting on Feb 23rd to discuss the future of the area, in particular the "bog" behind the tennis courts. The main issue being to sell and fund another project or to keep and then how to manage the area. Cllr Butcher will make a presentation at the meeting to give the council's view. The clerk to ask those attending to sign in with contact details.

Games Court The committee had had a meeting and asked if the Council was still willing to support the area. However it was agreed that Cllr's Boughey, Butcher, and Kirkup would meet with another member of MGCA to explore the options bearing in mind that lease is due to expire in 1 year and that currently there have been very few expressions of interest of people willing to take on the lease.

Hall Committee Jan Baker and Neal King are to step down at their AGM. The hall is having the heating system upgraded. A government scheme was available for WiFi in the hall.

Transparency Code Messenger and The PC continues to conform to the Transparency Code. The editor of the Messenger, John White, and Cllr Drysdale are still looking for advertisers for the Messenger. Action: Cllrs to advise of any potential advertisers and also consider who might be interested in sponsorship of an entire Messenger.

Matters for information Cllr Drysdale reported there would be a beating of the bounds of the village over the weekends of the 16/17 and 23/24th April.

Correspondence A letter had been received regarding water on the road at the junction towards the Church. Cllr Drysdale will report this to South West Water.

Annual Parish Meeting It was decided the date would be May 9th at 7.30pm, the council to meet at 6.45 prior to the meeting. A speaker would be needed.

Matters for future agenda Queens 90th birthday and how to celebrate the event in Manaton

Next Meeting The next meeting would be on Monday 14th March at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm