

**MANEA PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Present: Councillors,** Ben Bonos (Chairman), Chris Bartram, Charlie Marks, Nick Usher, Caroline Barnes, Janet O’Keefe and Matthew Doggett.

Alan Melton Clerk/RFO.

7 members of the public

**M001/25: Election of Chairman:** Councillor Ben Bonos was elected as Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2025/2026

**M002/25: Election of Vice-Chairman:** Councillor Jan Coupland was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2025/2026

**M003/25: Resignation:** The Chairman reported the resignation of Councillor David Payne.

- The Clerk then advised members of the process in the election of a replacement member.
- The vacancy would be advertised with the next 48 hours
- If 10 members of the public call an election the bye-election would be held within 60 working days.
- If no election is called, the council would have the opportunity to seek candidate(s) for adoption.

**M004/25: Public Forum.** Sally Hookaway asked if the newly elected County Councillor was present. Mr Martin Hindry asked if he could have a commemorative coin for the historical archive. Councillor Marks agreed to send a coin to Mr Hindry. Mr Hindry also asked if the council could seek clarification as to whom was responsible for the Fitness Rush.

.

**M005/25: Apologies.** Councillor Jan Coupland

**M006/25: Code of Conduct,** Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct.

**M007/25: Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.** Councillor Chris Bartram declared a pecuniary interest in item 8, financial statements and took no part in the debate or voting.

**M008/25: Minutes,** the minutes of the meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were received and accepted, the Chairman signed the minutes.

**Actions and progress from previous minutes.**

- **Community Lake and Orchard Maintenance Proposals:** Members received a report of the work being carried out by 14 persons working party Members were told of the work details including purchase of materials. The Chairman highlighted that the working party had saved the council and the community just under £3,000 in saved labour costs.
- **Nature Recovery:** Councillor Janet O’Keefe gave a report of the work being carried out in and around the community orchard and lake. Councillor O’Keefe outlined the following:

- 2 more fruit trees had recovered
- Re-siting of the Owl Box
- Skim around trees etc
- 10-year plan in formulation
- Plans to improve areas owned by the Parish Council and other stakeholders
- Further information gathering
- Report of activities published in Manea Matters
- Report from Clerk regarding the procurement of small working tool

**M009/25: Planning Applications:** There were no planning applications for consideration

**M010/25/: Police Report.** The Chairman reported on Police matters, he reported that there would no longer be police Forums, but local PCs would periodically attend Parish Council Meetings

**M011/25: Financial matters,** The Clerk/RFO presented the financial report and payments. Members approved the accounts and authorised payments.

**M012/25: Tilley – Trust Proposals.** Following the meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, (minute M154/24) the Clerk reported that there had been a meeting of the community group who had discussed Tilley. The group formally requested that the Parish Council become custodians of Tilley, on behalf of the community. Members agreed to take forward this proposal, the Clerk stated that the community would need to be consulted. It was proposed by the Chairman that an article asking for comments be placed in “Manea Matters”. An exhibition would also be held at the forthcoming GALA. It was agreed that Councillor Marks purchase a gazebo to house Tilley at the GALA up to a limit of £500.

**M013/25: Byelaws:** Following a detailed discussion, members decided to defer any decision until a separate meeting had been held to thrash out final details.

**M014/25: Manea Fishing Group Report.** Following the presentation of the proposed rules at the meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (minute M156/24) members recognised that some of the proposed rules crossed over into the discussion regarding byelaws. Members agreed to defer this item until further discussions had taken place.

**M015/25: Biodiversity Plan.** Councillor Janet O’Keefe presented the proposals for the Biodiversity Plan. Councillor O’Keefe outlined the following proposals.

- To protect vulnerable species
- Organise a “Bio Blitz” in 2026
- Annual monitoring
- Hedgerow planting – new football pitches
- Installation of Barn Owl Boxes in the village
- Enhance ponds
- Work with farmers and landowners
- Nature trails
- School Nature Hub
- Field trips
- Annual report to Parish Council
- Engage with Cambridge PHD researcher

**M016/25: ROSPA Safety Report:** Members received the annual ROSPA safety inspection report. The report was noted, the Chairman reported that there were only minor issues to be dealt with, the ground staff were thanked for their diligent care of the equipment.

**M017/25: Planters.** Councillor Janet O’Keefe presented proposal for planters, members agreed that planters should be placed around the village and that the council should seek sponsorship to maintain the planters.

**M018/25: Application of Grant.** A grant application was received from Mr Martin Hindry for £250 to enable an “Afternoon Tea” weekly at the Village Hall.  
Members deferred a decision pending more information.

**M019/25: Reservoir.** The Clerk and Councillor Charlie Marks had recently attended an AWA liaison meeting with town and parish councils regarding the proposed reservoir near the village. The Clerk and Councillor Marks expressed dissatisfaction at the way the meetings are conducted, the consultants do not seem to understand the concerns of the communities regarding local infrastructure. It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk write to all neighbouring councils to engage with each other before the next liaison meeting to be held in October 2025.

**M020/25: Correspondence:** A letter was received from Fenland District Council regarding Golden Age Fairs.

**M021/25: The date of the next meeting would be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**

**Date.....**

