

MANNINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2015 - 2016

This is my fourth annual report and endeavours to summarise the key issues that are ongoing or have arisen during the year in order that all residents of the Parish can have a view of the work and progress.

MPC is a voluntary body and I am pleased that, in these increasingly busy times, there are always residents prepared to give up their time, be it as Councillors or helpers. Their time and effort is much appreciated and a big thank you is due to all who have helped during the year. In fact we are currently 1 councillor under our normal strength and would appreciate it if any residents interested in joining the Parish Council would let me or the Parish Clerk know.

The MPC meets every two months in the Village Hall, and all residents are welcome to attend. Meeting dates and agendas will be posted on the Notice Board outside the Village Hall in Manningford Bruce and in the Messenger.

As ever in the Manningfords, the last year has been a relatively peaceful although the subjects of flooding, highways, planning and footpaths tend to be the main areas that continue to take up most time and discussion. Issues and actions are noted in the relevant sections below.

Finance/Projects – MPC Contact – Bernard Gaskin – bernard.gaskin@btinternet.com - 01980 630917

The main expenditure during the year has been on grass and hedge cutting. This ensures the “communal” areas are well maintained and presentable. In addition the blackthorn hedge at the sides of the playing field has been replaced with beech and we are grateful to Messrs Kinderman and Baker for their support in its provision and installation. It is hoped that children will now be re-encouraged to play football without puncturing their footballs.

The website update was the other significant expenditure which included modernising the site and providing links to social media, as noted in the Website section below.

We have a current surplus and the Parish Council is currently engaged in identifying projects that could best utilise the funds to the maximum advantage. The Parish Council will ensure that the money spent is appropriate to the Village requirements and funds available.

On the project front a defibrillator was installed outside Manningford Village Hall during last year and this year has seen a second defibrillator installed adjacent to Woodborough Garden Centre.

Highways – MPC Contact David Proto – david@protostudios.co.uk - 01980 635225

Following on from the survey carried out by the village in May 2014, Wiltshire Highways have issued their official report looking at ways of restricting the ‘rat-running’ through the C52.

The survey looks at several potential schemes starting with simple advisory notices sited at both the North and South entrances, the introduction of traffic calming measures and finally road closures of selected portions of the road mainly between the railway bridge and Wilcot Road.

As these proposals each have their own merits and disadvantages RN and I have been investigating the feasibility of these options together with discussions with the local PC’s who may be affected as well as Highways. This is a complex process and it is important that it is done in an orderly fashion

taking in to account views from other potentially affected Parishes. Once we have arrived at a workable solution this will be presented to the PC for further discussion.

CSW (speed watch) is still active thanks to a few die hard volunteers and thanks must go to them and Sandi Proto (our coordinator) as it is an important process to persuade drivers to obey the speed limit through Manningford Bruce. We have now, in conjunction with 6 neighbouring Parishes, obtained a SID (speed indicator device). This will be used on a rota basis with the other Parishes and it is hoped that the final details can be agreed shortly in order for it to be put into service.

Police

We are lucky enough to live in a rural area and as such crime is normally at a low level. This year, however, has seen a serious break in locally, and it re-inforces the need to be vigilant, noting anything "unusual" in the village. Warnings about the potential risk from break-ins to cars at the various rural parking areas continue to be issued from time to time. It is important to ensure when leaving a car at these places to ensure that any valuable are left out of sight. We continue to be enrolled in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Planning – MPC Contact - Reg Sampson – regandmyffy@btinternet.com - 01672 563736

A total of 21 applications for planning and listed building consent were considered during the period, the majority being of a minor nature, mainly in the form of extensions to existing buildings and improvements to access. Of note are:

- A retrospective planning application by the owner of Aero View to construct a retaining wall along the rear boundary with Dragon Lane refused by Wiltshire Council has been over-turned on appeal.
- Approvals from Wiltshire Council: construction of a two storey extension at Malthouse Farmhouse; construction of low boundary wall at Snowdrop Cottage; construction of an agricultural building at Roma House.

PCC – MPC Contact – as Planning

The following is a summary of the Church Wardens Report for 2015. St Peter's Church Manningford continues to thrive with a smaller loyal congregation supporting the church on normal Sundays and much larger congregations at Christmas, Easter and other festivals. The Remembrance Sunday Service was very well attended as was the Pets' Service, with a good number of pets being brought along. The Carol Service was very successful and included various local artists. David Blanchard and Mark Baker were instrumental in arranging the repair of a persistent leak in the belfry. Funding was made available for the Church to be redecorated, again orchestrated by David and Mark. Church finances are generally sound partly due to generous donations by members of the Parish.

Footpaths – MPC contact – Andy Reed – andyreed2525@orange.net

Progress being made with the bridleway No 30 and it is hoped that this can be pushed forward during the coming months.

After some effort we have managed to progress issues on footpath No 5 by the old wood yard and is now regularly cut and are waiting on new signage from the Council warden

Some stiles have been repaired during the year and we are proposing to undertake a project this summer, to conduct a survey of all stiles and tracks within our boundaries to highlight any serious issues and subsequently prioritise for discussion with the Council.

Parish Steward

There has been a recent major change in the way the Parish Stewards work is undertaken. There will no longer be regular pre-planned visits and it will now be on an "as needed" basis that will be driven by issues being posted on the "My Wiltshire" area of the Wiltshire Council's website. It is important to note that this is the ONLY way for an issue to be registered.

Parish Website – MPC Contact – Phil Hossack – phil@skypower.co.uk - 01672 564438

The website has now been significantly updated and now provides useful links to social media and in particular Wiltshire Council. It continues to be updated regularly with meeting minutes and village issues such as planning applications and further useful links will be added where possible. It also contains a lot of local information including our Village Design Statement which we would encourage everyone to read as it shows how we see the village developing. We would be delighted to receive any feedback. www.themanningfords.co.uk

Village Hall/Community - MPC Contact – Sue Lymoss – suelymoss@btinternet.com 01672 564922

The village hall continues to be used to encourage villagers to get together, especially during the winter months. During the course of this last year there have been pub nights, Harvest Supper organised in conjunction with the PCC, Christmas Party with carol singing and work is now underway for the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday.

A very kind donation was given to the Village Hall by the estate of Pete Lewis, formerly of The Ivies, and the Village Hall committee would like to use these funds for projects to benefit the villagers that use the hall & surrounding area. Ideas have been requested from villagers via both The Messenger and also the village email. Once a decision has been made on where to use these funds the village will be notified.

There continues to be regular bookings from the Dog Club and also the Keep Fit class, plus children's parties etc but there are always spare dates in the diary for more bookings. For more details please contact Andrew Marshall on 01672 569077 or ajkmarshall@gmail.com

Flooding/Environment – MPC Contact – Bridget Lanyon – bridgetlanyon@gmail.com - 01672 564269

There is little to report on the environment front this year. Despite the wet winter there has fortunately been no major flooding in the Manningfords. Whilst an improvement from last year there are still some areas of potential concern.

There is still an outstanding environmental issue concerning an incidence of ragwort in a field containing cattle which we are trying to resolve.

Allotments

Only 2 allotments are currently occupied, and anyone wishing to take one on should contact the Parish Clerk: - anne.thompsonashby@btinternet.com

Richard Netherclift,

Chairman, Manningford Parish Council – richard@netherclift.com – 01672 562777