

The Preston Trust Meeting Minutes

1st February 2018

Present

Richard Coles, Richard Woolfson, Brian Waters, Tim Justham, Rae Reynolds, Wally Steele, Andy Cole, Liz Hunter, Mike Kellard.

Apologies

Robert Young, John Robinson

Review of recent events

Christmas tree, putting up and Christmas lights switch on All

Whilst putting up the Christmas Tree Richard Bowden fell from the step ladder. No real injury was sustained but this minor accident re affirms the need for insurance.

Due to previous feedback RC had purchased a bigger tree. To compensate for the size AC bought more ballast but even so, possibly due to the extremely high winds, the tree fell over several times during the time it was up.

Discussion then followed with suggestions to remedy this problem:

- plant a permanent tree - due to the size it would grow and its proximity to the flag pole, any tree would have to be cut down approximately every five years and therefore this was felt not viable
- purchase a large decorative, tub to house the tree at Christmas and other flowers the rest of the year- due to the proximity of a bush, kindly donated when villagers bought the pub, which may have needed to be removed, the difficulty of planting the tree in the tub each year, and the health & safety / maintenance of a tub this was not felt viable
- reposition the tree to either the Red Lion's back garden or the Village Green- it was agreed that where the tree is situated now it can be enjoyed by everyone and on the whole safer than on the Green (where this is no power for the lights), and so this was not felt viable
- decorate existing trees with fairy lights - due to the symbolism of the Christmas and the annual lighting and combined carol service this was not felt viable
- purchase a different type of tree, one that would be lighter and possibly easier to tether- this would need further investigation next year

RC explained that he usually purchases the tree in October. RR mentioned that Wymondley nursing home (which sells Christmas trees) has been known to have an agreement where a choir will have a Christmas performance for residents in exchange for a tree. It was agreed not to explore this.

The Christmas Light switch on/Carol Concert was well attended and enjoyed by all. No issues or comments raised.

Action ~ Revisit and agree upon suggestions regarding a Christmas tree at the September meeting, in time for its purchase in October. - All

CPRE membership RC

The Preston Trust is now a member of CPRE. RC has been sent a welcome pack and there will be a monthly newsletter. MK suggested the newsletter could be included on the Preston Village website, along with a link to CPRE. This was agreed as a good idea

Action ~ Include CPRE newsletter and link to website - webmasters

Finance Update RY

In RY's absence RC reported that there is approximately £5,000 in the account to finance projects. Projects will be discussed at the next meeting.

Website – WS

WS explained that he and TJ have put the new website live. It includes:

- information about the parish
- information from and about each of the key organisations in the parish. Representatives of some the organisations will maintain their sections. As they make posts the website will update automatically
 - The Parish Council = Lisa Lethane.
 - St.Martin's Church committee = Richard Gill.
- links to both internal and external organisations/groups/societies.
- a calendar of parish events
- puzzle pages

MK asked if there would a possibility of something like a 'letter to the editor' for parishioners to share items of interest with each other. It is and the consensus is that this is a nice idea but would have to be monitored and sub edited well. RC and WS pointed out that the website is for the benefit of parishioners and mustn't become a tourist guide.

AC asked about whether the website could take other people's photos. Wal replied definitely and that all parishioners are encouraged to do so, as long as the PT has permission to reproduce them.

RC asked if the website could be set up so that if an external link was accessed it would open automatically in a new tab. WS's answer was affirmative.

WS explained that emails links will be replaced by contact forms PNS

RC thanked TJ and WS for their hard work in the production of the new site and presented them wine and chocolates in appreciation.

Actions

make external links open in new tabs and investigate if there is a default setting for this in WordPress - WS, TJ

add link to SG4 website RC to supply details, WS, TJ to implement

Village Hall Accessibility RC

RC reported that he was meant to have contacted someone on the Village Hall committee to discuss accessibility at the Village Hall. At present it has been difficult to ascertain exactly who needs to be contacted. RR stated that she had spoken to someone on the Parish Council and the PC are aware of the problem. After discussion it was agreed that this is not really a PT concern and that RC will contact Lisa Lethane and ask the PC to look into the subject further.

Action~ contact Lisa Lethane - RC

Update on Neighbourhood Plan responses LH/RR/WS

After a healthy discussion on how individuals felt about the draft NP it was agreed that each person should read and respond to the plan. As was stated, if parishioners don't help themselves who else can they expect to it.

The PT committee will also respond as a consultee. The response will consist of points made by Mk (not copied here as they can be added to the records once the letter is written) and written by RC showing support for the plan now and possibly additional support needed in the future.

Action ~ completion of NP Consultation - individuals

completion of consultee letter - RC/MK

March litter pick up All

RC congratulated LH on the organisation of the last litter pick up, which everyone else seconded.

It was agreed that as well as the general pick up areas, a team will concentrate on the wooded area in Back Lane owned by Pilkingtons. Discussion then followed on the fact that we will trespassing if Pilkington's aren't contacted and how to dispose of the rubbish:

- individuals take rubbish to the tip
- hire a man and a van - due to regulations, a van would have to have a licence to use the tip
- hire a skip
- ask Pilkington's
- ask Veolia waste services

Saturday the 17th of March and Saturday the 10th of March were put forward as dates for the litter pick up. Since the meeting but before the minutes were sent the date of Saturday 17th of March has been confirmed.

Actions- Mobilise volunteers - LH

Contact Pilkington's- BW

Contact Veolia and explore other options - RR

Village Day 2018 All

Although it was agreed that this should be discussed more fully at the next meeting, the decision has been made that there will not be a July Village Day. This is mainly because there was a noticeable drop in attendance by villagers last year, and the same pattern was seen with entries into the Scarecrow competition the previous couple of years. There is an idea of a September event, maybe a Harvest Festival / Barn Dance. Starting in the afternoon with themed games / attractions and leading into a Barn Dance. This way children and adults will be included.

Action ~ consider if the Village Day should be postponed completely until next year or have an event later on in the year, eg. September. If September think of suggestions of type of event, attractions etc... All

Vicar's Grove – BW/RC

After discussion of the problems at Vicar's Grove RC asked the question "whether the PT can add value or not in getting involved as the PC is already dealing with the situation?" It was agreed not, but to watch the situation.

Next meetings All

Thursday 22nd March 2018/20 00/ at Mike Kellard's

AOB

RR apologised as she has not completed the checking with the Charities Commission - will report back at March meeting

Richard Coles and Robert Young will both be stepping down from the Preston Trust committee at the AGM, though will still be available to give help and guidance. This will mean there will be no 'officers' on the committee. Ideally the chairman should be from the existing members. Although this was discussed no decision on who would like to stand was made. It was agreed that everyone would think about it before the next meeting.

RC will draft a letter to go out on the PNS (RR offered the services of herself and WS in hand delivering flyers to every household as well) explaining the situation and asking for volunteers to join the committee and that the roles of secretary and treasurer need to be filled.

Everyone said that it was a shame but fully understood. RC commented that he had said a few years ago that 'officers' should maybe only stand for 2 years and then the role go to someone else. It was agreed this was a good idea and would be revisited at a later date.