

# The Preston Trust Meeting Minutes

## 6 September 2018

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### Present

Andy Cole, Liz Hunter, Tim Justham, Richard Woolfson, Wally Steele.

### Apologies

Mike Kellard, Rae Reynolds.

### Minutes of previous meeting agreed

Signed off by WS.

### Finance Update

Balance £7,948, after planned expenses and holding a cash buffer of £2,500 leaves £5000 available for projects etc.

Still chasing Barclays regarding change of mandate

### Roles

**Recruiting a Secretary** - Agreed for now to return to networking rather than advertising.

**Officers Roles** – Agreed to adopt the roles as drafted by RR and allow them to evolve them if needed.

### Membership Renewals

Action WS to pass on 4 subscriptions and forms received at his.

Noted that some past members may think they have a recurring bank transfer. Not sure at this time how to approach checking if they still wish to subscribe.

Agreed in principle we need to find some benefits that are either exclusive to or discounted for current members (subscribers).

### Website

No new initiatives started on Keeping it Current, e.g: Home Page Notices, Calendar, Articles & Puzzles.

Agreed to implement a personal trader recommendation scheme – probably on the useful links page.

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- Secure the preservation and protection of features of historic or public interest, including the village's history.
- Promote high standards of planning and architecture.
- Support financially and promote any purpose for the benefit of villagers and in particular, its children and senior citizens.

## Events

### September ~ LADACAN Autumn Talk

- Agreed to purchase a data projector and screen for this presentation, future presentation film shows etc. WS to source and reclaim cost through expenses.
- AC to arrange wine, soft drinks and glasses
- LH to arrange nibbles

### 'Walks and Talks'

- First two well received. A large number of last minute apologies for visit to Tudor House but a very interesting tour conducted by Colin Heathcote.
- Third and final walk currently fully subscribed.

### October ~ County at War Showing

The Lord Lieutenant has indicated he would be interested in introducing the film for a joint showing with PHC. Action RW to draft an e-mail for WS to then send to PHC Head (or other contact) proposing a joint showing.

### Autumn Litter Pick

- 20 or 27 October
- LH to check dates and organise
- RR to then book litter collection equipment and litter pick up with NHDC.

### Christmas Tree Event

- AC to check invoice for last year's tree for the height of the tree. Agreed to order a shorter tree this year.
- WS / RR to order tree
- Agreed put tree up first Saturday with switch on and carols first Sunday in Dec.
- WS Invite the choir  
MK has the lights and dec;s
- The Red Lion organise the mince pies and wine
- Agreed to ask the Primary School about a competition for who will switch on the lights – WS to contact the Head

### 2019 – Pop Up Barn Dance Capability

- Agreed the concept of a pop up barn dance with live caller and recorded music on the village green. This would be a free event with fund raising or paid attractions.
- Possible insurance concern regarding risk from electrical cabling.

## CPRE AGM – Tuesday 4 Sept

LH attended – See Attached Report by LH

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## Requests for Finance

- Book Swap Shelf for Pub – not heard anything from Pub re costs or timescales
- Payment made to Village Voices for new (second hand) keyboard

## GDPR

- Trust Data Protection Policies - Trust Data Audit – No Activity

## Projects

- No activity since last meeting and non planned before next meeting.

## AOB -All

None

## Next meeting

Late November proposed, date to be arranged via e-mail

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## The Herts CPRE: AGM

### in the Adam Room of Hitchin Priory, 4.09.18, 7pm – 8pm

See [www.cpreherts.org.uk](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk) for a full Report on the AGM. Brief précis follows:-

1. Report of the new Hon. Chairman, Richard Bullen:
  - a. Excellent work by the Branch Team, but a need to extend knowledge of CPRE's work; seeking a volunteer/an employee to organize a 'social media presence' for the branch. Outreach work includes the annual 'Rural Living' awards scheme, the Children's Art Competition for primary schools, Elizabeth Hamilton's regular articles in The Hertfordshire Life magazine, and numerous talks by Committee members.
  - b. Magnificent legacy of c. 250K from the Estate of Malcolm Howe will enable some funds to be spent on the elderly and damp 'unfit for purpose' office premises of the branch at 31a Church Street, Welwyn: maintenance and restoration plans already in hand.
2. Report of the Hon. Director, Kevin Fitzgerald:
  - a. The 10 District Plans in the county together propose the building of 100,000 houses, by 2031, 73,000 of them on the Green Belt land. (Much of this county is designated Green Belt land). Herts CPRE does not want the county to lose its distinctive landscapes and become merely a Metroland suburb of London, in the next 13 years. HMG says it is committed to the Green Belt, but is asking local authorities to build more houses on Green Belt land, eg. Welwyn Hatfield District. The local authorities, via 'Local Enterprise Partnerships', are promoting economic growth in the county.
  - b. Despite best efforts by CPRE and local groups, the proposed 'Harlow and Gilston Garden Town' will go ahead, absorbing Gilston, Eastwick and Hunsdon.
  - c. The NPPF is being revised – the Team has commented on this.
  - d. The Team is doing its best, but is limited in what it can achieve: Steve Baker, Planning Manager and 3 qualified planners deal with all the planning applications in the county, and select what needs CPRE's attention. Need to galvanise more residents to become CPRE members, and/or to take local action, and particularly to put pressure on the local councils and local MPs. The Herts. branch is among the busiest in the country, because the development pressures are so great.  
Not all is 'doom and gloom' – sometimes 'plans' do not happen! The branch is 90 years old, it is a knowledgeable and trusted organization, it has c. 1200 members, a huge team of volunteers, and it has c. 329K of total net assets.
3. Report of the new Hon Treasurer, John Newbury: 2017 Expenses c.52K, Income 104K including c. 70K Donations and c.25K Subscriptions. Vigilance on costs required, as usual.
4. The President, Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, the 3 officers: Hon. Chairman, Hon. Director and Hon. Treasurer, and the 4 existing volunteer members of the Executive, all re-elected. Wagstaffs re-appointed as auditors.
5. AOB: John Spiers asked for a new National Body to protect all Green Belts, everywhere. John Davis commended the Team on 'an excellent response' to the recent consultation on the future of Luton Airport, and advised continued collaboration with 'allies' on all issues.
6. Slices of a large 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake were distributed and consumed, with pleasure!  
LH/2018.

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