

Preston Trust

Minutes of Meeting held 26th March 2019 At Rosebank

Present: Wally Steele (Chair), Tim Justham (Vice Chair), Andy Cole (Treasurer), Jo Coombes, Adrian Hardy, Elizabeth Hunter, Mike Kellard, Rae Reynolds, Richard Woolfson & Caroline Walford.

1	Welcome & Introduction	Action by:
	There were no apologies.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting	
	The Minutes of the last meeting (January 2019) were signed by the Chairman as a true record.	
3	Matters arising	
3.1	The meeting was informed that the 5 remaining books had been sold, with 1 being kept back for the Swiss enquiry which had not progressed further at this stage.	LH/WS
3.2	It was re-confirmed by a majority vote that PT would not be contributing to the church's recent additional appeal to now install central heating to replace the night storage heaters. It was also agreed to close this matter.	
3.3	WS reported that having looked at the Christmas tree cable issues again, he was able to make an ultra low voltage extension cable to cross the grass which would not impact on any visitors crossing it. The meeting agreed to go ahead with this proposal.	WS
3.4	MK confirmed the dead tree had been removed at his cost (it being treated as a charitable donation) by Louis Harrington-Smith, and that following a conversation between himself & the Chairman, it was thought in hindsight that the proposed funding of a new tree could be better spent, particularly as a year of watering the tree raised further issues and responsibilities that were not easily addressed. The meeting concurred with the sentiments and it was agreed not to go ahead with the tree replacement.	
3.5	WS informed the meeting that the new Head Mistress had replied to his letter and was very keen for the Primary School to participate in village matters, e.g. the Maypole dancing at Village Day. WS and RR would be meeting the new Head to discuss other possible ideas.	WS/RR
3.6	WS informed the meeting that following further thoughts the Trader recommendation idea would be a note that there are sites specifically for this, with an example. The example being a link through to Which? Trusted Traders who have teamed up with Hertfordshire Trading Standards. This is instead of the Trust getting involved in recommendations itself via its website which could leave it liable. The Meeting was happy to accept his proposal as drafted for the website & presented to the meeting.	WS

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3.7	<p>AC updated the meeting on feedback from the Wine Challenge which had overall been a successful evening with good attendance from a cross range of the village. He acknowledged that as this was a first event of its type there were items to be learnt too for any future similar events. There had been a request for other nibbles, not just cheese. The guest Wine Master, Sebastian, had also suggested that the expensive wine could have been decanted due to sediment. Sebastian had sent a personal thank you via MK which was read to the meeting. AC gave a breakdown of ticket sales & costs, which showed that there were nearly as many non PT members attending as PT members. He hoped that the event would generate further membership as a consequence. Overall there was a predicted loss of just over £100 with some minor adjustments.</p> <p>It was agreed to pay £20 for the village hall as we had been there nearly four hours, rather than the three originally envisaged.</p> <p>It was further agreed to upload onto the PT website the wines that had been used during the evening so participants could use the information if wanted. The meeting thanked AC for the large amount of work he had put into this successful event.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>AC/WS</p>
4	Committee Member updates	
4.1	Finance update	
	AC presented the meeting with a financial update showing a current balance of £7058.14.	
4.2	Christmas cards	
	This item would be carried forward to the June/July meeting.	CW
4.3	Pop Up Barn Dance	
	WS confirmed that the proposed Caller, Bill was not available for Village Day so this idea would need to be shelved for the event, but that he would however look at further potential dates with him.	WS
4.4	Litterpick	
	<p>LH confirmed that this had been a successful event with some 30 attendees and all village areas had been covered. NHDC had collected the collated rubbish from WS's house as pre-arranged.</p> <p>The Sootfield 'mound' (builders' rubble) was discussed & RR confirmed that NHDC were going to provide a quote for clearance of this as it needed a grabber. It was agreed that the quote should go to the Preston Parish Council for action as their responsibility, but that if they needed financial assistance then the Trust would consider the matter further.</p>	RR

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5	Village Day	
	<p>It was agreed that the date for this event was the 6th July. Following discussion, it was further agreed that a sub-committee would organise & plan this event since AC had so kindly put in many hours recently for the Wine Challenge.</p> <p>AC was asked to contact Avis to judge the dog show & Julian for the vintage cars. He was also asked to provide a list of prior Scarecrow participants so that they could be contacted for this year's event.</p> <p>The Maypole dancing would be followed up by WS & RR.</p> <p>It was agreed to send out a request for Stall holders via PT news and the Preston newsletter.</p> <p>Both AC & JC confirmed they would assist with the BBQ.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AC AC</p> <p>WS/RR WS</p>
6	Preston Trust Policy Matters	
6.1	It was agreed that WS would propose to the Committee by email any amendments to the Constitution so that these could be ratified at the AGM.	WS/CW
6.2	It was agreed that the date of the AGM would be Sunday 19 th May at 11.30am in the Village Hall. This needed to be communicated to the village.	WS/RR
6.3	It was agreed that any PT matters that needed to be communicated to the village should also go in the Preston newsletter for full village coverage.	All
6.4	It was agreed to collate a contact directory for the Committee. The meeting was asked to forward any contact details to RW who would put this together on a spreadsheet for circulation.	All
6.5	<p>WS confirmed he had done a draft on a financial support objective but that it needed more work. This would act as a background piece of information if needed.</p> <p>It was felt that any financial support suggestion should come with a firm proposal so that a proper discussion could take place. WS raised the option that a charity can provide a loan as a form of financial assistance. It was noted that there has been a case of prior support where an unused portion of a hardship fund was returned to the Trust. By a majority, the recent suggestion (by a third party) of assisting a Parishoner on the basis of the information supplied was turned down by the Committee on the basis of the information received.</p>	<p>WS</p> <p>WS</p> <p>AC</p>
7	Preston Trust new event ideas	
7.1	Following discussion it was agreed to look at an Easter Egg Hunt but that this needed some research via Sara Gill, the School, Nursery, Church & Red Lion to see if there was any overlap prior to proceeding with this idea.	RR
7.2	<p>The walks/talks last year proved very popular, and MK agreed to look at doing a Vernacular Architectural talk in the Winter.</p> <p>It was suggested that we do a Boundary Walk, but split over perhaps 3 different days as this was a large amount to cover in one day. Possibly September time.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>LH</p>
7.3	<p>A suggestion of films in the church would be explored with a church already operating this facility.</p> <p>The County at War film had been well received, and it was agreed to possibly show this again, but to also explore other archival film material via Hitchin Historical Society etc.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>LH</p>

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8	Working with Parish Council	
8.1	It was suggested that the PT could contribute & organise the planting of more spring bulbs. CW agreed to look at purchase costs.	CW
8.2	It was suggested that the PT could be involved with re-seeding the Village Green which currently was in a poor state. This would be discussed with the Parish Council first.	WS/MK
8.3	Following discussion of helping with the maintenance cost of the Community Orchard it was thought that this cost should remain with the Parish Council and that PT should not be involved.	
9	Any other Business	
9.1	WS reported that a LADACAN on-line survey needed completing and it was agreed that he and JT would do this 30 th March time permitting.	WS/TJ
9.2	It was requested that the PT membership list be passed to the Membership Secretary.	AC
9.3	It was agreed that the Village Day Sub-Committee meeting would take place at Rose Cottage on the 8 th April at 7.30pm.	All
9.4	The next PT meeting would take place on 17 th June at 7.30pm, location to be agreed.	All
	The meeting closed at 22.11.	

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