

# PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8 pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	Mr M Burleigh Mrs J Clark Mr J Healey (Chairman) Miss A Marshall Mrs S Palmer Mrs P Stark Mrs M Trinder
<b>In Attendance</b>		Mrs L Lathane (Clerk & Treasurer)

### 1) Apologies

None

### 2) Declaration of Interests

Councillor Clark declared at interest in item 8.3.

### 3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 4) Matters Arising

**4.1: Parking notice:** Councillor Trinder reported that Alison Jeffers will discuss this with the Red Lion Board of Directors and get back to the Parish Council.

**4.2: Village Tree Assessment:** The quote from Louis Harrington Smith is for £650 and £40 for a large scale OS map. The Parish Council agreed to accept this quote. It was noted that it was about the same price as the previous quote from Maydencroft five years ago. Councillor Trinder will inform Louis Harrington Smith of this decision.

**4.3: Fruit trees in Church Meadow:** The Parish Council agreed to accept the quote of £370.00 for the work to prune, de-sucker, check guards, replace rotten stakes, slacken and replace tree ties and blocks where appropriate to all fruit trees and remove waste. Councillor Trinder will inform Ramerick Nurseries of this decision.

**4.4: Air Ambulance Donation:** The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council **has** received a thank you letter from Air Ambulance for their £100 donation for the litter pick.

**4.5: Hedges at PHC:** The Clerk informed the Councillors that she has received a letter from PHC acknowledging our request to cut back the hedges along School Lane. Their maintenance team will deal with it as they see necessary.

**4.6: E.on Bills:** The Clerk confirmed that E.on bills are now coming monthly for the Pavilion, at our request. She will also look into whether we are on the most economical tariff.

**4.7: Funding for goal posts:** The Clerk told the meeting that Councillor Barnard agreed in theory that he could help with costs for goal posts for the Recreation Ground. However he suggested that match funding may be appropriate. Following discussion regarding metal and wooden posts, it was decided that the area under consideration was not suitable for football and no further action would be taken.

**4.8: Pond Maintenance:** Councillor Clark informed the meeting that she has a quote of £400 from Max Boreham to carry out the maintenance of the pond. He had also stated that the Rosebay Willow Herb is impossible to get rid of entirely, but he can cut it back at the front so that the pond is more visible. It is also the only food source for the Hawk Moth, so important to keep some. It was agreed to go ahead with the work, and Councillor Clark will book this in with Max.

**Action: Councillor Trinder to accept the quote from Louis Harrington-Smith for the Tree Assessment.**

**Action: Councillor Trinder to accept the quote from Ramerick Nurseries for the work to the fruit trees.**

**Action: The Clerk to check we are on the most economical tariff with E.on for the Pavilion.**

**Action: Councillor Clark to organise the pond maintenance with Max Boreham.**

## **5) Comments from the Public**

None

## **6) Police Update:**

None

## **7) County and District Update:**

None.

## **8) Planning Applications**

**8.1: PHC Sports Pitches:** This application has been withdrawn since the last meeting.

**8.2: 3 Crunnells Green:** This application has been withdrawn since the last meeting.

**8.3: Castle Farm:** The Clerk has submitted a letter of support for this application on behalf of the Parish Council.

**8.4: Casa:** The Clerk has submitted a letter of support for this application on behalf of the Parish Council. In response to the submission of the letter she received an email from the Planning Officer stating that Parish Councils cannot request that conditions are placed on planning consents. We can however request that they are included as informatives should planning consent be granted.

**8.5: Joyners Cottage:** Councillor Trinder informed the Parish Council that the owner of Joyners Cottage had been granted a Lawful Development Certificate to allow a limited number of visitors to visit the existing studio on an appointment basis, to buy work and to hold an Open Studio event on a maximum of five days 5 days per year.

**8.6: Land off Castlefield:** Councillor Trinder reported that NHDC Cabinet had resolved that the land off Templars Lane, approximately 2.5 acres, should be declared surplus to the District Council's requirements and placed on the open market for sale on a subject to planning basis for residential development. The reason for this decision is to help fund the District Council's capital programme. Marketing the land on the open market will maximise interest from developers and satisfy the requirements to obtain the best price reasonably obtainable for NHDC. Councillor Trinder explained that NHDC had followed all the required legal processes and undertaken the necessary consultations before reaching this decision.

Following the announcement of this decision, Councillor Trinder spoke to the Planning Consultant dealing with it and informed the Parish Council that the land will be advertised in the Estates Gazette, which is a trade publication, as soon as NHDC have appointed agents. This is likely to be at about the end of February. Normal sales procedure will be followed to get the best deal and the one which seems likely to be successful. They hope to have agreed a price with a developer in late Spring. Once the price is agreed, contracts are exchanged subject to planning permission. A planning application will come to the Parish Council in the usual way, possibly this Autumn. The Planning Application has to conform to the policies of the emerging Local Plan and the Preston Neighbourhood Plan. Once planning permission has been granted, the purchase will be completed. The whole process of selling the land is expected to take about 18 months.

Councillor Trinder circulated a draft announcement informing local residents of this decision. This will be amended and agreed by Parish Councillors before being sent out on PNS and the Parish Council database and put in the next newsletter.

**Action: Councillor Trinder to circulate an amended announcement regarding the Land off Castlefield to Councillors.**

## **9) Cricket Club Representation**

**9.1: New Licence:** This is now finalised and ready to be signed by the Parish Council and the Cricket Club.

**Action: Councillor Trinder to organise the signing of the Cricket Club Licence.**

## **10) Hertfordshire Highways Update:**

Councillor Trinder reported that the work at Back Lane, Church Lane and Butchers Lane was scheduled for February half term: 17 – 22 February. However, she has also been informed that there will be a road closure on Butchers Lane for utilities work sometime on or after 24 February. She has informed her Highways contacts about this, hoping that the works can be linked if appropriate.

## **11) Parish Paths Partnership**

**11.1: Fallen Tree:** Councillor Clark told the meeting that she has dealt with the fallen tree in Wain Wood.

## **12) Local Plan**

Councillor Trinder reported that NHDC had submitted their response to the Inspector's letters of 9 July and 9 August on 29 November and the documents have been uploaded to the Examination Documents page of the North Hertfordshire website.

Once the Inspector has studied the Council's responses he will be fixing the dates for the additional hearing sessions and publishing his Matters, Issues and Questions for discussion at the hearing sessions. The Inspector is intending to publish his Matters, Issues and Questions in late January.

## **13) Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Trinder reported that NHDC Cabinet had agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan could go to referendum and this will be held on Thursday 5 March. NHDC will follow the statutory rules for elections and information will be sent to those eligible to vote in the usual way.

The Parish Council and Planning Officers now have to refer to Neighbourhood Plan policies when responding to planning applications.

The Steering Group will publicise the referendum via the newsletter, PNS, the Parish Council database, posters, and fliers. There is a hard copy of the Plan in the Red Lion and another one available for loan.

The Chairman asked if drop in sessions will be arranged. These haven't been organised but Councillor Trinder will make this suggestion to the Steering Group.

Parish Councillors and members of the Steering Group can encourage people to vote but can't lobby for them to vote in a particular way.

#### **14) Playground Inspection Reports**

- Both reports show only low or very low risk items.
- It was agreed that Councillor Burleigh will speak to Callum Blair asking him not to use trimmers around the play equipment at the Recreation Ground, to ensure that no more damage is caused.
- Councillor Clark will cut back the hedge at the Recreation Ground and install paving slabs at the bench at the Millennium Playground.
- The Chairman will organise painting the play equipment with preservative, and spraying weeds with weedkiller.

#### **15) Broadband and Phone Issues**

Councillor Trinder reported that 17 households have been in contact with problems with both landline and broadband issues. She will write to BT and Open Reach Head Offices to see if they can help to resolve the issues. The letters will include the fact that we were the first village to have fibre installed and also that the problems will be exacerbated with more properties being built.

**Action: Councillor Trinder to contact BT and Open Reach to see if they can help resolve the landline and broadband issues.**

#### **16) Chairman's Report**

None

#### **17) Clerk's Report**

None.

## 18) Treasurer's Report

### Preston Parish Council - Summary Financial Report as at 15th January 2020

#### Community Account

		£	£
Balance as at:	9th December 2019		<u>£ 3,340.14</u>

Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient		
12th December 2019	Air Ambulance Donation (litter picking)	£	100.00
12th December 2019	Preston Trust Donation (litter picking)	£	100.00
12th December 2019	St Martin's Church - grass cutting	£	450.00
17th December 2019	John Healey - expenses	£	178.84
21st December 2019	Clerk Wages	£	262.36
3rd January 2020	E.on	£	57.50
7th January 2020	NHDC - Playground Inspections	£	120.00
		<u>£</u>	<u>1,268.70</u>

Monies received:

Date	From		
		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>

Balance as at:	15th January 2020		<u>£ 2,071.44</u>
----------------	-------------------	--	-------------------

#### Business Premium Account

Balance as at:	9th December 2019		<u>£13,180.21</u>
----------------	-------------------	--	-------------------

Monies Received

Balance as at:	15th January 2020		<u>£13,180.21</u>
----------------	-------------------	--	-------------------

Total bank balances £15,251.65

#### Funds Balances

General Fund		£ 9,651.00
NHDC Grant	£400	£ 237.70
Neighbourhood Plan All	£1,000	£ 58.08
Pond Maintenance		£ 800.00
Recreation Ground Fund		£10,000.00

**18.1: Budget:** The Parish Council reviewed the budget for the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

**18.2: Precept 2020- 2021:** The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's Precept Demand for 2020-2021 has been submitted to NHDC.

**18.3: Insurance:** The Parish Council went through the items we are insured for, e.g. benches, to ensure that all items are covered. Some items will be removed as they are no longer necessary.

Councillor Trinder will amend the list of items we need to have insured, and along with the Clerk will look at getting insurance quotes.

During the above discussion it was stated that the salt bin opposite Keepers Cottage at Dead Woman's Lane is damaged, and belongs to Hertfordshire Highways. Councillor Trinder will inform her contact at Hertfordshire Highways.

**Action: Councillor Trinder and the Clerk to obtain new insurance quotes.**

**Action: Councillor Trinder to contact Hertfordshire Highways regarding the damaged salt bin.**

## **19) Any Other Business:**

### **From the Preston Trust:**

**19.1: The Green:** Councillor Trinder reported that Preston Trust has asked if the Parish Council will consider undertaking work on The Green to bring it back to a better standard. They have provided one quote but Councillor Trinder has pointed out that the Parish Council would need at least two more and has made preliminary enquiries with two other companies.

The Parish Council decided that they need time to consider this suggestion and look at The Green. Councillor Trinder will circulate the quote already received and the others as soon as they are available. The Parish Council will decide at the next meeting what action to take.

**19.2: Easter Egg Hunt:** The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday 4th April. Preston Trust would like to use the same type of bunny footprints which fade over time. This is what was done last year. The Parish Council agreed that this could be done.

**19.3: Village Day:** Preston Trust has agreed to hold a joint Bicentennial Celebration and Village Day with PHC on Saturday 27th June.

**19.4: Spindle Cottage:** Councillor Stark asked if the Parish Council could write to the residents at Spindle Cottage asking if they would refrain from parking on the area opposite and to make sure that the car is well back from the road when parking next to the cottage. This is to increase visibility for other road users and to reduce the risk of damage to their vehicles. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the residents.

**Action: Councillor Trinder to circulate the quote for the Green, and obtain 2 further quotes and circulate them when they are available.**

**Action: The Chairman to write to the residents of Spindle Cottage regarding parking.**

**20) Date and Time of next Meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 8 pm.**

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.