

Parish of Preston
PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 8 pm.**

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

The meeting was held by Zoom video conferencing.

1) Apologies

None

2) Declaration of Interests

3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed and will be signed at a later date.

4) Matters Arising

4.1: Litter Picking: In item 13.2 of the last meeting, the Parish Council agreed that it would no longer contribute £200 towards litter picking. The minutes should have made clear that this amount was donated to a variety of charities over the years and was not given as payment to the Preston residents who undertook this task.

4.2: Bench round tree on The Green: Having discussed this issue, the Chairman will talk to the owner again about what is feasible and what she would like, including a bench round a tree.

4.3: Neighbourhood Plan Books: It is expected that the books will be ready next Wednesday 20th January. The printers will then be in contact to arrange delivery.

4.4: Fruit Trees in Church Meadow: Two people were suggested. The Chairman will contact them to see if they are willing to help.

4.5: Leaf Clearing: The leaf clearing was undertaken as planned on The Green only. Next year this needs to be done earlier before the leaves get too wet and the Parish Council will consider asking volunteers to help.

Action: The Chairman to speak to the owner of the bench regarding options for a new bench.

Action: The Chairman to contact agreed residents regarding the fruit trees.

5) Comments from the public

The Chairman informed the meeting that she has been contacted by the residents of Windrush who wanted to let the Parish Council know that they are going to plant a hedge along their boundary on Church Lane.

There was some concern that visibility on the corner of Back Lane might be reduced so the Chairman will talk to the residents again to see exactly where the hedge goes.

Action: The Chairman to talk to the residents of Windrush regarding the hedge.

6) County and District Update

None

7) Planning Applications

7.1: Land to the rear of 3 Crunnells Green: The Parish Council discussed this application and decided to object because the design, style and materials for the outbuilding are not appropriate for the conservation area, it does not meet Policies QL3 and EH2 of the Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan, it is very large and will be visible from Crunnells Green and is very close to the boundaries of both Crunnells Green and Crunnells Green House. The Parish Council would consider a revised application which ensures the outbuilding is more appropriate and has less impact on the conservation area.

7.2: Land adjacent to Dungarvan: This application was withdrawn from the agenda of the Planning Control meeting on 17 December to allow further consultation and additional information to be submitted by the applicant. (See item 7.3)

7.3: Tree Preservation Order: The Chairman reported that the Woodland Trust is unable to support this application because the oak tree is not ancient or veteran. The Chairman has been provided with further information by the Planning Officer. The NHDC tree officer has looked at the tree and has decided it is worthy of a TPO, subject to it being in good health. There is evidence of decay and there is a cavity at the base of the trunk. The applicant for

the land adjacent to Dungarvan has commissioned a detailed study of the tree including its health, which has not yet been completed.

7.4: Land off Castlefield: Information from NHDC is that contract negotiations are well advanced at this point. All the gates into the field were locked on Thursday 7 January so there is no access for Preston residents. The Chairman has asked her contact at NHDC to ensure that the developer had been made aware of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman has been liaising with some of the residents of Castlefield regarding access to the field and the maintenance costs of the road. NHDC and First Garden City Homes are liaising on these issues with their respective legal teams.

The Parish Council agreed that there were no trees within the field which required TPOs but the Chairman will look into what protections are available for ancient hedges such as the one on Butchers Lane.

7.5: Barn Adjacent to Dower House: Conditional Permission has been given for both the Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent.

7.6: Dower House gates at electrical substation: These gates have got retrospective planning consent.

7.7: NATS Consultation: It was agreed that the changes in arrival routes into Luton airport will not affect Preston so the Parish Council will not submit a response.

Action: The Chairman to look into protection for ancient hedgerows.

8) Cricket Club Representation

8.1: Cricket Club Payment 2020: The payment schedule was agreed, according to the maintenance schedule. This will be sent to the Cricket Club.

8.2: Frost settings: As usual in winter, the Chairman of the Cricket Club has put four heaters on to timed switches overnight to avoid burst pipes.

8.3: 2021 Season: Councillor Burleigh informed the meeting that it was too early to know when cricket would start this year.

9) Hertfordshire Highways Update

9.1: Church Lane Closure: Church Lane was closed on the 6th January as planned. Affinity Water put up signs well in advance and notes through residents' doors.

9.2: Road Closure Permit: A permit was issued effective 13 January 2001 to close Back Lane between Keeper's Cottage and the junction with Butcher's Lane but it was closed a day early on 12 January without prior notice.

Councillor Marshall informed the meeting that the responsibility to put up signs regarding road closures is down to the contractors themselves rather than HCC. This means it doesn't always happen and causes frustration for road users. Councillor Marshall will raise this issue at the next Highways meeting.

9.3: Transport Meetings: Councillor Marshall attended virtually a North Herts Transport Forum on the 12th January. The meeting discussed local community transport options. There are a few different options for residents, which range from free of charge to a small payment. Councillor Marshall will investigate these further and then we can inform the Preston residents via our database and PNS.

There is a Highways Liaison meeting on 15 February.

Action: Councillor Marshall will investigate Community Transport options.

10) Parish Paths Partnership

10.1: Centrewire: Councillor Clark has chased Centrewire regarding delivery of the hoops for the gate at Wain Wood. She has been told that it's out with the delivery team.

10.2: QR Code: The Clerk has found a way to create a QR code to enable people to download the Tatmore Loop Walk leaflet onto their phone. She will now create it and it can go on the website and the Facebook Page, as well as the village notice board.

Action: The Clerk to create a QR code for the walk leaflet.

11) Chairman's Report

The Chairman informed the Parish Council that further hearings on the Local Plan will be taking place on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 February.

12) Clerk's Report

12.1: Hedge at Church Meadow: The hedge at Church Meadow has been cut right back, which isn't what we asked for. The waste has been left there at present. Mr Dawes has asked if they can burn it on-site as the gate is now not accessible on to the land off Castlefield. The Parish Council agreed that burning the waste in Church Meadow was not acceptable so the Clerk will ask him to remove it via the access off of Chequers Lane.

Action: The Clerk to speak to Mr Dawes regarding the hedge waste.

13) Treasurer's Report

Preston Parish Council - Summary Financial Report as at 13th January 2020			
Community Account		£	£
Balance as at:	7th December 2020		<u>£ 1,981.15</u>
Payments authorised at meeting:			
Date	Recipient		
18th December 2020	Clerk Wages	£	211.62
31st December 2020	E.on	£	29.47
		<u>£</u>	<u>241.09</u>
Monies received:			
Date	From		
		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance as at:	13th January 2021		<u>£ 1,740.06</u>
Business Premium Account			
Balance as at:	7th December 2020		<u>£ 10,229.67</u>
Monies Received			
		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance as at:	13th January 2021		<u>£ 10,229.67</u>
			Total bank balances
			£ 11,969.73

13.1. Budget 21-22: The budget has leeway of £542.04 for unexpected expenditure. The honorarium is part of the cricket club licence which is agreed until 2025.

13.2. Precept 21-22: The precept of £8300 was agreed and the Clerk will submit this to NHDC. This will be an increase of £6.04 or 19% for a Band D house.

13.3: Grant application: It was agreed that the Clerk will ask County Councillor David Barnard if it would be possible to apply for a grant to be used for the annual pond maintenance.

Action: The Clerk to submit the Precept request to NHDC.

Action: The Clerk to contact County Councillor David Barnard regarding the possibility of a grant.

14) Playground Reports

The playground reports were discussed and it was agreed that Councillor Palmer would look at the issues which were raised in Church Meadow as either low or very low risk.

Action: Councillor Palmer to look in to the issues raised at Church Meadow.

15) Parish Council Procedures

15.1: Planning Applications: It was agreed that the Parish Council would put some details in the February newsletter about planning applications so that everyone understands the system. The Chairman will circulate a draft entry.

It was also decided that when planning applications require a lot of discussion, the Clerk will request an extension to the deadline until after the next Parish Council meeting. Planning Applications which are straightforward with no issues will be agreed by email.

15.2: Parish Council Emails: Councillor Burleigh suggested, and it was agreed, that there should be a protocol for Parish Council emails and that if an email is sent to all, everyone would reply to all.

15.3: Agenda Notes: It was agreed that when face to face meetings resume, agenda notes would continue to be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Action: The Chairman to put together a draft regarding Planning Applications for the newsletter and circulate to the Councillors.

16) Corona Virus Update

There haven't been any calls to the helpline, but it will remain open especially throughout the Winter months and with cases currently high.

17) Any Other Business

17.2: Parking round The Green: It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting and that Parish Councillors would consider issues such as: what is possible, where would cars park, who would be consulted, do we need Highways consent to put up signposts in preparation for discussion. It is acknowledged that there are a lot of extra cars in the village on some summer weekends.

Action: The Clerk to put Parking round The Green on to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Parish Councillors to consider parking issues for discussion at the next meeting.

17) Date and Time of next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd March 2020 at 8 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm.