

Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 8pm.

Present	Councillors	Mr M Burleigh Mrs J Clark Mr J Healey Miss A Marshall Mrs S Palmer Mrs P Stark Mrs M Trinder (Chairman)
In Attendance		District Councillor F Frost Mrs L Lathane (Clerk and RFO) District Councillor C Strong

21.90) To receive and accept apologies for absence

None.

21.91) Declaration of Interests

Councillor Clark declared an interest in Item 21.98.1.6.

21.92) To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Urgent Items

None.

21.93) Comments from the general public and press

A resident contacted the Chairman about 5 dead trees on the Wastes of the Manor site between the pond and the Recreation Ground gate. A quote has been received from Louis Harrington-Smith of £80 to remove the trees. One tree will be left as it is a regular perch for a Little Owl.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Louis Harrington-Smith.

Action: The Chairman will accept the quote from Louis Harrington-Smith.

21.94) County and District Update

Councillor Strong addressed the meeting:

21.94.1: Police: The Hitchin Rural Priority Setting Forum (PSF) will run its consultation process again from Monday 6th December until Sunday 12th December. The results will be used to set local priorities for coming months. Details will be forwarded to all Councillors.

21.94.2: Free Trees: NHDC still have trees available for local residents. Trees can be collected from Hitchin on the 16th December.

21.94.3: Local Plan: A letter has been received from the Inspector who explained that he couldn't give a date for when his report would be received by NHDC as he still had a lot of work to do on it. Without a Local Plan in place North Herts is vulnerable to major developments. A new Master Planning scheme has been introduced to discuss and approve infrastructure around applications before they are submitted.

21.94.4: Luton Airport: The Luton Borough Council Planning Development Committee has granted consent for the expansion to £19m passengers and for the proposed noise contours.

21.94.5: Proposed election change: The vote on the proposed election change is to take place in the second week of December.

21.94.6: Bins: The situation with bin collection seems to have improved. There will be a timetable change over the festive period.

Councillor Frost addressed the meeting:

21.94.7: Bins: When bins aren't collected and are reported there appears to be a fault in the system. When bins aren't collected, they should be reported to Urbaser, and if they are still not collected Councillor Frost should be informed so that she can follow it up.

21.94.8: Southern Rural: The Committee meet next week, and will have one further meeting in the new year. Funds have been cut but grant applications are welcome for the last meeting of the civic year.

21.95) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

21.96) To consider matters arising not already on the agenda

None

21.97) Finance

21.97.1) To authorise non-contractual payments and note payments to date

Preston Parish Council - Summary Financial Report as at 30th November 2021

Community Account

		£	£
Balance as at:	18th October 2021		<u>£ 4,136.13</u>

Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient		
26th October 2021	E.on	£	28.61
27th October 2021	Clerk Wages	£	254.84
1st November 2021	Castle Water	£	40.91
3rd November 2021	St Martin's Church - grass cutting	£	120.00
3rd November 2021	Max Boreham - Pond Maintenance	£	400.00
11th November 2021	Davies King - Land Valuation	£	600.00
24th November 2021	E.on	£	47.70
29th November 2021	NHDC - Playground Inspections	£	120.00
29th November 2021	Clerk Wages	£	263.24
		<u>£</u>	<u>1,875.30</u>

Monies received:

Date	From		
11th November 2021	Ali Morecroft - Land Valuation	£	600.00
		<u>£</u>	<u>600.00</u>

Balance as at:	30th November 2021		<u>£ 2,860.83</u>
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Business Premium Account 1

Balance as at:	18th October 2021	<u>£ 10,000.00</u>
Payments authorised at meeting:		
Date	Recipient	
		<u>£0.00</u>
Monies Received		
		<u>£ -</u>
Balance as at:	30th November 2021	<u>£ 10,000.00</u>

Business Premium Account 2

Balance as at:	18th October 2021	<u>£ 22,430.42</u>
Payments authorised at meeting:		
Date	Recipient	
		<u>£0.00</u>
Monies Received		
		<u>£ -</u>
Balance as at:	30th November 2021	<u>£ 22,430.42</u>
		Total bank balances £ 35,291.25

21.97.2) Review of budget 2021/22

The members noted the current budget.

21.97.3) Review of draft budget 2022/23

The members **AGREED** the proposed budget for 2022/23.

The members **AGREED** to request a precept of £10,300 for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

While discussing the proposed budget, members seriously considered the advice from NALC in connection with the annual contribution towards grass cutting in the church yard. This advice is that these payments may not be legally valid. The members **AGREED** to follow this advice and that the parish council would no longer contribute to the grass cutting. The Chairman will write to the Church Warden informing him of this decision.

Action: The RFO to submit the precept to NHDC.

Action: The Chairman to write to the Church Warden informing him of the decision on grass cutting.

21.97.4) Criteria for use of money from land sale

This money must be spent on Parish Council assets only and be spent on projects which benefit as many Preston residents as possible.

Members **AGREED** that some funds should be set aside to ensure long-term financial stability for the Parish Council.

Member **AGREED** that £1500 should be ring-fenced for replacement of the Parish Council laptop and/or printer when necessary.

Possible projects discussed were:

- Pond Dredging
- Outstanding work on trees arising from the March 2020 tree survey
- New cabinet for the defibrillator
- Information board on the history of the village / well
- Making the well more of a village feature
- Making the BT phone box into a village resource: e.g. library

This is a provisional list and each proposed project will be discussed in more detail before any action is taken.

Councillor Frost made the suggestion that the Parish Council could apply to Southern Rural for a grant for the defibrillator cabinet.

21.98) Planning

21.98.1: To consider any new planning applications

21.98.1.1: Reference: 21/02076/FP at Land West Of, Castlefield, Preston, Hertfordshire. Amended plans.

The members **AGREED** amendments to be made to the Parish Council response. The Chair will reissue changes ready to submit on Monday.

21.98.1.2: Reference: 21/02986/FPH at Dungarvan Back Lane Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7UJ

The members **RESOLVED** to support this application.

21.98.1.3: Reference: 21/03007/LBC & 21/03006/FPH at 1 Dower House Hitchin Road Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7TZ

The members **RESOLVED** to support this application.

21.98.1.4: Reference: 21/03215/FPH at 4 Dower House Hitchin Road Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7TZ

The members **RESOLVED** to support this application.

21.98.1.5: Reference: 21/03239/LBC at 5 Dower House Hitchin Road Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7TZ

The members **RESOLVED** to support this application.

21.98.1.6: Reference: 21/03142/FP at Land On The South Western Side Of Back Lane Preston Hertfordshire

Councillor Clark left the room whilst this item was discussed.

The members **RESOLVED** to support this application.

Councillor Clark re-joined the meeting.

21.98.2: To note decisions and appeals

None

21.98.3: To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council

Land Adjacent to Dungarvan Section 106 projects: The members agreed the list of Section 106 projects that will be submitted to the Planning Officer.

Action: The clerk will submit the response to the amended planning application for Land West of Castlefield.

Action: The clerk will submit letters of support for the planning applications above.

Action: The clerk will submit the Section 106 projects to the Planning Officer.

21.99) Wastes of the Manor Land Sale

The members noted the valuation report and agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the resident with the findings.

Action: The Chairman to liaise with the resident regarding the Wastes of the Manor Land sale.

21.100) Pond

A quote of £3500 has been received from Max Boreham to dredge the pond. It was agreed to obtain two more quotes to make a more informed decision.

Action: The Chairman and Councillor Clark to obtain quotes for dredging the pond.

21.101) Review of Publication Scheme Policy

The members **RESOLVED** to adopt the Publication Scheme Policy.

21.102) Clerks Report

None.

21.103) Playground Report

None.

21.104) Hertfordshire Highways Report

Councillor Marshall has spoken with Highways regarding flooding in the parish, she was informed that:

- Hitchwood: this has been sorted, although it is still flooding.
- Charlton Road: this appears to have fallen off the Highways list but will be reinstated.
- Church Lane: this is on the Highways works list for the first Quarter of 2022.

21.105) Parish Paths Partnership

None

21.106) Cricket Club Representation

21.106.1: Shed Door: Some adjustments have been made to the mower which has reduced its width for getting in and out of the shed by 30cm. Unfortunately, the mower isn't working so access can't be tested for the time being.

21.106.2: Exterior work to the Pavilion: John Garnham has quoted £235 to remove, replace and paint the damaged and split Featheredge Boarding on the outside of Pavilion.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept this quote. Councillor Burleigh will accept the quote.

21.106.3: Winter Heating: The Chairman has discussed this again with Nigel Biggs and thermostatic plugs are not required because the two heaters which are in use for the winter have thermostats and timers which will have the same effect.

21.106.4: Kitchen Grant: The Cricket Club has decided not to apply for a kitchen grant for the time being.

Action: Councillor Burleigh to accept the quote from John Garnham.

21.107) Correspondence Received

No correspondence has been received.

21.108) Matters for future consideration

Playground Reports

The meeting closed at 9.37pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 13th January 2021 at 8pm in the Village Hall.