

21.114) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

21.115) To consider matters arising not already on the agenda

21.115.1: Free Trees: The free trees as part of the NHDC scheme have been distributed to the residents who had ordered them. The Parish Council has discovered that the berries of Rowan trees are toxic to dogs. All those who received trees have been provided with this information by the Clerk.

21.115.2: Council Elections: At a full council meeting on 7th December, NHDC Councillors voted for council elections to be held every 4 years starting from 2024 with all councillors elected at the same time. It is expected that Parish Council elections will be brought into the same 4-year cycle from 2024. This means that the current term of office for Preston Parish Councillors will be extended by one year.

21.116) Finance

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

Preston Parish Council - Summary Financial Report as at 10th January 2022			
Community Account		£	£
Balance as at:	30th November 2021		<u>£ 2,860.83</u>
Payments authorised at meeting:			
Date	Recipient		
21st December 2021	E.on	£	52.29
22nd December 2021	Clerk Wages	£	259.87
		<u>£</u>	<u>312.16</u>
Monies received:			
Date	From		
3rd December 2021	Preston Cricket Club	£	671.00
		<u>£</u>	<u>671.00</u>
Balance as at:	10th January 2022		<u>£ 3,219.67</u>

Business Premium Account 1

Balance as at:	30th November 2021	<u>£ 10,000.00</u>
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Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient	
		<u>£0.00</u>

Monies Received

6th December 2021	Interest	£ 0.49
		<u>£ 0.49</u>

Balance as at:	10th January 2022	<u>£ 10,000.49</u>
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Business Premium Account 2

Balance as at:	30th November 2021	<u>£ 22,430.42</u>
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Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient	
		<u>£0.00</u>

Monies Received

6th December 2021	Interest	£0.30
		<u>£ 0.30</u>

Balance as at:	10th January 2022	<u>£ 22,430.72</u>
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Total bank balances	£ 35,650.88
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Business Premium Account 1 - Ring Fenced Funds

Recreation Ground Fund	£ 10,000.00
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Business Premium Account 2 - Ring Fenced Funds

Parish Council Long Term Stability	£ 5,000.00
Replacement of Clerk's Laptop and Printer	£ 1,500.00
Remaining for other projects	£ 15,930.72

21.116.2) Review of budget 2021/22

The members noted the current budget.

21.116.3) Agreement of Precept for 2022/23

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

21.116.4) To agree amount to be set aside to ensure long-term stability for the Parish Council.

The members **AGREED** to ring-fence £5000 to ensure long-term stability for the Parish Council.

21.117) Planning

21.117.1: To consider any new planning applications

Reference: 21/02149/FPH at Orchard House, Crunnells Green, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7UQ. Amended plans. A letter of support was submitted by the clerk after the last meeting.

21.117.2: To note decisions and appeals

Reference: 21/02866/LBC Spindle Cottage: Wet Room – Conditional Consent

Reference: 21/02888/FPH 5 Dower House: Erection of triple car port and front porch – Conditional Permission

Reference: 21/03239/LBC 5 Dower House: front porch – Listed Building Consent Granted.

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

21.117.3.1: 21/03142/FP: The Chairman and Clerk explained the comments received from two local residents and their response about this application.

21.117.3.2: Planning Control Meeting: The Chairman outlined the procedures at the Planning Control meeting. It is expected that the Land West of Castlefield planning application will be on the agenda for a meeting in the next few weeks.

21.117.3.3: Section 106 Funding: The Chairman informed the meeting that, following liaison with Councillor Clark, she had agreed additional section 106 funding of £4500 for four information boards in Wain Wood, as part of the Castlefield Section 106 agreement.

21.118) Wastes of the Manor Land Sale

The Chairman reported that the resident has accepted the price for the land and that the process will now move to the next stage which is an application from the Parish Council to the Inspectorate to release the land.

21.119) Playground Inspection Reports

Members **AGREED** that no action was needed following the issuing of the reports as all risks were low or very low.

21.120) Pond Dredging

Members **AGREED** to look for other companies to quote to dredge the pond.

21.121) Tree Work

21.121.1: Tree Work Quote: A quote of £1050 has been received from Louis Harrington Smith to fell 4 clusters and 2 separate elm trees, all of which are dead, and to prune 6 oak trees and remove dead overhanging branches on Crunnells Green which is Wastes of the Manor land. The work will take 2 days and will be undertaken between 9am and 3pm to avoid school traffic. Wood chip will be spread back into undergrowth.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept this quote which will be funded from Business Account 2.

21.121.2: Work previously agreed: Work agreed at the last meeting is being undertaken on 28 January.

21.121.3: Future Work: One other tree, also on Crunnells Green, which is diseased will need to be felled during the summer months when the ground is drier. A quote will be provided nearer the time.

21.122) Southern Rural Grant Application

Members **AGREED** to apply for a Southern Rural Grant to fund a new defibrillator cabinet. The Clerk and Chairman will work on the application.

Action: The Clerk and Chairman to apply for the Southern Rural Grant.

21.123) Clerks Report

None.

21.124) Playground Report

None.

21.125) Hertfordshire Highways Report

None

21.126) Parish Paths Partnership

None

21.127) Cricket Club Representation

None.

21.128) Correspondence Received

None.

21.129) Matters for future consideration

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration. Prior to the next meeting, the Chairman will contact the Chairman of Preston Trust to ask it would like to join the Parish Council in organising a village celebration.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.