

# Parish of Preston

## PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 8pm.

<b>Present</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	Mr M Burleigh Mrs J Clark Miss A Marshall Mrs S Palmer Mrs P Stark Mrs M Trinder (Chairman)
<b>In Attendance</b>		Mrs L Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

#### **21.130) To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were sent from Councillor Faye Frost, Councillor Claire Strong and Councillor David Barnard.

#### **21.131) Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Palmer declared an interest in item 21.133.3.

#### **21.132) To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Urgent Items**

The Chairman noted the resignation of long-standing Councillor, John Healey, who had been on the Parish Council for 19 years. We thank him for his many years of hard work. Of particular note was his work in 2005 preventing the hard-surfacing of Dead Woman's Lane byway.

The poster advertising the vacancy is on the Village Noticeboard on the Green.

#### **21.133) Comments from the general public and press**

**21.133.1: Preston Sign:** A member of the public asked if the Preston Sign on Back Lane could be repaired, after it was broken when a dead tree was removed. Councillor Marshall will ask Highways if this work can be undertaken.

**21.133.2: Pavement on Chequers Lane:** A member of the public asked what support there might be to install a footpath along Chequers Lane, especially in view of the new houses that will be built.

Members **AGREED** to wait until the new houses are built to see what impact they have on pedestrians walking in Chequers Lane.

Members **AGREED** to also monitor the strip of land outside The Chequers and Spindle Cottage, as it is just mud at the moment which causes walkers to have to step in to the road when accessing the bus stop or the Recreation Ground. It was **AGREED** to look in to who owns these two pieces of land, to see if they are privately owned or owned by Highways.

**21.133.3: Community owned café and shop:** Councillor Palmer briefed the meeting on the initial thoughts of the Café and Shop Committee:

- There is a desire to apply for Section 106 funding for new village facilities including a shop, café and village hall. Although early days, there is growing support to look at options to co-locate all three 'purpose built' facilities together.
- Would the Parish Council revisit the Section 106 funding application for the land adjacent to Dungarvan to include new village facilities? Also, can the Parish Council ensure these new facilities are included in all relevant Section 106 funding applications going forward?

The Chairman confirmed that the Section 106 agreement has already been finalised for the land adjacent to Dungarvan so revisiting it is not an option.

Members **AGREED** that this project can be kept in mind for any future Section 106 funding requests.

**Action: Councillor Marshall to speak to Highways regarding the Preston Village sign.**

**Action: The Chairman to reply to Alison Jeffers regarding section 106 funding.**

### **21.134) County and District Update**

Councillor David Barnard sent a report to the clerk to be read out.

- The secondary school allocation was published on Tuesday 1st March. Over 98% of preferences were met, an increase again on last year. Primary school allocations will be published on 19th April.
- The Free School Meals scheme has, once again, been extended to cover the school days during the Easter holidays. This amounts to £30 per eligible student, or £3 per school day. Additional vouchers will be available to younger children, according to circumstances.
- Luton Airport continues to pursue its aspirations to expand to 32 million passengers per annum. Currently exhibitions, and a consultation questionnaire are taking place.
- The Queen's Jubilee will be celebrated in many forms by Parishes in our rural areas. Councillor Barnard can offer a grant of £270 to Preston Parish Council to use for the purposes of this celebration.
- Councillor Barnard has granted £500 to Preston Primary School for additional educational equipment, outside of its normal grants. This is on top of an earlier personal grant to purchase new books.
- Councillor Barnard has received, acknowledged, and made representations on behalf of comments made locally on current planning applications.

- We hope that the Government Inspector will take into account new figures and information delivered to his office, which clearly proves that there is no need any longer for development of housing, within North Herts to the East of Luton, to support a now non-existing unmet need.
- Our Police Commissioner has asked for £10 per annum increase in his precept for a Band D property. This gives 20 more PCSOs and more educational support, especially in schools.
- District Council elections will be every 4 years from 2024.

The members **AGREED** to apply for the Locality Budget Grant offered by Councillor David Barnard.

**Action: The clerk to apply for the Locality Budget Grant from Councillor Barnard.**

#### **21.135) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting**

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **21.136) To consider matters arising not already on the agenda**

**21.136.1: Pond Dredging:** The Chairman has liaised with another contractor and is awaiting a quote.

**21.136.2: Defibrillator Cabinet Grant Application:** The Clerk has submitted this application. The decision will be made at the Southern Rural Committee meeting on Thursday 3 March. As this is at the same time as this meeting, the Chairman and Clerk have sent a report to be read out rather than ask a Preston Parish Councillor to attend.



**Business Premium Account 2**

Balance as at:	30th November 2021	£ 22,430.72
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Payments authorised at meeting:		
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Date	Recipient	
23rd February 2022	Preston Parish Council Community Account	£ 1,130.00
		£ 1,130.00

Monies Received

	£ -
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Balance as at:	10th January 2022	£ 21,300.72
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	<b>Total bank balances £ 31,535.10</b>
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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	£ 14,800.72

**21.137.2: Review of budget 2021/22**

The members noted the current budget.

**21.137.3: Movement of money**

It was agreed to move money from Business Account No 1 into the Community Account.

**21.137.4: Appointment of Auditor**

The members **AGREED** to ask Nick Broughton if he would carry out the Internal Audit again this year.

**Action: The clerk to move money into the Community Account**

**Action: The clerk to ask Nick Broughton if he can act as Internal Auditor again this year.**

## 21.138) Planning

### 21.138.1: To consider any new planning applications

**Reference: 21/03445/FPH Chequers End, Chequers Lane**

The members **AGREED** they had no objections to this application.

**Reference: 21/02632/FP: Land Adjacent to Dungarvan Amended Plans:** The Clerk submitted the Parish Council's comments on 4 February

### 21.138.2: To note decisions and appeals

**Reference: 22/00066/FP Sootfield Green: Change of use and conversion of existing agricultural barn into one detached 2-bed dwelling including erection of single storey rear extension and associated hard and soft landscaping.** Conditional Consent

Although it had been agreed that the Parish Council could have an extension to allow it to discuss this application at this meeting, the decision has already been made to grant consent. The Clerk has followed this up with the Planning Officer who agreed the extension. The extension was granted in error, with the Planning Officer thinking he was granting it on a different application.

The Parish Council **AGREED** to take this further as a matter of principle by writing to the Executive Member for Planning and copied to our Ward Councillors.

**Reference: 21/02812/FPH 11 Chequers Lane:** Withdrawn

**Reference: 21/02888/FPH 5 Dower House:** Split decision:  
**Erection of Single storey store outbuilding:** Permission Granted.  
**Erection of a single storey office outbuilding:** Refused

**Reference: 21/03215/FPH 4 Dower House: erection of car port.** Permission granted.

**Reference: 21/02076/FP Land West Of, Castlefield, Preston, Hertfordshire.** Residential development comprising erection of 21 dwellings. Permission Granted.

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

**Telephone Pole for Orchard House: Erection of new telephone pole for Orchard House, Crunnells Green:** Parish Council consent is required as it is on Wastes of the Manor.

Members **AGREED** this request if the pole is moved further away from the road.

**Preston Reservoir:** Affinity Water has informed the Parish Council that it will shortly be submitting a planning application to construct a second storage reservoir at its Preston Reservoir site.

**Action:** The Clerk to submit the Parish Council response to the Chequers End application.

**Action:** The Chairman to write to the Executive Member for Planning regarding the extension at Sootfield Green.

**Action:** The Chairman to contact BT Openreach regarding the position of the new telephone pole.

#### **21.139) Luton Airport Consultation**

The members **AGREED** that the Chairman will draft a response objecting to the expansion.

**Action:** The Chairman to draft a response to the Luton Airport Consultation.

#### **21.140) Wastes of the Manor Land Sale**

The public notice for the application to deregister the land will be in The Comet on Thursday 10 March. The application will be submitted to the Inspectorate by Monday 14 March.

#### **21.141) Review of Parish Council Land and Fixed Assets**

Members reviewed the Land and Fixed Assets and **AGREED** that no changes need to be made.

#### **21.142) Review and Adoption of Safeguarding Policy**

Members **AGREED** to adopt the Safeguarding Policy with a review to be carried out in June 2023.

#### **21.143) Platinum Jubilee**

Councillor Clark will join the Platinum Jubilee Committee in the village to represent the Parish Council. Ideas for the event were discussed which Councillor Clark will take to the first meeting.

#### **21.144) Clerks Report**

None.

### **21.145) Playground Report**

**21.145.1: Split post:** Councillor Palmer informed the meeting that one of the wooden posts on the obstacle course at Church Meadow has split. At present it is still stable. The Parish Council will continue to monitor it.

**21.145.2: Open Gate:** The kissing gate from Chequers Lane into Wain Wood is unlocked. Councillor Clark will obtain the key and make it secure.

**Action: Councillor Clark to lock the gate into Wain Wood.**

### **21.146) Hertfordshire Highways Report**

**21.146.1: Church Lane:** Work has been carried out on the gulleys in Church Lane during January and early February.

**21.147.2: Flooding:** Flooding at Hitchwood Lane and Charlton Road has been reported by Councillor Marshall.

### **21.148) Parish Paths Partnership**

Trees were down over some rights of way after Storm Eunice but these have been cleared.

### **21.149) Cricket Club Representation**

**21.149.1: Memorial to Paul Constantinidi:** The Cricket Club would like to have a Memorial Stone to Paul Constantinidi in the recreation ground. Members **AGREED** to the Memorial Stone, with siting to replace the broken bench on the Recreation Ground adjacent to Spindle Cottage.

**21.149.2: Access to shed:** Following modification by David Clark, the shed is now accessible for the mower. No work is required on the door. The Parish Council send their thanks to Mr Clark for his work on this matter.

**21.149.3: Compound Fence:** The fence was replaced on Saturday 26 February, after being damaged in Storm Eunice, and the Chairman has submitted an insurance claim.

**21.149.4: Shutter Service:** A quote for a service will be obtained by the Chairman, with the view to book it for early April.

**Action: The Chairman to obtain a quote for the shutter service and book it in.**



**21.150) Correspondence Received**

None.

**21.151) Matters for future consideration**

Lobbying of mobile phone providers.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

**Date and Time of next Meeting:** Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

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