

Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 21st April 2022 at 8pm.

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

21.152) To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were sent by Councillor Palmer and were accepted.

21.153) Declaration of Interests

None

21.154) To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Urgent Items

21.154.1: Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting:

Members **AGREED** to hold a short Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 12th May 2022 at 7.30pm, with an Annual Parish Meeting following it at 8pm where organisations are invited as usual.

Attendees will be asked to register their attendance with the Clerk so that socially distanced seating can be arranged.

21.154.2: Replacement Trees for Crunnells Green

A member of the public has offered to plant one or two trees in the gaps left by the removal of the dead elm trees on Crunnells Green. He has a Walnut, Beech and Purple Maple that might be suitable. Long term maintenance would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was **AGREED** to accept this offer. The Chairman will contact the member of public to accept.

Action: The Chairman to contact the member of public regarding the planting of the trees.

21.155) Comments from the general public and press

None.

21.156) County and District Update

Councillor Faye Frost addressed the meeting:

21.156.1: Land adjacent to Dungarvan: Councillor Frost expressed her disappointment in this development having been granted consent. Councillor Frost will keep a close eye on the development to ensure that all conditions are met, and that Section 106 Funds are delivered.

21.156.2: Bin Collection in Back Lane: Councillor Frost has been in touch with North Herts to rearrange the bin collection time in Back Lane. It had changed and was occurring at school drop off time with congestion being caused.

21.156.3: Local Plan: There is still no update on the Local Plan, it's now not expected that any more will be heard until late Autumn.

Councillor Claire Strong addressed the meeting:

21.156.4: Council Tax Rebate: The phone lines at NHDC are incredibly busy at the moment with residents calling regarding their Council Tax Rebate. Those paying Council Tax by Direct Debit will have it automatically refunded. Alternatively, there is an online form people can complete rather than having to phone.

21.157) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

21.158) To consider matters arising not already on the agenda

21.158.1: Southern Rural Grant: The application for a grant for a new defibrillator cabinet was successful.

21.158.2: Luton Airport Consultation Response: The Clerk submitted the Parish Council response to the Luton Airport Consultation.

It is noted that Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and the Communities, has issued "a holding direction" which prevents the local authority from issuing a final decision on plans to increase the annual passenger numbers at London Luton Airport from 18m to 19m which was granted consent in December 2021.

21.158.3: Café and shop: The working party for the cafe and shop have had 100 responses, with the majority being in favour. Exact figures will be published once the working party are happy everyone has had their say.

As a working party they are hoping to have the Parish Council's support for this possible venture.

21.159) Adoption of Co-option to Vacancies Policy

Member **AGREED** to adopt the proposed policy, following a minor amendment.

21.160) Co-option of Parish Councillor

Possible residents to co-opt to the Council were discussed. It was agreed to speak to a resident about whether they would like to join Preston Parish Council.

Action: The Chairman to speak to the agreed resident about joining Preston Parish Council

21.161) Finance

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

Preston Parish Council - Summary Financial Report / Bank Reconciliation as at 19th April 2022

Community Account		£	£
Bank Balance as at:	1st March 2021		<u>£ 233.89</u>
Payments authorised at meeting:			
Date	Recipient		
8th March 2022	Margaret Trinder - Expenses for Comet Advertisement	£	546.48
11th March 2022	John Garnham (Newbury Property Maintenance)	£	235.00
11th March 2022	Planning Inspector	£	4,900.00
15th March 2022	Preston Trust	£	402.50
22nd March 2022	E.on	£	48.21
22nd March 2022	ICO	£	35.00
28th March 2022	Clerk Wages	£	300.16
19th April 2022	Royal Industrial Doors	£	270.00
			<u>£ 6,737.35</u>
Monies received:			
Date	From		
7th March 2022	Ali Morecroft	£	5,446.48
11th March 2022	Monies moved from Business Premium Account #1	£	235.00
14th March 2022	Hertfordshire County Council Locality Budget Grant	£	279.00
17th March 2022	NHDC - Southern Rural Grant	£	527.00
23rd March 2022	St Martin's Church	£	141.25
8th April 2022	NHDC - Precept	£	5,150.00
			<u>£ 11,778.73</u>
Bank Balance as at:	19th April 2022		<u>£ 5,275.27</u>

Business Premium Account 1

Bank Balance as at:	1st March 2021	<u>£ 10,000.49</u>
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Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient		
11th March 2022	Monies moved to Community Account	£	235.00
			<u>£235.00</u>

Monies Received

7th March 2022	Interest	£	0.25
			<u>£ 0.25</u>

Bank Balance as at:	19th April 2022	<u>£ 9,765.74</u>
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Business Premium Account 2

Bank Balance as at:	1st March 2021	<u>£ 21,300.72</u>
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Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient		
		£	-

Monies Received

7th March 2022	Interest		£0.56
			<u>£ 0.56</u>

Bank Balance as at:	19th April 2022	<u>£ 21,301.28</u>
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		Total bank balances	£ 36,342.29
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Business Premium Account 1 - Ring Fenced Funds

Recreation Ground Fund		£ 9,765.74
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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		£ 14,801.28

21.161.2: Final Review of budget 2021/22

The members **NOTED** the final budget for the 2021/22 Financial Year.

21.161.3: Initial Review of Budget 2022/23

The members **NOTED** the budget for 2022/23.

21.161.4: Audit: Nick Broughton has agreed to carry out the Internal Audit again for the 2021/22 Financial Year. The accounts and paperwork are ready to be passed on to him for his audit.

21.162: Planning

21.162.1: To consider any new planning applications

- **22/00707/FP: Sootfield Green Charlton Road: Erection of agricultural building**

Members **AGREED** to object to the application for the following reasons:

- It is an inappropriate development on Green Belt land
 - There is no identification of agricultural need for this development.
- **22/00798/FPH: Highways, Church Lane: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Erection of detached double garage with study room above.**

Members **AGREED** to send a letter of support for this application.

21.162.2: To note decisions and appeals

- **Chequers End, Chequers Lane: Erection of detached pool changing facilitates. Conversion of existing detached garage to provide games room at ground floor level and one bedroom at first floor level.**

Permission Granted

- **Land on the South Western Side Of, Back Lane: Change of use of land from agricultural to a dog exercise field.**

Permission Refused

- **Land Adjacent To Dungarvan, Back Lane:**

Consent granted for 10 dwellings by Planning Control Committee, subject to legal agreements and conditions imposed by Local Lead Flood Authority.

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

The Chairman has received an acknowledgment from the Executive Member for Planning to her letter regarding an extension to a planning application. The issue has been taken up with the Development Manager.

21.163) Scheme of Delegation: Annual Review

The Chairman and Clerk have reviewed the Scheme of Delegation and no amendments are required. Members **AGREED** to adopt the Scheme of Delegation for another year.

21.164) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Councillor Clark updated the meeting on the Jubilee Celebration plans.

- Insurance for the event has been organised.
- The Locality Budget Grant that the Parish Council received of £279 for Jubilee Celebrations will be passed to the Working Party. In addition, all organising groups will put forward £200 towards the events. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would contribute £200 for the celebrations.

21.165) Mobile Phone Issues

The members **AGREED** to lobby the phone providers to install their equipment on the mast at the reservoir, bringing to their attention the 31 houses that will be built in the next couple of years in the village.

Action: The Chairman to contact the mobile phone providers.

21.166) Verge between Chequers Lane and the Recreation Ground gate

It was **AGREED** to monitor the grass verges near the bus stop, especially after the new houses are built.

It was **AGREED** to ask Louis Harrington-Smith to quote to cut back the over-hanging trees opposite the bus stop on Wastes of the Manor.

Action: The Chairman to ask Louis Harrington-Smith for a quote to cut back over-hanging trees.

21.167) Pond Dredging

It was **AGREED** to ask Max Boreham to confirm his last quote with a view to book him to dredge the pond in the winter.

21.168) Clerks Report

None.

21.169) Playground Report

None.

21.170) Hertfordshire Highways Report

Councillor Marshall has contacted Highways about replacing the damaged signpost on entering the village on Hitchin Road.

21.171) Parish Paths Partnership

A member of public has reported a large tree has fallen across the footpath which runs between Hill Farm, Preston and Hitch Wood. It is believed to be a Pilkington Farms Partnership Tree so the Clerk will speak to Tom Duffin about having it removed.

Action: The Clerk to speak to Tom Duffin about removing the fallen tree.

21.172) Cricket Club Representation

21.172.1: Shutter Service: The shutter service was undertaken on Tuesday 12th April.

21.172.2: Smart Meter: The Clerk reported that the smart meter isn't sending readings to E.on. Councillor Burleigh will check to see if there is an obvious issue with the Smart Meter.

21.173) Correspondence Received

None.

21.174) Matters for future consideration

Defibrillator Training

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: Thursday 12th May 2022 at 7.30pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm in the Village Hall.