

3.5.3: Swimming Pools: There have been issues reported at the local swimming pools and due to this security has been increased.

3.5.4: Council Offices: The offices are still largely closed to council staff. Appointments can be booked with a member of staff if required.

3.6) (Agenda 11) Proposed Village Facilities

It was agreed to move this item up the agenda to allow members of the public to leave once it had been discussed.

- Alison Jeffers and Bob Challans took questions from the members on the Business Plan for the proposed Village Shop and Café.
- It was agreed that as the project progresses the members will be kept updated in order that they can decide if the Parish Council supports the project.
- The Working Group is in discussion with two local landowners regarding possible locations for the Shop and Café.

Preston Parish Council has discussed at length the possibility of the Recreation Ground being a possible location for the Village Shop. Members voted and unanimously **AGREED** that the Recreation Ground cannot be considered as a possible location moving forward.

The main reasons for this decision are:

- The criteria in the Covenant when the land was bought by the Parish Council still stand. One of these says that:
“The property shall be forever maintained as a playing field for the benefit of the adults and children of Preston.”
The Parish Council would like it to remain as a Recreation Ground.
- The area available for cricket or any other sport will be reduced.
- There would be health and safety issues if there was a shop and café on the same land.

NB: Councillor Palmer and Councillor Burleigh did not take part in the vote due to personal interests in the item. Councillor Palmer is a member of the Working Group and Councillor Burleigh is a member of the Cricket Club.

Three members of the public left the meeting.

3.7) (Agenda 6) To adopt minute of the previous meeting

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

3.8) (Agenda 7) To consider matters arising not already on the agenda

3.8.1: Pond: Councillor Clark is still awaiting a reviewed quote from Max Boreham for the dredging the pond in the Autumn / Winter. It is hoped to have this ready for the September meeting.

3.8.2: Jubilee: Remaining funds are still being held by the Jubilee Committee. The final expenses are being submitted and any remaining funds will be shared back with the Council, Cricket Club, Preston Trust and St Martin's Church. This will be done as soon as possible.

Action: Councillor Clark to chase Max Boreham for a reviewed quote for the pond work.

3.9) (Agenda 8) Finance

3.9.1: To authorise non-contractual payments and note payments to date

Members noted the payments and bank reconciliation. This information can be seen in Annex 1.

3.9.2: To review the budget 2022/2023

Members reviewed and accepted the budget.

3.9.3: Annual Governance and Accountability Review

The clerk informed the meeting that the AGAR has been sent off to the external auditor. She has since had an email to say it has been logged.

3.10) (Agenda 9) Planning

3.10.1: To consider any new planning applications

None

3.10.2: To note decisions and appeals

None

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

Affinity Water has been granted a Lawful Development Certificate for the installation of a water storage asset including associated plant and machinery at Preston Reservoir.

3.11) (Agenda 10) Wastes of the Manor land sale

The site meeting for this application will take place on Tuesday 11 October.

The Chairman has responded to a further representation by the Open Spaces Society.

3.12) (Agenda 12) Boundary Commission Consultation on New Ward Arrangements

As there will be 51 District Councillors rather than 49, the Local Government Boundary Commission is consulting on how to make changes to Electoral Wards in North Hertfordshire to try to ensure that there is electoral equality with Councillors having similar numbers of constituents. This is the first consultation when ideas are being sought as to how to change the boundaries. There will be a second consultation in November on the proposals suggested in the initial consultation.

Members **AGREED** to wait until November and respond to the next consultation on the proposed amendments.

3.13) (Agenda 13) Local Plan Update

The Inspector's fact check report has now been sent to the District Council. They have arranged with the Planning Inspectorate that any comments from the Council will be returned to the Inspector before 26 July 2022. Following this, the Inspector's Final Report will then be sent to the Council as soon as possible. Receipt of the Final Report marks the formal end of the Examination and the Council will then make arrangements to take a decision on the adoption of the Local Plan.

3.14) (Agenda 14) Tree Work

3.14.1: 11 Chequers Lane: The residents of 11 Chequers Lane contacted the Clerk about the trees on the Recreation Ground blocking out their light. Louis Harrington Smith recommends cutting back one side of one tree which will balance the tree as one side was cut back last year to provide more light at Boundary House. To do any more work would make the tree look odd. The quotation for this work is £80.

Members **AGREED** to accept the quote.

3.14.2: Fruit Tree in Church Meadow: The tree has leaf spot disease caused by fungal spores, which has caused significant leaf loss and the dry hot conditions have exacerbated this problem. The tree tie is also cutting into the bark and could be removed. In the long term the oak tree nearby will dominate and this tree will be crowded out.

Members **AGREED** to ask Frank Gormill to quote to fell the tree in the Autumn/ Winter and remove the waste.

3.14.3: Dead Tree on Hitchin Road: The tree is leaning and could be brought down by a strong wind. Louis Harrington Smith has quoted £200 remove it.

Members **AGREED** to accept the quote.

Action: The Chair to liaise with Louis Harrington-Smith and Frank Gormill to organise the work discussed.

3.15) (Agenda 15) Clerk's Report

3.15.1: Playground Inspections: The clerk has booked the play areas at Church Meadow and the Recreation Ground in for their annual inspection with NHDC.

3.15.2: Registers of Interest: The clerk reminded the meeting to update their Register of Interests form and return them at the next meeting.

Action: Councillors who haven't redone the Register of Interests Form to do so for the next meeting.

3.16) (Agenda 16) Playground Report

The wooden posts at Church Meadow have all been creosoted by Councillor Palmer, and John Healey. The council thank both of them for their time.

3.17) (Agenda 17) Hertfordshire Highways Update

3.17.1: Road Surface at the Green: Councillor Marshall has contacted Graham Bury to discuss the below standard road surfacing that was carried out around the Green. She is awaiting a response.

3.17.2: Road Signs: Councillor Marshall has contacted Highways to ask them to replace the sign on the way into Preston near the Dower House. The signpost on The Green has been adjusted.

3.17.3: Sootfield Green: Councillor Marshall has been informed that the drains being cleared out along Charlton Road near Sootfield Green will take place this fiscal year.

3.18) (Agenda 18) Parish Paths Partnership

3.18.1: Preston Hills Footpath: The footpath leading from Preston Hills Farm towards Stagenhoe is quite overgrown in parts. Councillor Clark has reported it to Andrew Burton, and logged it online.

3.18.2: Incorrect sign positioning: Councillor Clark has still not had a response from Andrew Burton regarding the incorrect positioning of signage at Sootfield Green . She will chase again and copy in other members of the Rights of Way team at Hertfordshire County Council. Councillor Clark has also logged this issue online.

3.19) (Agenda 19) Cricket Club Representation

3.19.1: Cesspit: Haze Cleaning Services have been out and emptied the cesspit. A note has been put on their system that next year a combi-lorry should be requested. This will enable them to remove solidified waste and also bits of brick and rubble from the third tank. It doesn't affect the use of the system but will increase holding capacity. The clerk will find out more about this from Haze before the next meeting.

Action: The clerk to speak to Haze Cleaning Services regarding what is required at next year's visit.

3.20) (Agenda 20) Correspondence received

None.

3.21) (Agenda 21) Matters for future consideration

None.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 8th September 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

ANNEX 1

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

Community Account £ £

Bank Balance as at: 7th June 2022 £ 4,041.88

Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient	£	£
13th June 2022	Fasthosts Domain Renewal	£	25.18
13th June 2022	Defib	£	610.80
21st June 2022	E.on	£	39.30
28th June 2022	Royal Industrial Doors	£	229.20
28th June 2022	Wages	£	297.70
29th June 2022	NHDC	£	77.60
1st July 2022	Fire Guard Services	£	60.00
4th July 2022	Louis Harrington-Smith - Tree work	£	200.00
11th July 2022	Margaret Trinder - Creosote	£	21.94
		<u>£</u>	<u>1,561.72</u>

Monies received:

Date	From	£	£
		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>

Bank Balance as at: 19th July 2022 £ 2,480.16

Business Premium Account 1

Bank Balance as at: 7th June 2022 £ 9,766.48

Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient	£	£
		<u>£</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Monies Received

		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>
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Bank Balance as at: 19th July 2022 £ 9,766.48

Business Premium Account 2

Bank Balance as at: 7th June 2022 £ 21,302.88

Payments authorised at meeting:

Date	Recipient	£	£
		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>

Monies Received

		<u>£</u>	<u>-</u>
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Bank Balance as at: 19th July 2022 £ 21,302.88

Total bank balances £ 33,549.52

Business Premium Account 1 - Ring Fenced Funds

Recreation Ground Fund £ 9,766.48

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 £ 14,802.88