Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20th October 2022 at 8.00pm.

Present Councillors Mr M Burleigh

Mrs J Clark Mr J Morley Mrs P Stark

Mrs M Trinder (Chairman)

In Attendance District Councillor C Strong

Mrs L Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

5.1) (Agenda 1) To receive and accept apologies for absence

- 1. Cllr Marshall sent her apologies due to illness.
- 2. Members AGREED to accept her apologies.

5.2) (Agenda 2) Declaration of Interests

None.

5.3) (Agenda 3) To receive Chairman's Remarks and Urgent Items

- 1. The Chair informed the meeting that the clerk has successfully passed her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification.
- 2. Herts Police are asking for residents views on what the local police should be focussing on. Residents can comment at bit.ly/police-hitchinrural. Members **AGREED** to state flytipping should be a priority. Any other suggestions should be passed to the clerk by close of play on Friday 28th October.

Action: All Cllrs to email the clerk with suggestions for the Hitchin Rural Police.

5.4) (Agenda 4) Comments from the general public and press

None.

5.5) (Agenda 5) County and District Update

District Cllr Strong addressed the meeting:

- 1. The final report on the Local Plan has been received from the Inspector. NHDC is meeting on the 8th November to consider adopting the plan.
- 2. The new Garden Waste annual subscription started on the 1st October. Any resident who has signed up should have received their new brown bin sticker.
- 3. NHDC will meet on the 19th December to consider the Boundary Review.

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

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

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

Designated Parish Council email addresses have been set up and most Cllrs are now up and running. The remaining Cllrs will set them up as soon as possible. An announcement will be made to residents regarding the new email addresses the week beginning 24th October 2022.

5.8) (Agenda 8) Finance

- 1. Members noted and authorised the payments and bank reconciliation shown in Annex 1.
- Members NOTED the 2022/2023 Budget.
- 3. Members were asked to submit any items to add to the draft budget for 2023/24 to the clerk by 4th November 2022.
- 4. Members **AGREED** to budget in 2023/24 for the Scribe Accounting Package for approximately £19 per month invoiced annually, with a £147 set up fee.

Action: Cllrs to submit any budget items to the clerk by the 4th November.

5.9) (Agenda 9) Planning

Notification of a new planning application for Sootfield Green has been sent to the Parish Council but it came in too late to be added to the agenda for this meeting. Application 22/02581/FP will be discussed at the meeting on the 1st December 2022 should an extension be agreed by the Planning Officer.

5.10) (Agenda 10) Councillor Vacancy

Members **AGREED** that the vacancy will be advertised in the newsletter, on the noticeboard and via the email database and PNS.

Action: The clerk to advertise the Casual Vacancy.

5.11) (Agenda 11) PHC Hedge Cutting and Ivy

1. United Learning has responded to the clerk to say they will deal with the hedge cutting this Autumn, they will also investigate the ivy on the PHC side of the wall.

Cllr Stark declared an interest in item 5.11.2 below.

2. An offer has been made to clear the ivy on the village side of the wall for £220, for two days work. Members **AGREED** to check how far down School Lane the ivy is an issue.

5.12) (Agenda 12) Wastes Of the Manor Land Sale

- 1. The application to de-register the land has been refused by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 2. Members agreed to erect a fence to separate Wastes of the Manor land from that of the resident. Frank Gormill will be asked to quote for this.

Action: The Chairman to ask Frank Gormill to quote for the installation of the fence.

5.13) (Agenda 13) Section 106 Payments

- Members AGREED to liaise with St Martin's Church Committee in order to organise the churchyard path. It was AGREED to pay the pathway money to the church committee to carry out the work.
- 2. Cllr Clark will organise a formal quote from Oliver Berti Firewood and Forestry for the Church Meadow path.

Action: Cllr Clark to organise a quote for the Church Meadow path.

5.14) (Agenda 14) Tree Work

- 1. Wain Wood: The dead Ash trees in Wain Wood have been removed by Pilkington Farm Partnership at the request of the Parish Council.
- 2. Crunnells Green: The member of the public who is going to plant trees to replace the dead elms which were removed has contacted the Chairman to say that this has not yet

- been done because of the very dry, hot weather. The trees are being grown in pots and will be planted out this Autumn.
- 3. The member of the public needs to pollard some poplar trees in his garden and has asked if the heavy timber could be stacked on Crunnells Green to provide an eco-stack. Members **AGREED** to allow access via the Wastes of the Manor, but not to stack the timber. The Chairman will inform the member of the public of this decision.
- 4. Church Meadow: The member of the public has asked if the Parish Council would like him to prune the lower branches of the oak tree in Church Meadow again. The Chairman has agreed that he may do this on behalf of the Parish Council.

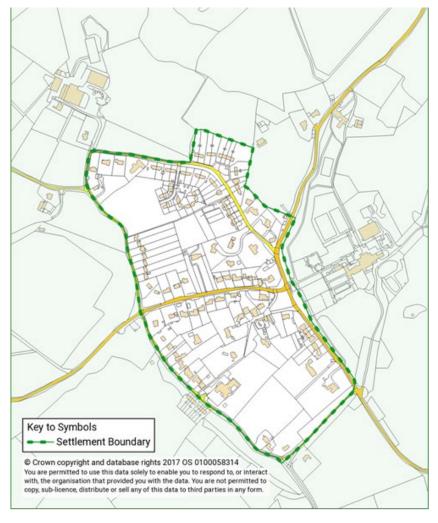
Action: The Chairman to liaise with the member of public regarding the items above.

5.15) (Agenda 15) Traffic Calming Measures

After discussion it was **AGREED** to wait and monitor traffic when the new houses have been built.

5.16) (Agenda 16) Local Plan Update

- 1. NHDC received the Inspector's final report on the Local Plan on 8th September and will decide whether to adopt the Plan at an Extraordinary Meeting on 8th November.
- 2. The aspects which directly affect Preston are the Green Belt and the settlement boundary. Both of these have been agreed by the Inspector which means that the settlement boundary, shown on the map below, will be adopted with the surrounding land becoming Green Belt.



- 3. Although work has already started, there are no changes to the criteria and mitigation measures for site PR1.
- 4. Linked to the local Plan, the North Hertfordshire Council Draft Developer Contributions SPD consultation is open until 5pm on 16 November 2022 and can be accessed at: https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/planning/planning-applications/planning-obligations/guidance-planning-obligations-supplementary; Members AGREED that the Chairman will put together a response from the Parish Council.

5.17) (Agenda 17) Coronation Celebration

- 1. Members **AGREED** that the Parish Council will join with other village groups to organise a Preston Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.
- 2. An amount of £200 will be added to the 2023/2024 draft budget. Cllr Clark will represent the Parish Council on this committee.

5.18) (Agenda 18) To review and adopt Risk Assessments

Members **AGREED** to adopt the Risk Assessments with agreed changes.

5.19) (Agenda 19) Clerk's Report

None.

5.20) (Agenda 20) Playground Report

- 1. No issues have been reported.
- 2. Cllr Morley nominated himself as the designated person to inspect the playgrounds on a monthly basis. Members **AGREED** to this proposition.

5.21) (Agenda 21) Hertfordshire Highways Update

Cllr Marshall attended the Highways Liaison Meeting on 14 September. The main agenda item was Electric Vehicle Charging Points. The Parish Council may be asked whether they wish one to be installed in the village.

5.22) (Agenda 22) Parish Paths Partnership

None.

5.23) (Agenda 23) Cricket Club Representation

The Chairman will contact the Cricket Club to check that arrangements are in place for the weekly checks and the heating on low for the winter.

Action: Chairman to contact the Cricket Club regarding the Winter period.

5.24) (Agenda 24) Correspondence received

None.

5.25) (Agenda 25) Matters for future consideration

Electrical Vehicle Charging Points, Church grass cutting

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 1st December 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

ANNEX 1

	int							£	£
Bank Balance as at	t: 6th September 2022							-	£ 928.8
ayments authoris	sed at meeting:								
ate	Recipient	Description	Net		VAT		Total		
9/09/22	Transfer to Business Premium Account No 1	Recreation Ground Fund	£	230.51	£	-	£	230.51	
5/09/22	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	£	200.00	£	40.00		240.00	
1/09/22	E.on	Electricity - Pavilion	£	39.03		1.95		40.98	
2/09/22	Clerk	Payroll	£	313.95		-	£	313.95	
0/09/22	Transfer to Business Premium Account 2	Section 106 Funding	£	33,686.00		-	£	33,686.00	
7/10/22	Castle Water	Water - Pavilion	£	137.34	£	-	£	137.34	
Ionies received:			£	34,606.83	£	41.95	£	34,648.78	
ate	From								
9/09/22	NHDC	Precept	£	-	£	-	£	5,150.00	
0/09/22	Osprey Homes	Section 106 Funding (Castlefield)	£	-	£	-	£	33,686.00 38,836.00	
Bank Balance as at	t: 17th October 2022							-	£ 5,116.0
usiness Premium	Account 1								
ank Balance as at	t: 6th September 2022							-	£ 9,769.4
ayments authoris	sed at meeting:							·	
ate	Recipient								
								CO 00	
								£0.00	
Monies Received								£0.00	
	Transfer from Community Account		£	-	£	_	£	230.51	
	Transfer from Community Account		£	-	£	-	£	230.51	
9/09/22			£	-	£				£ 10 000 (
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Preston Parish Council - Summary Financial Report / Bank Reconciliation as at 17th October 2022

Business Premium Account 1 - Ring Fenced Funds

£ 10,000.00
£ 5,000.00
£ 1,500.00
£ 11,809.41
£ 13,068.00
£ 5,000.00
£ 11,118.00
£ 4,500.00