

Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 1st December 2022 at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Mrs J Clark, Miss A Marshall, Mr J Morley, Mrs P Stark, Mrs M Trinder (Chairman)

In Attendance: Two members of public and Mrs L Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

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

1. Cllr Burleigh sent his apologies due to work commitments.
2. Members **AGREED** to accept his apologies.

6.2) (Agenda 2) Declaration of Interests

None.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Members were reminded of the council's code of conduct and the requirement to make Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

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

A member of the public has contacted the Chairman about children playing on the trees on The Green, unsupervised by their parents. Members **AGREED** that the Chair will write to the school asking parents to ask their children to take care not to damage the trees.

Action: The Chairman to write to the school regarding children playing on the trees.

6.5) (Agenda 10) Planning

Members agreed to move this item up the agenda in order that the two members of the public in attendance could discuss it and leave should they wish to.

1. To receive and consider responses to planning applications
 - 22/02581/FP Full Planning Permission : Installation of 16 free-standing solar panels enclosed by a bund, along with the provision of a drainage/wildlife pond and swales Sootfield Green, Charlton Road, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7TB. Members considered this application and asked the applicants in attendance questions on the proposal. Members **AGREED** to support the application.
2. To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council.
 - The clerk informed the meeting of a planning application between Breachwood Green and Wigmore for a new three pronged roundabout. It was agreed that as this affects traffic coming through Preston the council should consider it. The clerk will ask the Planning Officer for an extension in order that it can be discussed at the January meeting.

Action: The Clerk to submit the Parish Council response to the Sootfield Green application

Action: The Clerk to request an extension for the roundabout application.

6.6) (Agenda 5) County and District Update

The Chairman read out an update from Cllr David Barnard.

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

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

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

1. Ivy on PHC wall: Parish Councillors removed the ivy themselves, this will be undertaken annually in the Autumn.
2. Policing Priorities: The new priorities for the rural areas around Hitchin are: Speeding, Fly-tipping, Anti-social behaviour/drugs – associated with young people congregating in public spaces, car parks and parks.
3. Local Plan: The Local Plan has been adopted by NHDC.
4. Parish Council Email Addresses: It was agreed that only the email addresses for the Clerk and Chairman will be posted on the village website.
5. Church Meadow Path: Three quotes will be sought and consent from NHDC to install the path in preparation for discussion at a later meeting.

6.9) (Agenda 8) Co-Option / Casual Vacancy

As there were no applications for the casual vacancy, members **AGREED** not to take any further action as all Councillors will have to stand for re-election next May.

6.10) (Agenda 9) Finance

1. Members noted and authorised the payments and bank reconciliation shown in Annex 1. The accounting package Scribe Accounting has been taken on to run the council's accounts.
2. Members **NOTED** the 2022/2023 Budget.
3. Members considered the legal position of making payments to St Martin's Church for grass cutting. After considering advice from NALC members **AGREED** that it would be unlawful to start making these payments again.
4. The clerk presented a draft budget for 2023/24. Members **AGREED** to take up membership with the Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils, with a linked budget line for training.
5. The members **AGREED** the proposed budget for 2023/24.
6. The members **AGREED** to request a precept of £13,184 for the 2023/24 Financial Year.

6.11) (Agenda 11) Wastes of the Manor fence

Members **AGREED** to accept a quote from Frank Gormill for £420 to erect a fence separating the Wastes of the Manor from a private residence.

Action: The Chairman to liaise with Frank Gormill and the resident regarding the erection of the fence.

6.12) (Agenda 12) To consider a potential Clothes Bank

Members considered the proposal from a clothes bank provider to situate one in the village. Members **AGREED** there wasn't a suitable location for it and so would not take them up on the offer.

6.13) (Agenda 13) NHDC Boundary Commission Consultation

Members **AGREED** to support the proposal for Preston to be in a new ward with St Paul's Walden, Kings Walden and Langley.

Action: The Chairman to respond in support of the consultation.

6.14) (Agenda 14) To consider the Parish Council response on the HCC Consultation on EV Charging Points

Members **AGREED** to respond with support of the consultation.

Action: The clerk to respond in support of the consultation.

6.15) (Agenda 15) To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge

1. Members **AGREED** to signing up to the civility and respect pledge.
2. Members **AGREED** to the statements set out in the pledge.

Action: The Clerk to sign Preston Parish Council up to the pledge.

6.16) (Agenda 16) Clerk's Report

Southern Rural Area Committee has invited any members of the council to attend their next meeting on the 20th December, for seasonal refreshments. Members should notify the Clerk by the 12th December if they wish to attend.

6.17) (Agenda 17) Playground Report

No issues have been reported.

6.18) (Agenda 18) Hertfordshire Highways Update

Drainage works have been undertaken by Highways on Charlton Road. The gullies on the verge have been widened and cemented. Stretches of the road have also been tarmacked.

6.19) (Agenda 19) Parish Paths Partnership

A tree had fallen across a footpath in Wain Wood which Pilkington Farms Partnership dealt with.

6.20) (Agenda 20) Cricket Club Representation

None.

6.21) (Agenda 21) Correspondence received

None.

6.22) (Agenda 22) Matters for future consideration

Wider use of the Pavilion, Date of the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 12th January 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Parish of Preston

ANNEX 1

1 November 2022 (2022 - 2023)

Preston Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Bank Reconciliation at 29/11/2022			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022		31,462.29
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2022 - 29/11/2022		45,066.57
			76,528.86
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2022 - 29/11/2022		21,805.13
A	Cash in Hand 29/11/2022 (per Cash Book)		54,723.73
Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	29/11/2022	0.00
	Barclays Business 2	29/11/2022	40,877.41
	Barclays Business 1	29/11/2022	10,000.00
	Barclays Current Account	29/11/2022	3,874.72
			54,752.13
	Less unrepresented payments		28.40
			54,723.73
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		54,723.73
A = B Checks out OK			

Parish of Preston

29 November 2022 (2022 - 2023)

Preston Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
35 Electricity	21/10/2022		Barclays Current Acco	P23-035	Electricity	E.on	L	50.34	2.52	52.86
36 Salary	26/10/2022		Barclays Current Acco	P23-036	Salary	Lisa Lathane	E	393.47		393.47
37 Section 106 Castlefield	26/10/2022		Barclays Current Acco	P23-037	S106 Church Pathway	St Martin's Church	E	11,118.00		11,118.00
38 Memberships	04/11/2022		Barclays Current Acco	P23-038	Scribe Accounting	Starboard Systems Ltd	S	375.00	75.00	450.00
39 Domain / emails	11/11/2022		Barclays Current Acco	P23-039	Domain and emails	Zen Internet Ltd	S	18.48	3.70	22.18
40 Salary	25/11/2022		Barclays Current Acco	P23-040	Salary	Lisa Lathane	E	460.45		460.45
Total								12,415.74	81.22	12,496.96

29 November 2022 (2022 - 2023)

Preston Parish Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
8 Jubilee Celebration	26/10/2022		Barclays Current Acco	R23-008	Jubilee Celebration Refund	Vicky Pullinger	E	137.59		137.59
Total								137.59		137.59

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