

Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sharon Anderson, Matt Burleigh, Julie Buckland, Andy Hill, Ali Morecroft, Margaret Trinder (Chairman)

In Attendance: Twelve members of the public and Lisa Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

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

Cllr Clark sent her apologies.

10.2) (Agenda 2) To receive Chairman's Remarks and Urgent Items

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting will be conducted in a respectful and polite manner. Personal comments about members of the community are not acceptable. Anyone not adhering to these points will be asked to leave the meeting.

Members were reminded to make Declarations of Pecuniary Interest, if appropriate.

The Parish Council, which has acted in good faith throughout the lengthy process of considering these proposals, prepared the survey based on the information available to it at that time.

On the 18 April, the Parish Council was informed by the Working Group that, following advice from NHDC, it had engaged a planning consultant to look at all possible locations for the proposed facilities and that as a result, it was no longer considering either of the locations in the survey.

The advice from the consultant is to convert the brick built barn at Pond Farm, which is on Charlton Road, to become the shop and coffee house because this is easier to achieve in the Green Belt than new build facilities. Richard Pilkington has agreed to this and the Working Group is now having ongoing discussions with the Pilkington Farm Partnership.

The change of use from an agricultural building to a commercial one is made possible by Class R of the General Permitted Development Order and in this instance the commercial use is a community shop, coffee house and 15 parking spaces. Because the barn is less than 150 square metres, the only requirement is that NHDC is informed of the intended change of use. No prior approval or planning application is required although a full planning application is required for operational development but this cannot be refused. The Working Group has informed NHDC of its intentions.

10.3) (Agenda 3) Declarations of Interest

None.

10.4) (Agenda 4) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

10.5) (Agenda 5) The Survey Count

The clerk, Lisa Lathane, and her daughter carried out the count in view of the meeting. Neither are residents of Preston.

10.6) (Agenda 6) Announcement of outcome

The results of the survey are as follows:

No of votes	Survey Option
Main Survey	
103	I support the Working Group's proposal to build a shop and coffee house on either the old tennis court at PHC or on the field in Back Lane.
222	I do not support any proposal to build a community shop and coffee house at any location in the Parish of Preston.
Subsidiary Survey	
97	I support the Working Group's proposal to build a community shop and coffee house on the old tennis court.
51	I support the Working Group's proposal to build a community shop and coffee house in the field next to Holly Cottages.
<i>45 votes were for both options in the subsidiary survey, and they are included in the above numbers</i>	
9	Spoiled Votes

10.7) (Agenda 7) Parish Council Decisions

The Parish Council will consider the outcome of the survey and the latest proposal at its next meeting on Thursday 23 May and will decide whether and how, or not, to support a shop and coffee house in the village, or whether to maintain a neutral stance.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall