



Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sharon Anderson, Matt Burleigh, Jane Clark, Ali Morecroft, Margaret Trinder (Chairman)

In Attendance: Four members of public, District Cllr Joe Graziano, Lisa Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

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

Cllr Buckland sent her apologies due to a family matter, members AGREED to accept her apologies.

6.2) (Agenda 2) Chairman's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and wished everyone a happy new year. She reminded members to declare any items of pecuniary interest and that they should listen to everyone's views.

6.3) (Agenda 3) Declarations of Interest

None

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

These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

6.5) (Agenda 5) To consider matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda

A member of the public requested that the Pavilion Survey results were published in full.

6.6) (Agenda 6) Comments from the general public and press (15 mins)

Four members of the public attended the meeting requesting that the pavilion survey results be published. They also requested that Resolution 1 on item 6.10 is rejected by members.

6.7) (Agenda 7) County and District Update

District Cllr Graziano addressed the meeting:

1. Cllr Val Byrant has been voted in as the new leader of NHDC.
2. NHDC has voted in a 4 tier authority in the Local Government Review. The decision is now with the Secretary of State.
3. Speeding issues are being reported to Cllr Graziano. He urges any near misses etc to be logged.
4. A Barn meet between local farmers and the police has been organised for March to discuss local rural crime issues.
5. Cllr Graziano has assisted in having a disabled bay installed for disabled residents of Templers Lane.
6. Acre has released small grants for Village Halls.
7. Herts County Council have released grants for environmental enhancements.

6.8) (Agenda 8) Finance

1. Members noted and authorised the payments and bank reconciliation shown in Annex 1.
2. Members authorised the signing of the bank reconciliation shown in Annex 2.
3. Members **NOTED** the 2025/2026 Budget.



4. Members reviewed website costs and **AGREED** to accept the quote from Parish Online of £250 plus VAT.
5. Members reviewed the draft budget for 2026/27 and **AGREED** to adopt it for the next financial year.
6. Members **AGREED** to demand a precept of £18015.78 from North Herts for 2026/27.

Action: The clerk to organise the new website and email addresses with Parish Online.

6.9) (Agenda 9) Planning

1. To receive and consider responses to planning applications

- 25/03051/FPH - Highways, Church Lane, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7TP.

Members **AGREED** to support the above application,

2. To note decisions and appeals

- 25/02994/FPH - The Willows, Butchers Lane, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7TR. PERMISSION GRANTED
- 25/02316/FPH - Lutyens Cottage, Hitchwood Lane, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7RY. REFUSED.
- 25/02811/FPH - 2 Oakfields, Preston, Hertfordshire, SG4 7FB. PERMISSION GRANTED.

3. To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council

Update on Temple Dinsley: The Parish Council has been informed that The Door UK is in the process of finalising an arrangement with a partner company, resulting in the development of the Temple Dinsley site progressing as a joint venture. It is hoped that the deal will be finalised in March. Russell Prince and his team will continue to be heavily involved in the project and local links with the Parish Council, Preston residents, the Planning Officer and Conservation Officer at NHDC will be maintained.

Action: The clerk to respond to planning in regards to the Highways application.

6.10) (Agenda 10) Pavilion Working Party Update

1. Members **NOTED** the report from the Pavilion Working Party.
2. Members reviewed the following resolutions:
 - Resolution 1 To accept the quote from Ridge for pre-application advice. Quotation to be circulated separately.
Members voted 5 against the resolution. Cllr Page abstained.
 - Resolution 2 - To simplify the resolution from the last meeting and ask the architects to quote for producing initial drawings for both a new build and an extension. The PWG to recommend which quotation to accept in preparation for the March Parish Council meeting.
Members **AGREED** with five votes to support this resolution. Cllr Burleigh abstained.
 - Resolution 3 - At the same time, to ask the architects to quote for working up plans for the selected option to be suitable for submission for a planning application. It is anticipated that once a company has been asked to produce initial plans they would be asked to continue with the project.
Members **AGREED** with five votes to support this resolution. Cllr Burleigh abstained.



- Resolution 4 - To accept a quote from The Parkinson Partnership LLP to provide advice on the VAT implications of the proposed pavilion extension or replacement, including options available to maximise VAT recovery, for a fixed fee of £1,450 plus VAT.

Members **AGREED** to defer this item. The Chair will get advice as to when this payment would need to be paid before this item is considered.

Action: The Chairman will inform the PWG of these decisions so that the necessary quotes can be obtained.

Action: The Chair will liaise with The Parkinson Partnership LLP to find out when the payment would need to be made.

6.11) (Agenda 11) Church Meadow Lease

Members **AGREED** to submit a plan of the new proposed equipment to NHDC for approval.

6.12) (Agenda 12) Playground Inspections – to review annual reports and agree next steps

Members **NOTED** the reports and **AGREED** that no action needed to be taken.

6.13) (Agenda 13) Pavilion and Recreation Ground

a) To agree a quotation for 5 year building survey of the pavilion for insurance purposes.

Members **AGREED** to accept a quote from Robert Lombardi Partnership of £350 plus VAT.

b) New bin collection from April

Members **AGREED** to organising a large commercial bin for the Recreation Ground with a lock.

Action: The Chair will accept the quote from Robert Lombardi Partnership.

6.14) (Agenda 14) Hertfordshire Highways Update

1. Preston Sign: This has to be funded from David Barnard's County Council Highways Locality Budget. No decision can be made until April.

2. Templars Lane: The Chairman continues to work with developers to try and get the potholes filled satisfactorily.

3. Back Lane: Potholes need to be reported on the online system.

6.15) (Agenda 15) Speed Management Survey – to agree a parish council response

Members **AGREED** that the Chair will submit a parish council response.

6.16) (Agenda 16) Parish Paths Partnership

Cllr Clark will continue to chase for the work to be carried out at the end of the footpath on Butchers Lane.

6.17) (Agenda 17) Clerk's Report

None.

6.18) (Agenda 18) Correspondence Received

None.

6.19) (Agenda 19) Matters for future consideration

Annual Parish Meeting.



The meeting closed at 09.55pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2026 at 8pm in the Village Hall.



Parish of Preston

ANNEX 1

Preston Parish Council PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

20 January 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
59	Lease	05/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-059	Payment - Solicitor Fees - Chur	HRJ Foreman Laws	S	-2,048.60	-409.72	-2,458.32
59	Lease	05/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-059	Payment - Solicitor Fees - Chur	HRJ Foreman Laws	Z	-45.00		-45.00
57	Water	09/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-057	Payment - Water	Castle Water	Z	-17.44		-17.44
56	Pension	09/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-056	Payment - Pension	NEST	Z	-78.34		-78.34
58	Domain and Cybercheck	12/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-058	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-16.49	-3.30	-19.79
60	Cutting back of verge	15/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-060	Payment - Cutting back of verg	Frank Gormill	Z	-250.00		-250.00
62	Salary	19/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-062	Payment - Salary	Staff	Z	-531.82		-531.82
61	Pond Maintenance	19/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P26-061	Payment - Pond Maintenance	Andy Woodman	Z	-450.00		-450.00
16	Refund of lease fee VAT	24/12/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R26-016	Receipt - Credit from Foreman	HRJ Foreman Laws	Z	550.00		550.00
18	Interest	31/12/2025		Unity Instant Access	R26-018	Receipt - Bank Interest	Unity Trust Bank	Z	49.84		49.84
17	VAT Reclaim	09/01/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R26-017	Receipt - VAT Reclaim	HMRC	Z	1,122.73		1,122.73
63	Pension	09/01/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P26-063	Payment - Pension	NEST	Z	-78.34		-78.34
65	Water	12/01/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P26-065	Payment - Water	Castle Water	Z	-17.68		-17.68
64	Training	12/01/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P26-064	Payment - Clerk FILCA Training	St Paul's Walden Parish Co	Z	-30.00		-30.00
66	Domain and Cybercheck	12/01/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P26-066	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-16.49	-3.30	-19.79
Total									-1,857.63	-416.32	-2,273.95



Parish of Preston

ANNEX 2

20 January 2026 (2025-2026)

Preston Parish Council

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

Date: _____

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

Date: _____

Bank Reconciliation at 20/01/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		91,313.43
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 20/01/2026		23,029.31
			114,342.74
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 20/01/2026		20,845.53
A	Cash in Hand 20/01/2026 (per Cash Book)		93,497.21
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	20/01/2026	0.00
	Barclays Current Account	20/01/2026	3,065.31
	Barclays Business 1	20/01/2026	0.00
	Barclays Business 2	20/01/2026	0.00
	Redwood 95 Day	20/01/2026	81,338.71
	Unity Instant Access	20/01/2026	9,093.19
			93,497.21
	Less unrepresented payments		
			93,497.21
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		93,497.21
	A = B Checks out OK		

Pavilion Working Group report to Preston Parish Council
22 January 2026

The PWG has held 7 meetings.

Key points from the last meeting are:

- Feedback from the Parish Council meeting was provided
- The brief to architects was too wide and it is not possible to get costings without drawings.
- Information required in stages is:
 - i. initial drawings
 - ii. indicative costings provided by a Quantity Surveyor,
 - iii. initial drawings to be converted into plans for a planning application
- It is likely that the architect selected for the initial drawings will be asked to produce final plans
- Resolutions request agreement by the Parish Council for the first and third of these tasks at this meeting
- A resolution for costings will be presented at a later meeting
- The PWG would like to obtain pre-application advice for a new access by accepting the quote from Ridge
- This would effectively be moving the access, not adding a new one
- If a newly positioned access is possible, the existing gate will be closed to vehicles and would become pedestrian only and therefore safer
- A new access would avoid vehicles driving on the pitch during a match making it safer for players,
- The headlines from the village survey will be posted on the village website with a link provided by PNS and in the newsletter.
- The Chairman and Clerk are working with The Preston Trust and local organisations to publish the availability of their facilities on the village website.
- It is noted that the Parish Council and the Cricket Club have had a positive working relationship for a long time and this is expected to continue.

The PPC is requested to:

- a. NOTE the contents of this update.
- b. To accept the quote from Ridge for pre-application advice. Quotation to be circulated separately. The cost, estimated to be about £5000, to be split 50:50 with the cricket club.
- c. To simplify the resolution from the last meeting and ask the architects to quote for producing initial drawings for both a new build and an extension. The PWG to recommend which quotation to accept in preparation for the March Parish Council meeting
- d. At the same time, to ask the architects to quote for working up plans for the selected option to be suitable for submission for a planning application. It is anticipated that once a company has been asked to produce initial plans they would be asked to continue with the project.
- e. To accept a quote from The Parkinson Partnership LLP to provide advice on the VAT implications of the proposed pavilion extension or replacement, including options available to maximise VAT recovery, for a fixed fee of £1,450 plus VAT.