

Preston Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PRESTON

Present: Councillors Chris Sutton, Rex Canton, Terry Hopegood, Scilla Chester-Master, Regine Freyne and Nick Price, District Councillors Esmond Jenkins and Juliet Layton.

Presiding: Councillor Chris Sutton

Clerk: Kate Crook

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

District Councillor Clive Bennett.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2011

These were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2011

3.1 South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre

Cllr Jenkins informed the meeting that Gloucestershire County Council have now put the SCOEC out for tender, concluding in December 2011. Cllr Jenkins was asked how much the SCOEC costs each year to run and he informed the meeting that it was around £200,000 per year. The Lake 12 group would like to continue to run SCOEC on a minimum cost basis.

Lake 12 is seeking contributions towards its administrative costs to put forward a bid. It was decided that there is no money in this year's budget. We will consider fund raising again at the November meeting.

3.2 A419 Action Group

The A419 Action Group are meeting on Tuesday 27 September. Cllr Sutton and Cllr Freyne will attend this meeting. An email confirming this has been sent to the A419 Action Group.

3.3 Kingsmeadow Bridge – housing residents' safety

Councillor Hopegood reported that bridge is due to start construction this month, with a completion date early in 2012. He has been in contact with various officers at Gloucestershire County Council to express his concern that, with residents already having moved onto the site, there is no safe pedestrian access. He has drawn a blank, due to staff changes.

Cllr Layton reported that there was doubt over the start date due to funding issues. Cllr Hopegood felt that he had now done all he could. It was agreed that he would hand over all his correspondence to District Cllr Clive Bennett to see if he can make any headway. Cllr Hopegood was thanked for his efforts.

3.4 Traffic Calming in Kingshill Lane and Preston Village

Cllr Hopegood has been in touch with Mr Peter Godwin, Area Programme Manager for Gloucestershire Highways and it has been confirmed that there is £5000 earmarked for traffic calming in Kingshill Lane and Preston Village. Mr Godwin has suggested a meeting with the Parish Council to confirm at the outset what is required and ensure that he is aware of any specific points. It was decided that Cllrs Hopegood, Canton and Price would set up a sub committee for the traffic calming.

It was felt that junction of Kingshill Lane with Preston Village would be a good place to put some traffic calming as cars come round the corner into the village without slowing down. It was requested that no speed bumps be put in. The issue of the bus routes, when the A419 is temporarily closed for works to the pedestrian bridge, was also raised.

3.5 Playing Field

3.5.1 Damage to fence

It was reported in the meeting on 7 July that Edna Godwin's fence had been damaged. It is believed that the damage was done by youths with a football and concern was expressed about where youths can go to play, now that Kings Hill North and South are being built. District Councillor Layton had contacted the Football Club to see if access could be allowed for the youth, but had been told that anyone using the field would have to be a club member.

3.5.2 Gatepost

Councillor Chestermaster reported that Nigel Beazley has been busy haymaking, but will soon repair the gatepost. The Parish Council will pay for this.

3.6 Letter from Mr M Dyson re footpaths

It was reported in the meeting on 7 July that a letter had been received from Mr Dyson raising concerns of crops growing over a footpath. It was not known to which footpath Mr Dyson referred so Cllr Canton was going to verify. Unfortunately Mr Dyson has been poorly since then so Cllr Canton has been unable to establish to which footpath Mr Dyson referred. As crops and hedges have now been cut back, it is possible that the problem has now been resolved.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Jenkins informed the meeting about the Kingshill Bridge, minuted under item 3.3. and also SCOEC, minuted under 3.1.

District Councillor Layton reported on a meeting she attended on 11 August for ideas for the Application for Ward Funding for Youth Activities, which could be around £1200. There were 12 attendees and it was decided to look at the possibility of a willow festival.

District Councillor Layton also directed the meeting to look at the planning permission for screening for Siddington Park Farm. Please see 8.2 Planning Decisions.

5. Questions from the Public

None

6. Village Hall

Councillor Sutton reported that there had been no meeting of the Village Hall Committee since the Parish Council's last meeting and so had nothing new to report. There would be a Village Hall meeting in the near future.

7. Financial Report

7.1 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The Clerk circulated hard copies of the budget, cashbook and bank balances for both July and August 2011.

Resolution 10/11 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the financial statements, as circulated by the Responsible Financial Officer were an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position as at 31 August 2011.*

7.2 To approve bills for payment

K Crook (Salary to 7 September 2011)	£212.57
HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE/NI for Wendy Jennings)	£88.20
Bibury garden Services (Grass Cutters)	£223.20
Preston Church Council (Grass Cutting)	£230.00
Total	£753.97

Resolution 11/11 *The chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts totalling £753.97 be paid*

To approve bills paid during the last two months

K Crook (Salary to 7 August 2011)	£212.57
W Jennings (Salary to 7 August 2011)	£176.53
Clerk's expenses	£25.08
Total	£414.18

Resolution 12/11 *The chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts totalling £414.18 be paid.*

It was agreed to pay the clerk by monthly standing order.

Resolution 13/11 *The chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the clerk be paid by monthly standing order of £212.57.*

Councillor Sutton signed a form to allow precepts to be directly in the Parish Council's bank rather than by cheque.

7.3 Budget for 2012/13

It is the time of year to consider our budget for the next financial year and set the Parish precept. In view of the current economic climate it is not possible to increase the precept significantly and we do have to repay the PWLB loan.

The Clerk will contact CDC to what is happening to the Parish precept portion of the Kingshill Meadow residents Council tax. It should be paid to Preston Parish Council. We need to consider this when setting next year's precept.

It is known that the village notice boards need to be replaced. Cllr Hopegood has been investigating costs. It will cost around £1700 per board. It is considered preferable to have metal rather than wood notice boards as they will last longer. It was suggested that the notice board nearest Kingshill Lane be replaced in 2012/2013 and that the board beside the phone box be removed.

The full cost of grass cutting in the churchyard needs to be considered.

Cllr Canton mentioned that the rubbish left on the playing field has become more significant and it was suggested that a bin be installed. Both District Cllr Layton and the Clerk will find out what the options are.

The clerk is not yet due a pay increase.

If any councillors to have any more thoughts on this matter, please let the Clerk know.

8. Planning

8.1 Applications

None

8.2 Planning Decisions

Application 11/02330/FUL	Proposal: Erection of workshop Applicant: Mr D Telling Location: Norcote Workshops, London Road, Cirencester, Glos GL7 5RH Decision: Application Permitted 8 July 2011
Application 11/01981/REM	Proposal: Amendments to previously approved reserved matters application (10/03034/REM) for phases 5, 6 and 7 for 103 dwellings within the residential development previously permitted under Outline Permission (06/02991/OUT) - revision to plots 296 - 303, 306 - 307, 314 - 330, 334 - 335 and associated garages, carports, parking areas and footpaths at Land Parcel At North Home And Kingshill 403562 East 201077 West Kingshill Cirencester Gloucestershire Applicant: Berkeley Homes (Oxford And Chiltern) Ltd Decision: Application Permitted 29 July 2011
Application 11/03644/TCONR This application type is for information purposes only and is <u>not</u> open to consultation.	Tree location and description of works: Three tall lime trees in Churchyard have branches touching Church tower. These need to be trimmed back as leaves etc will block drainage and may in future cause further damage. Once the work has been completed the distance between the branch tips and the church will be 7 - 8 ft. Applicant: Preston Parochial Church, Cirencester, Glos Decision: No objections 18 August 2011
Application 11/03646/TCONR This application type is for information purposes only and is <u>not</u> open to consultation.	Tree location and description of works: Very large Weeping Willow to be thinned by 25% Applicant: Church Farm Preston, Cirencester, Glos Decision: No objections 22 August 2011
Application 1/03870/SCR	Request for a Screening Opinion under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 for the provision of an access and roundabout in association with the Business Park at Siddington Park Farm at Land At Siddington Park Farm South Cerney Cirencester Gloucestershire. Location: Siddington Park Farm, South Cerney Conclusion: This will have no significant environmental effects in respect of its nature, size and location and therefore will NOT require the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment. Decision: 30 August 2011

9. Footpath signs

A suggestion was put forward to update the footpath signs within the parish so that they read along the lines of '2 miles to Cirencester' and that they are pointing in the right direction. Cllr Chester-Master agreed to do a survey of the parish footpath signs and report back if there are any gaps.

10. Other Matters

10.1 Next year's meetings have been set to the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

10.2 It was unanimously agreed that a letter would be sent to the Cotswold District Council objecting strenuously to the proposed new parking charges of 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The objections to be noted were the detriment to the Sunday trading and the pressure on side roads within the district. The clerk will write a draft letter for all the members to agree.

10.3 The Council had received a letter from BBC Radio Gloucestershire demanding information from the Parish Council's reserves. It was agreed that we should find out a bit more before replying. One of the councillors will be meeting with the Chair of South Cerney Parish Council and he has kindly agreed to find out how their Parish Council is dealing with this.

10.4 Cllr Price agreed to have a look at the dead tree next to a new driveway in Kingsway and advise on a course of action.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

Thursday 3rd November 2011 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.