

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd March 2011, AT 7.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PRESTON.

Present: Councillors Chris Sutton, Rex Canton, Terry Hopegood, Scilla Chester Master, Regine Freyne, Bill Mortimore & Nick Price.

Presiding: Councillor Chris Sutton

Clerk: Mrs Wendy Jennings

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

District Councillor Peter Messenger, Clive Bennett & Esmond Jenkins (Councillor Price advised he would be delayed and arrived at 7.30 pm)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2011

These were agreed and signed as a true record

3. Matters Arising from the last meeting

- 3.1 **Site meeting for Kingshill Development:** Cllrs. Sutton, Hopegood, Chester Master, Freyne and Canton, together with Wendy Jennings the Clerk visited the site and met up with Cliff Buddery the Architect responsible for the Kingshill site, on Thursday 10th February. A report of the visit is attached. After discussion at this meeting it was requested that the Clerk write to Mike Barton, the Operations Officer South Cotswolds, Public Rights of Way Team, at Gloucestershire County Council to ask how long the footpath will be closed. We must ensure that the footpath is re-opened as soon as possible, particularly as it was not possible for an alternative route to be found whilst building work is in progress.

Councillors also felt that the entrance to the Kingshill site from the roundabout is very dangerous. The roundabout has four lanes and it is difficult to judge which lane to use and often when lorries are exiting the site, they see cars indicating to turn left but in fact the cars continue round to go towards Swindon. We have been told that there have been several accidents already here. The Clerk will write to Gloucestershire Highways pointing out our concerns. We were told at the site meeting that this is the only access road to the whole Kingshill South site. When all the homes are occupied, the traffic at peak times will be increased tremendously.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Bennett had emailed his apologies as he had a meeting in London.

5. Questions from the Public

None

6. Village Hall

- 6.1 **Outstanding Issues :** Cllr. Canton pointed out that there appeared to be a damp patch in the kitchen along the back wall. There are brown stains on the kitchen tiling at the far end where water has dropped on to the cooker and

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

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adjacent electric sockets and made a brown pool on the worktop. Cllr. Hopegood agreed to take a look and write to S & T Reynolds, the contractors, to ask if they could come out to inspect the damage. The Clerk gave her set of keys for the hall to Terry so that he could show the Contractors around.

- 6.2 At last the final invoice to James Slater has been settled at £1,495 plus VAT. This was paid on 10th February after consultation with the Parish Councillors at the site meeting. Thanks were expressed to Terry for negotiating with Slaters.

Resolution 29/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that invoice No. 6282 to James Slater be paid in full and final settlement.*

- 6.3 **Electricity Bill** : After discussion it was felt that the heating had probably been left on over a period of time between December 2009 and March 2010. Cllr. Hopegood said that the settings on the heaters need to be controlled and monitored. It was suggested that the Parish Council may need to help out the Hall Committee to cover the electricity bills if there is a shortfall. It was suggested that the Parish Council pay up to £150 contribution for electricity for this financial year (2010-2011) and £200 for the next year (2011-2012).

Resolution 30/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved to contribute up to £150 for this financial year (2010-2011) and up to £200 for the next year (2011-2012)*

- 6.4 **Management Committee report:** Cllr. Sutton reported that the Art Group is still using the hall on a regular basis.

- 6.5 **Street Party:** Cllr. Sutton said that the Order for the road closure had been received for Friday 29th April. Signs need to be erected to advise the closure of the road, and a diversion sign put up. The Hall Committee are organising the party and will put details in the next newsletter. The party will begin at 3.00 pm after the wedding has been televised with everyone bringing their own picnic to share. Tables and chairs from the village hall will be used, together with crockery. If it is wet weather the hall will be used. Music and bunting to be arranged.

7. Financial Report

7.1 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The Clerk circulated hard copies of the budget, cash book and bank balances.

Resolution 31/10 *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 28th February 2011.*

7.2 To Approve bills for payment

Clerk's Expenses	£ 25.02
Preston Village Hall (Rent for 2010)	£ 46.00
Churn Business Machines (photocopying of newsletter for 6 months)	£198.30

Resolution 32/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts totalling £269.32 be paid.*

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

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7.3 Appointment of Internal Auditor

A letter has been received from Iain Selkirk offering his services again as our Internal Auditor. His charge remains at £65. After discussion it was agreed we continue to use him and the Clerk will arrange for the audit to be done at Tetbury Town Council when Mr Selkirk is carrying out their audit.

Resolution 33/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that Iain Selkirk should continue to be our Internal Auditor for this year.*

7.4 Request for Grant from Cotswold Volunteers

A letter has been received from Cotswold Volunteers (formerly Cotswold Council for Voluntary services) asking if we could make a donation towards their running costs of the community transport services. The clerk pointed out that in our budget for 2011-12 we have made provision for £50 to go towards grants of this nature.

7.5 Request for Grant from Citizens Advice Bureau

A letter has been received from the CAB for a donation. It was agreed to split the £50 with £25 to go to Cotswold Volunteers and £25 to CAB.

Resolution 34/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that £25 grant go the Cotswold Volunteers and £25 grant to Citizens Advice Bureau.*

7.6 VAT Claim for 2010/2011

The Clerk has prepared the VAT claim for this financial year which amounts to £605.07 (including the VAT on the Churn Business machines invoices). This will be sent off at the end of March.

7.7 Bank Accounts for Village Hall Repairs

It was decided to close off the two bank accounts for the Village Hall Repairs now that the work has been completed. Account numbers 02416865 and 02416970 will be closed when the Clerk has informed PWLB of our intention and the Direct Debit for the repayment of the loan has been changed to our Current Account 00130859.

7.8 Clerk's Pay

Preston Parish Council has been advised that the Clerk cannot continue to be paid on a self-employed basis. The Parish Council must register as an employer and deduct PAYE and NIC. All returns must be done online. The Clerk will contact HMRC and register as from April 2011.

8. Planning

8.1 Applications

Application: 11/00006/FUL	Proposal: Field shelter and tractor shed to replace existing field shelter Location: Siddington Mill, South Cerney Road, Siddington, Cirencester
	No objections

Signed

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8.2 Decisions

Application: 10/03034/REM	<p>Phases 5,6,7, for 103 dwellings, within the residential development previously permitted under Outline Permission 06/02991/OUT Location: Land at Kingshill South, Kingshill, Cirencester Gloucestershire</p> <p>Decisions: Approved</p> <p>Dated: 18th February 2011</p>
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9. Playing Field

RoSPA has advised that the Playground inspection will take place in April.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Freyne reported that the Neighbourhood watch had met with the Liaison Field Officer on Tuesday 8th February and a number of team leaders had been appointed. They will operate via email. Preston has been appointed our own PCSO Mike Owen.

11. Highways

Village Spring Clean – Saturday 19th March : The Clerk has arranged for the litter pick equipment to be collected from Cotswold District Council on Thursday 17th March. Gloves, jackets, bags, labels and pickers are all available. Posters have been put up around the village and a note published in the Village Newsletter.

Replacement Refuse bin adjacent to telephone box : Cllr Mortimore had reported that the refuse bin was broken after he found it in the road. The Clerk has requested a replacement from CDC and had been assured it would be positioned shortly.

Signs for dog owners – Cllr Sutton is in touch with Louise Little at CDC who will provide some signs. Liz Hamey has also arranged a flyer to encourage people to clear up after their dogs and also to come along to the village spring clean.

12. Parish Elections

Cotswold District Council will be sending out Nomination Packs very shortly as all Parish Councillors are standing for re-election this May. Deadline for Nominations is at noon on Monday 4th April. Cllr Mortimore has indicated he wishes to stand down so we will need to put up posters to encourage a new person to join us.

Cllr Sutton thanked Cllr Mortimore for his help and support during his time on the Parish Council.

A circulation folder was handed out for Councillors to read general correspondence received over the last two months.

14. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

In view of the Elections for Parish and District Councillors, and the Referendum, we have arranged our next meeting on Tuesday 10th May 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting will also be held on that day.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date