

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6th January 2011, AT 7.00 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PRESTON.**

Present: Councillors Chris Sutton, Rex Canton, Terry Hopegood, Scilla Chester Master, Nick Price & District Councillors Clive Bennett & Esmond Jenkins and two member of the public – Liz Hamey and Catherine Lynn

Presiding: Councillor Chris Sutton

Clerk: Mrs Wendy Jennings

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Councillors Regine Freyne & Bill Mortimore & District Councillor Peter Messenger

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th November 2010

These were agreed and signed as a true record

3. Matters Arising from the last meeting

- 3.1 **Site meeting for Kingshill Development:** A meeting has been arranged at the Kingshill South site for Thursday 10th February at 11.00 am. We will be given a tour of the site – Councillors were advised to wear wellington boots. Hard hats and high visibility jackets will be provided. We will meet by Scilla's house at 10.45 am and travel in cars. The Clerk will submit names of Councillors nearer the date. It was suggested we compile a list of questions prior to the visit – the proposed footpath is definitely something we need to discuss.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Bennett had emailed the Clerk with regard to the new planning application for an extra 31 units on the Kingshill Development. He had ascertained that the extra homes were to be built within the original planning application site.

5. Questions from the Public

Mrs Lynn raised the question of snow clearance in the village street. Over the snowy weather prior to Christmas the snow had been partially cleared by Mick Hayward (a local farmer). Unfortunately it had left a thin layer of snow which turned to sheet ice and made conditions treacherous. Our designated Snow Warden, Rex Canton, had been in touch with Gloucestershire Highways who are aware that we do not have the necessary equipment to clear large amounts of snow. The grit bin in Kingsway had been filled when required and is being monitored by Rex.

Mrs Hamey raised the question of the amount of dog mess in the village. It has been particularly bad during the snowy weather when people are not taking their pets out of the main street. She asked that the Parish Council put up more signs as it is often people from outside the village that walk their dogs here and would not read the village newsletter. Mrs Hamey provided a photo of one of the old signs for information, and also a map of suggested sites for new signs to be placed. A wooden sign by the church is also

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date

in need of repair. The Clerk will contact Cotswold District Council to obtain signs. Mrs Hamey also offered to write an article for the village newsletter.

6. Village Hall

- 6.1 **Outstanding Issues** : Cllr. Hopegood reported that he had not heard anything from James Slater regarding the outstanding invoice for £2,440.62 which the parish council are disputing. He suggested that he write to offer the sum of £1,000 in full and final settlement, which the council agreed.

Resolution 25/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that a letter is sent to James Slater offering the sum of £1,000 in full and final settlement.*

- 6.2 **Electricity Bill** : Ioan Jones, on behalf of the Hall Committee, had written advising that the bill from Southern Electricity totalled £600. From the information given it is difficult to ascertain when the majority of the electricity was used. Cllr Hopegood suggested we look in the Health & Safety report folder where the meter readings were recorded on completion of the works. Cllr Sutton will obtain the folder, make a note of the readings and then the folder will remain in the hall for safe keeping. The council agreed to pay the amount up to the figure recorded in the folder.

Resolution 26/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the electricity bill be part paid by the Council, up to the reading in the file.*

- 6.3 **Management Committee Report** : Cllr Sutton reported that the Christmas party made a £100 profit and in the future they are looking ahead to get blinds and shelving.

- 6.4 **Street Party**: It was suggested that the village hold a party on the 29th April in celebration of the Royal wedding. The Clerk will contact CDC and police to ascertain if the road may be blocked off for the day, and if they are any other considerations which should be made.

- 6.5 **T'ai Chi Taster Classes** : GRCC had emailed asking if we would like to hold a Taster class in the village – after consideration it has been declined.

7. Financial Report

7.1 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

The Clerk reviewed the spending up to the end of December advising councillors that the sum of £8,843.11 had been spent so far, out of the precept of £9,800. This is in line with our budget as there is little extra expected expense for the rest of the financial year. The bank accounts total £5,897.36. The Clerk reminded everyone that we do have money set aside for the outstanding Slater's invoice, but reserves are needed in case of unexpected problems.

Resolution 27/10 *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 31st December 2010.*

7.2 To Approve bills for payment

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| Clerk's Expenses | £ 14.82 |
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Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date

Resolution 28/10 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts totalling £14.82 be paid.*

7.3 Precept for 2011/2012

The Clerk has sent off our Precept request to Cotswold District Council for the sum of £9,800 (the same as last year)

8. Planning

8.1 Applications

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| Application: 10/04185/FUL | Erection of 31 dwellings (in addition to those approved under 06/02991/OUT) Location: Land Parcel At North Home and Kingshill, Cirencester Berkeley Homes |
| Application: 10/04676/FUL | Installation of internal mezzanine floor to provide bulk storage and external alterations to provide two external fire escapes Location: Tesco Stores Ltd, Kingsmeadow, Cricklade Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1NP No objection |

8.2 Decisions

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|---------------------------|--|
| Application: 10/04184/FUL | Retrospective application for resurfacing of customer car park (part only) including installation of surface water drainage system Location: Tesco Stores Ltd, Cricklade Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1NP Decisions: Application Withdrawn |
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9. Playing Field

Cllr Canton reported that there had not been much activity during the snowy weather. A few branches have come down and may need removing. The matting is again quite slippery but it will dry out when the weather improves.

11. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Freyne has arranged a meeting with the Liaison Field Officer for Tuesday 8th February at 6.30pm and with everyone who has indicated they would like to be involved from the village.

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date

12. Highways

12.1 Footpaths

When we visit the Kingshill site we should ask to see where the public footpath is situated.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Litter

Cllr Hopegood commented on the untidy state of the road adjacent to the Tesco site, and the Clerk will write to them asking if the whole area can be cleaned up.

13.2 Spring Clean

It has been agreed to hold a Spring Clean & Litter pick on Saturday 19th March 2011. 10.00 am to noon. Meeting outside Scilla's house to collect, jackets, gloves, bags & pickers. A volunteer is needed to collect all the bags.

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

Thursday 3rd March 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer

Date