

Preston Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 JULY 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 Clive Bennett and Juliet Layton, one member of the public - Julie Tomblin
- Presiding:** Councillor Chris Sutton
- Clerks:** Wendy Jennings and Kate Crook

1. **Welcome to the New Clerk**

Both Cllr Chris Sutton and the new clerk, Kate Crook, signed the contract of employment for the Parish Clerk position.

2. **Visit by Chris Cowcher of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council**

Chris Cowcher, Rural of Advisor of GRCC, introduced himself as a point of contact for the parish. GRCC is an independent charity that works with local councils to assist them in such areas as looking for funding and application for that funding; project development and project planning advice; and initiating a parish plan and also emergency action plans.

He commented that a parish plan does not have to be as formal as it sounds and would assist in applications for funding. It can be used as a statistical document incorporating what parishioners like and don't like, what skills there are available and the aspirations of the community in general.

Mr Cowcher told us that Poole Keynes had initiated a parish plan about six years ago to enable community cohesion, including a skills survey. South Cerney ran a public event with teas and coffees to enable their parishioners to complete surveys.

The GRCC also has an emergency plan resilience tool kit on their website, www.GRCC.org.uk, which enable the parish to set up procedures in case of an emergency such as major flooding, snow, chemical spillage. The councillors felt that this would be a good way forward and thanked Mr Cowcher and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting and to comment freely.

3. **Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

District Councillor Esmond Jenkins.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011**

These were agreed and signed as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011**

5.1 **Report on meeting held with GCC regarding the pedestrian bridge by Cllr Terry Hopegood**

On 15 May 2011 several councillors visited the Area Surveyors office of Gloucestershire County Council for an update meeting regarding the Kingsmeadow footbridge. It transpires that the tenders are only just going out for the design and build of the footbridge. There are already several households resident within the new development and Preston Parish Council is very concerned for the pedestrian safety of these households as there is not yet a safe way of crossing the A419 and there is no alternative route. It appears that there is no obligation to provide a footbridge until there are 200 occupancies.

This meeting has resulted in a series of e-mails with GCC to establish the legality and the present health and safety aspect of there not being a footbridge, as it looks likely that it will not be ready until April 2012. Cllr Hopegood read out the correspondence to the meeting.

As a result of the correspondence, the County Safety Officer will visit the area to assess the situation. Councillor Hopegood has not yet heard when this is likely to be. It also transpired that the County Council have allocated £5000 towards Kingshill Lane and Preston to facilitate traffic safety. This has to be spent in the next five years.

District Councillor Bennett commented that he had tried to contact County Councillor Shaun Parsons on this matter but had not yet had an answer. It is thought that he is on holiday.

It was agreed that it was important for the safety of the new residents of the new development that the construction of the footbridge remain a top priority for the Parish Council.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Layton passed on District Councillor Jenkins' apologies.

District Councillor Bennett gave his report at the beginning of the meeting as he had other meetings to attend. He discussed the issue of the noise from the A419, minuted under item number 11.1 and also the bid by the Lake 12 Partnership, minuted under item number 13. District Councillor Layton supported District Councillor Bennett with these issues and also asked the council to email her if she could be of assistance in any of the above matters.

7. Questions from the Public

None

8. Village Hall

8.1 Village Hall Committee

Councillor Sutton reported on the recent wine tasting and proposed 'Village Pub' evenings during the winter. Another Harvest Supper is also planned. There is no more news on the electricity bill, but this should be received in the near future.

Chris Cowcher of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council suggested that contact be made to Barbara Pond, a project worker at the GRCC, as she organising bulk purchases for village halls. He also reported on a hallmarking scheme, which is recognition of how you run your hall. There are three levels to the hall marking and gives the hall kudos and can also help in raising funds.

Councillor Sutton reported that, on the recommendation of Dot Warren an application had been made to Waitrose to be part of their green token charity scheme. No reply has been received.

9. Financial Report

9.1 Budget Status and Balance at Bank

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

Resolution 7/11 *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 30 June 2011.*

9.2 To approve bills for payment

GW Merricks (Auditor)	£65.00
W Jennings (Salary July)	£176.33
Moore Stephens (Audit)	£162.00
Bibury (grass cutting for May & June)	£223.20
Playsafety	£75.60
Clerk's expenses	£220.34

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer Date

Total £724.47

Resolution 8/11 *The chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts totalling £724.47 be paid*

9.3 To approve bills paid during the last two months

W Jennings (Salary June)	£176.53
HM Revenue & Custom (PAYE & NI for 3 months)	£130.60
GAPTC course for new clerk	£80.00
Total	£387.13

Resolution 9/11 *The chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the above amounts totalling £387.13 be paid.*

9.4 Approval of Annual Audit from Moore Stephens

Last year's Accounts have been returned from Moore Stephens in Bath and have been approved. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed on the two notice boards in the village for parishioners to make an appointment to view the Accounts.

9.5 To sign the amended direct debit to PWLB

Councillors Sutton and Freyne signed the direct debit mandate in order that the loan for the village hall may now be taken from the main current account. The next direct debit is due to be paid in November. The change in bank account is as a result of the closure of the two Village Hall accounts, now obsolete (Item no 9.7).

9.6 Renewal of Annual Insurance

The annual insurance of £335.12 has been renewed as agreed with our three year contract with Aviva. A copy of the Certificate of Employers' Liability Insurance is available.

9.7 To sign the letter to the bank closing the Village Hall Renovation accounts

Councillors Sutton and Freyne signed the letter in order the two village hall accounts (totalling £2.03) could be closed.

10. Planning

10.1 Applications

Application 11/01981/REM	Proposal: Amendments to previously approved reserved matters application (10/03034/REM) for phases 5, 6 and 7 and 103 dwellings within the residential development previously permitted under Outline Permission (06/02911/OUT) revision to plots 296 – 303, 306 – 307, 314 – 330, 334 – 335 and associated garages, carports, parking areas and footpaths. Location: Land Parcel at North Home and Kingshill 403562 East 201077 West, Kingshill, Cirencester No objections
Application 11/02330/Ful	Proposal: Erection of workshop Location: Norcote Workshop, London Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. No objections

Signed

Chairman/Presiding Officer Date

10.2 Planning Decisions

Application: 11/01324/FUL	Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension Location: at 2 Norcote Cottages, London Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire Decision: Permit Date: 17 May 2011
Application: 11/01552/FUL	Proposal: Retrospective application for resurfacing of customer car park (part only) including installation of surface water drainage system. Location: Kings Meadow Tesco Store, Cricklade Road, Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 1NP Decision: Permit Date: 20 May 2011

11. Highways

11.1 A419 Road Noise Action Group

District Councillor Bennett expressed his concern over the issue of noise from the A419 and told the meeting that he had emailed MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown to request that he raise this issue with ministers. He awaits a reply. He understands that nothing is likely to be done until the concrete needs repairing, which would be, at the earliest, 2013, due in a large part to financial constraints.

The parish council were directed to an email received, and circulated, by the clerk from the A419 Action Group.

It was agreed that a reply would be made to the Action Group informing them that they have the council's support and that the date and time of their meeting would be put in the next newsletter.

11.2 Winter Maintenance and Adverse Weather

The clerk had received the Gloucestershire County Council winter maintenance form. It was proposed that Cllr Rex Canton would be the snow warden. Nick Price does not have a snow plough, and Chris Huck says that Cotswold Council should contact him to ask him to act as snow plough operator. It was, therefore, proposed that CDC be contacted to request that they contact Mr Huck to request that he will act as "Snow plough Operator"

There is one full grit bin in Kingsway and it was not considered necessary for another one further up the village.

11.3 Letter from Mr M Dyson re footpaths

The clerk had received a letter from Mr Dyson raising concerns of crops growing over the footpath. It was not known to which footpath Mr Dyson referred so Cllr Canton will verify. The Rights of Way department at Gloucestershire County Council will then be contacted by the clerk.

12. Playing Field – Inspection Report

The inspection report from ROSPA has been received and everything is in order. The report was then put in the circulation folder.

Cllr Canton reported that that the gate post is lying down in the field so that the gate can no longer be shut. Cllr Chester-Master will ask Nigel Beazley to replace the gate post at Preston Parish Council's expense.

13. South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre

District Councillor Bennett discussed the selling off of Lake 12 - the South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre, by Gloucestershire County Council. Lake 12 Partnership is a partnership of several local interested parties from the community and existing users of the South Cerney Outdoor Education

Centre that is endeavouring to make a bid for the Centre, from Gloucestershire County Council, in order to retain the facility as a community asset and to enable the continued use by local people, as well as other organisations. The partnership has applied for charitable status and has the support of VIPs, including Sharon Davies, Fiona Fullerton, and Geoffrey Clifton-Brown. It is trying to raise money, £1.2m, to purchase the site of South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre and is initially trying to raise money to cover the administration costs, bid costs, publicity and general out-of-pocket expenses. The partnership has asked the parish council to consider raising a one-off donation of £500. Councillor Sutton informed the council that there is not enough money in the budget to make such a large donation, and suggested that the issue be highlighted in the newsletter and that we hold a village event with the proceeds going to the fund.

14. **Correspondence**

- 14.1 Councillor Canton had sent an email to the clerk reporting on damage done to Edna Godwin's fence. It is believed that the damage was done by youths with a football. The fence has now been patched. Councillor Freyne suggested that both the developer, Town Council and the Football Club be approached to see if access could be granted to youths to play on the football fields at the Football Club as she is concerned that there is nowhere for the young people to go. It was proposed that District Councillor Juliet Layton be contacted to see if she would raise this with the football club.
- 14.2 The Clerk of Siddington Parish Council had written to the clerk to see if noise from low flying Silver Stars was causing a nuisance. It was generally agreed that, although aware of the noise, it was not a problem.
- 14.3 The Cotswold District Council has asked for name and contact details in case of emergency. It was agreed that the contact would be Councillor Chris Sutton, with the village hall as a place of safety.
- 14.4 A thank you letter from the Cotswold Volunteers had been received by the Clerk.
15. The outgoing clerk was given a vote of thanks and a bunch of flowers.
16. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

Thursday 1 September 2011 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.