

Preston Parish Council Annual Report

May 10th 2012

District Councillors: Clive Bennett, Edmund Jenkins and Juliet Leyton were elected last May. We welcomed to Juliet as a new councillor. She has been very helpful during the year.

County Councillor: Shaun Parsons

Parish Clerk: We started the year with the resignation of Wendy Jennings whose family of grandchildren was expanding. She was replaced for a short time by Kate Crook, but then we were fortunate to find our present clerk Caroline Braidwood who joined us in November.

Caroline is about to retire as clerk to Northleach Town Council ,She is also clerk to Tetbury Upton Parish Council, so is well versed in how things should be done.

Councillors

Julie Tomblin joined the council in March to replace Bill Mortimore.

Terry Hopegood left the village and the Parish Council at the end of March leaving a vacancy. We hope to co-opt our new member at our next meeting.

Village hall

Apart from paying the PWLB we have not needed to support the VH this year.

There is however an ongoing problem with it being cold in the winter. We have made provision in the current year's budget to give assistance with this. The VH committee are considering the best course of action.

The Playing Field

We continue to have annual safety inspections and to act on these.

The grass is cut on a 2 weekly basis throughout the summer season by Bibury Garden Services. This is on a 3 year fixed contract.

There was some damage to a fence during the year and a litter problem. The local police were involved via our neighbourhood watch scheme. re a gang of

youths hanging about and leaving litter there. This seems OK at the moment but we will see what happens during the warmer weather.

The Churchyard

We are continuing to contribute to the maintenance of the churchyard, as we feel that it is a community facility.

Neighbourhood watch

Regine Freyne continues to run the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Newsletter.

Dot Warren has continued to ably edit the newsletter, which seems to be ever expanding with more church news now that we are part of a much larger benefice. . Regine Freyne attends to printed and distribution.

We must give a big thank you to you both and to those that deliver it.

The newsletter is now available via email and will eventually be on our website. www.prestonpc.org.uk

Website: new venture by Caroline. To be expanded during the year.

Kingshill Meadow

A large part of the new estate falls within our parish Boundary although we hope that eventually the boundary will be changed so that it becomes part of Cirencester town.

However in the meantime, the parish precept of the houses that were occupied at the beginning of the financial year comes to Preston PC.

The footpath through the estate is likely to stay closed until building work is completed.

The "Country Park" is being maintained by Cirencester Town Council.

A visit to the Country Park with explanation of rationale for what has been done, is planned.

Footbridge

The foot bridge giving pedestrian access to the estate was not even contracted before people moved in. Terry Hopegood was instrumental in raising awareness of the dangers of this.

Thankfully it has now been completed.

Traffic calming

There is £5K available as section106 money for traffic calming in Kingshill lane and Preston.

A subcommittee met with Peter Goodwin Area programme Manager for Gloucestershire Highways to discuss possible schemes.

Traffic taking the corner into the village without slowing down sufficiently was identified as a problem and an island at the junction suggested. (See notice boards).

Visits

July: Chris Cowcher Rural Advisor for GRCC. Who explained how GRCC could be helpful to us, and to the village hall.

November : David Scott Maldon and Keith Cockell of English Care Villages gave a presentation about the proposed Care Village at Siddington Park Farm. Plans for this were put in in December.

March: David Neudegg (CEO, CDC) came to find out what we thought of CDC.

Litter, and dog mess

Litter and dog mess remain a problem, as in most other areas. (Note the ideas from South Cerney re Community dog wardens – CDC are looking into the possibility of such a scheme.

We did not hold a litter pick this year.

Thanks

To all the councillors for their support and to Caroline Braidwood our Parish Clerk, who keeps us in line and does all the work behind the scenes.