

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Sutton, (Chairman), Cllr R Canton, Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master, Cllr T Hopegood, Cllr N Price, Cllr C Bennett (District) until 7.30 pm, Cllr Mrs Juliet Layton (District) until 7.30 pm and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs Regine Freyne (Personal) and Julie Tomblin (Personal)

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Acceptance and signing of Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 5 November 2011

RESOLUTION 1/12

It was agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Traffic Calming

The Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to occupants of Village Farm Units and copied to Peter Godwin, Gloucestershire Highways. A response had been received from Tim Herbert which had been circulated.

Cllr Hopegood advised that he had received details of Highways' proposal for building a raised area in the junction of Village Street / Kingshill Lane. The work would include reinstating road markings, provide demarcation of the junction and have minimal cost implications. Cllr Hopegood would circulate these proposals by email and also look at alternatives.

4.2 Footpath Finger Posts

An estimate of £200 per post in oak had been obtained but in view of budgetary priorities it was agreed to defer further action until next year.

4.3 Tree at Kingsway Junction

The Clerk advised that the verge is the responsibility of Bromford Housing Association and that their grounds maintenance crew had felled the wrong tree. It was noted that Bromford intend to maintain the verge in the future.

4.4 Grit / Salt opposite Preston Cottage

It was noted that Gloucestershire Highways had responded to the request and had placed a green bin containing salt at the junction of Witpit Lane. Mrs A Swain had enquired about salting arrangements and the Clerk was instructed to advise her that

Action: neither the County Council nor the Parish Council carried out salting in the village.

5. Co-option of New Councillor

RESOLUTION 2/12

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs Julie Tomblin to fill the vacancy.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors

and Cllrs J Layton, C Bennett and Cllr C Bennett (District) advised:

- A419 Bridge work is going well with regular bulletins being circulated on progress.
- Planning application for Siddington Park Farm is for access only
- Confirmed that he is supporting South Cerney Cricket Club from the Commissioning Young People grant and is making enquiries about other possible recipients in Siddington

Cllr Ms J Layton (District) advised:

- Making arrangements for Mr David Neudegg (CEO of CDC) to attend the next Council meeting on 7 March. She suggested that specific questions should be advised in advance, if possible, to ensure that information is available.
- Tenders have been received for South Cerney Education Centre but it is believed that they do not currently meet the specified criteria.

- Cllr Ms Layton and Cllr E Jenkins are supporting the Willow Pageant taking place in early March in Primary and Secondary Schools in the Water Parks Ward. This event will cover a wider age range of 11 – 20 years and will be well publicised throughout the Ward.
- There is to be a protest against car parking charges in the Brewery car park on Sunday. Cllr E Jenkins (District) and Cllr S Parsons (County) were unavailable.

7. Questions from the Public

None

8. Playing Field

Cllr Canton reported that it has been kept fairly clear of litter recently and that the vehicle that had been seen on several occasions has not reappeared since Cllr Mrs Freyne had contacted the Police.

9. Village Hall

The Chairman advised that there is to be a meeting of the Committee next week. With donations and £80 from the raffle, the Christmas event had raised £172. Alternative forms of heating and secondary double glazing are being considered. An air to air heat pump would be the ideal solution but some consider them to be noisy. Cllr Hopegood agreed to put the Committee in contact with experienced heating engineers.

10. Finance

10.1 Current Budget Status and Balance at the Bank

Circulated and noted. It was also noted that the photocopying bill for the Newsletter has not yet been received.

10.2 Bills for Payment since the last Meeting

RESOLUTION 3/12

The Chairman Proposed and Members unanimously resolved to approve.

HMRC – PAYE	Chq No 456	£ 130.80
Clerk's Salary 6 Oct – 31 Dec	Chq No 457	£ 523.57
Clerk's Expenses	Chq No 458	£ 8.64
GRCC Membership	Chq No 459	£ 25.00
Preston Village Hall Rental	Chq No 460	£ 84.00

An instruction for the Clerk's Salary and PAYE to be paid by standing order from 25 January 2012 was also approved.

10.3 Advice Note from NALC re Increased Precept Requests

It was noted that Parish Council Precepts will not be capped for 2012 – 2013 but this situation may change at some time in the future.

10.4 Budget for 2012 – 2013

RESOLUTION 4/12

Members considered requirements for the coming year and unanimously resolved to approve the budget as attached and the Precept request for £12,475 for the year 2012-2013. Whilst this would give an increase of £2,675 it would result in a minimal cost increase per property in view of the increased number of properties due to the Kings Meadow development. Considerations were given to:

- purchase and installation of one new noticeboard estimated at approx. £2,000 which would replace one of the existing boards.
- Acceptance of a 3 year grass cutting contract for the Playing Field with Bibury at £49 per cut allowing 15 cuts per year totalling £735 per annum. This would include maintenance of the hedge opposite the Old Rectory provided it is reduced to a maximum height of 1.8m which Gloucestershire Highways would be requested to do.
- Heating for the Village Hall which is being reviewed by the Management Committee.

Action:

10.5 Support for Citizens Advice Bureau

It was agreed to defer to the next financial year and to contribute £40 if funds allow.

10.6 Support for the Cotswold Tree Wardens Group

Declined.

10.7 Support for the Cotswold Volunteers

It was agreed to defer to the next financial year and to contribute £40 if funds allow.

10.8 Renewal of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Membership

It was agreed to renew membership. See Item 10.2/12

11. Planning

11.1 New Planning Applications

11/05462/FUL Land At Siddington Park Farm, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6ET

Construction of site access, including connection to new roundabout on A419

Response extended to 6 January 2012

RESOLUTION 5/12

It was resolved that no objection would be made to this application but Members requested that when the new road signs are installed, that the existing ones are reviewed and the obsolete signs removed.

12. Website – www.prestonpc.org.uk

It was agreed to form a sub group of Cllr Mrs Sutton, Cllr Mrs Chester-Master and Cllr Canton with the Clerk to formulate the information to be included and this would meet on 11 January 2012 at 2pm. It was agreed that Parish Council email addresses would be used for all Members and that photographs of the village and events would be added.

13. Correspondence

• **Correspondence Information Sheet – attached**

It was agreed that the Clerk would compile a list of correspondence received and circulate it monthly by email.

• **GCC – Road Closure Notice**

Noted

• **CDC – Request for Copy of the Electoral Register**

Requests were completed. The Clerk would contact Members not in attendance by email.

14. Any Other Business

- Cllr Hopegood advised that he will be moving away from the village in a few months' time and will be standing down from the Council at the AGM in May. Members expressed their regret and thanked Cllr Hopegood for his valuable work particularly with the refurbishment of the Village Hall.
- Cllr Canton expressed concern that the Cricklade Road will be cleared when the pedestrian bridge over the A419 is completed. Cllr Hopegood was confident that the contractors would make good when the work is completed but it was agreed to monitor the situation.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 1 March 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.10