

# PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 MAY 2012

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs C Sutton, (Chairman), Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R Canton, Cllr Mrs Regine Freyne, Cllr Mrs J Tomblin, Cllr C Bennett (District), Cllr Ms J Layton (District), Cllr S Parson (County), 3 members of the public and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr N Price (Personal) and Cllr E Jenkins (District)

2. **Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2011**

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

3. **Annual Report of Preston Parish Council**

The Chairman gave a report from the Parish Council which is attached.

Cllr Mrs Chester-Master gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Clerk.

4. **Questions from the Public**

**Sign to South Cerney on the A419**

It was noted that the sign is twisted and the Clerk was requested to contact Gloucestershire Highways.

**A419**

It was noted that the flashing sign does not work and the Clerk was requested to advise Gloucestershire Highways. It was also noted that once the gap is closed on the central reservation, there will be no safe crossing for pedestrians and cycles. It was agreed to request a site visit with Scott Macaulay-Lowe from Gloucestershire Highways.

**Additional Grit bin on corner of South Cerney Road at Toll Bar**

Clerk was requested to investigate.

**Signs for Village Farm**

Currently set into the wall and need to be clearer. Clerk was requested to contact Mr Huck.

5. **Any Other Business**

**Cllr C Bennett (District)** advised that:

He is stepping down as Chairman of the Licensing Committee to become Vice Chairman of Council for the coming year. He gave an overview of CDC's Licensing department saying that there are 600 licensed premises in the District with 1052 licence applications in the last 12 months but not only alcohol. There are relatively few problems. When asked about an incident when underage children hired a room at pub for a party and many got drunk, he advised that such incidents should be reported to the Licensing department where staff carry out spot checks.

**Cllr Ms J Layton (District)** (report attached)

**Cllr S Parsons (County):**

- Grant from national government cut and many savings to find to reduce budget of £400 million (excluding Schools) by £114 million.
- Staff reduced by over 1,000 (29%) by using voluntary redundancies and no replacement of retiring staff. Particularly severe when civil service staff only fell by about 10%.
- Gloucestershire has one of fastest growing elderly populations in the country.
- Council tax has been frozen.
- 1.5% unemployed in the County which is below the national average.
- Supporting the improvement of broadband in rural areas.
- £1m scheme to help first time buyers by providing guaranteed deposit of 5% in partnership with Lloyds TSB.
- Bus network has been revamped and despite some teething problems is now working well. Members of the public complained that the frequency and timings are not good

which Cllr Parsons agreed to investigate and the Clerk was requested to investigate if the Tesco bus is still running.

- Mobile Libraries have been retained but changes to the service being considered.
- South Cerney Education Centre – being leased to new people who are experienced and have substantial cash behind them.

6. **The Meeting Closed at 8.15 pm**