

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Sutton, (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr R Canton, Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master (Vice Chairman), Cllr N Price, Cllr Mrs J Tomblin, Cllr Ms J Layton (District), Mrs A Swain and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs R Freyne (Personal), Cllr Clive Bennett (District) and Cllr S Parsons (County) (?)

2. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct

2.1 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None

2.2 Register of Interest Forms (Outstanding Only)

Cllr Mrs Cameron and Cllr Canton completed their forms and Cllr N Price asked for a blank form to be sent to him.

Action:

2.3 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None.

2.4 Advice Received from GAPTC and CDC regarding Dispensations covering Precept Planning

It was noted that following advice from the Department of Communities and Local Government that no dispensation is required.

3. Acceptance and signing of Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 1 November 2012

Action: Deferred to the next meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

• **Response from Village Agent to Offer of Donation**

The Clerk advised that the Village Agent has not responded to the suggestion of a donation being made available.

• **Feedback from CDC's Community Governance Review**

It was noted that comments received by CDC have now been circulated. Draft proposals will be available in a few months' time.

• **Feedback from CDC's Presentation – Ward Boundaries Review**

Members received the following notes:

- 42/44 Councillors supported a review to reduce number of Councillors and multi-member wards.
- June – July 2013 Consulting at CDC & Parishes
- Sept – Nov 2013 Public Consultation
- Feb – April 2014 Draft recommendations
- Start with a clean sheet and then take electoral areas and planning forecasts (planning consents) into consideration.
- There's no national average for size of Wards – depends what is right locally.
- LG Boundary Commission totally independent of politicians and reports directly to Parliament.
- Will take results of Community Governance Review (Parish boundaries) into account.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Layton encouraged the Council to put some kind of emergency plans in place in view of the recent flooding. She suggested that identifying people to pass on information and those who have useful skills would be invaluable. However, Members agreed that Preston is a small enough community to have an informal method of dealing with emergency situations.

**6. Questions from the Public
Mrs Ann Swain**

- Action:**
 - A dead branch of a chestnut tree at Preston Mill is overhanging the Old Cricklade road and causing an obstruction to cyclists. The Clerk was requested to write to the occupant of the property.
- Action:**
 - A supply of grit is needed at the point where the foot/cycle path descends from the A419 crossing point near the junction with the South Cerney Road and the Clerk was requested to remind Gloucestershire Highways.
 - It was also noted that the ground surrounding the bus stop at the end of the South Cerney Road is in a poor state and a hazard for people waiting for the bus. It was further noted that the bushes also need cutting back to make the Bus Stop more visible. The Clerk was requested to contact the bus company to make drivers more aware.

7. **Playing Field**

Cllr R Canton advised that the ground is very soggy and there is standing water due to the recent heavy rain as well as tree debris. It was noted that the rubber seats on the swings are developing cracks and may need to be replaced in the foreseeable future.

8. **Village Hall**

8.1 **Minutes from the Last Meeting and Update**

The Minutes were not available but Cllr Mrs C Sutton reported that there had been a very enjoyable wine tasting event. It was very well done but not well advertised so made a financial loss, however money raised at the Christmas event compensated for this. The Insurance has been paid.

8.2 **Update on Grant Application to Sustainable Development Fund for Village Hall Secondary Double Glazing**

The Clerk advised that a grant application had been made but no further information was yet available.

9. **Village Affairs**

Community Speed Watch

Cllr R Canton reported that 3 people have been trained and it is hoped that the equipment will be available in March/April to carry out the survey.

Highways

• **A419 Preston Toll Bar – To Receive Update and Consider Further Action**

The Clerk advised that Siddington and South Cerney Parish Councils and Cirencester Town Council have supported the initiative to reduce the speed limit. Cirencester Town Council has agreed to contribute to the cost of the speed survey but has no budget available until the new financial year. Gloucestershire Highways have confirmed that the survey will be carried out May/June 2013.

• **Kingshill Lane Junction with Village Street**

It was noted that Gloucestershire Highways has advised that this project is on hold as the funding was linked to the development of an industrial area adjacent to Corinium Via which has not been progressed.

• **Further Issues to be brought to Gloucestershire Highways attention:**

- Action:** The No Entry sign at the junction with A419 and South Cerney Road needs to be turned round.

Telephone Kiosk

The Chairman asked what action the council thought appropriate re the telephone box. It was noted that the light is not working and there is a query whether the telephone is actually still connected. The Clerk was requested to check the situation.

- Action:** The chairman will ascertain whether the phone is working.

Newsletter Content

It was suggested that the full list of Benefice services and news may not be particularly relevant to the Village and will impact on the cost of production of the Newsletter. It was agreed to discuss this with Cllr Mrs Freyne and Mrs Warren, the editor, and report back to the next meeting.

- Action:**

10. **Finance**

10.1 **To Receive Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 December 2012**

(Attached)

Noted.

10.2 To Approve Bills for Payment

RESOLUTION 1/13

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the following bills:

- **Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog Waste Bin £311.02 (Paid by BACS)**
- **Bibury – Installation of Dog Bin £136.19**

It was agreed to update the bank mandate to include Cllr N Price, Cllr Mrs J Tomblin and Cllr S Cameron as signatories.

Action:

10.3 Information Received from GAPTC and CDC regarding Precept Planning

Members were advised that National Government has changed the way that CDC receives funding for Council Tax Benefit claimants and this has affected the tax base on which the Precept is calculated. Advice has been received from CDC that Preston will receive £3,380 in lieu of those properties claiming Council tax benefit and that the tax base for 2013/14 is 233.3

It was noted that this grant may not necessarily be available in the future and that although Parish Precepts will not be capped for the forthcoming year, this situation could also change in the future.

10.4 Budget Planning and Precept Request for 2013 – 14

RESOLUTION 2/13

The draft budget was circulated, considered and amended as attached.

In view of the increased number of properties within the Parish boundary, due to the development at Kingshill Meadow, it was agreed to retain the Parish Precept rate per household at the same level.. This will ensure that the burden on each individual property will not increase in 2013/14 although the Precept received by the Council will increase substantially. This situation will occur this year only, as the Parish boundary is likely to be changed to exclude the Kings Meadow development from Preston Parish in 2014.

Members considered how the increase might be used for the benefit of residents and initial thoughts were to repay part of the Public Works Loan. However, due to low interest rates and the way in which the Public Works Loan Board operate there would be no gain at the current time and it was **RESOLVED** to consider using any funds available to attract as good an interest rate as possible until such time that it is

Action: advantageous to repay the loan.

RESOLUTION 3/13

Members **RESOLVED** to request £22,940 as Precept for 2013/14. For tax setting

Action: purposes this would be £19,560 plus the Parish Grant award of £3,380.

11. Planning

11.1 New Planning Applications

11.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting

None

11.3 Decision Notices Received

12/04474/ADV Tesco Stores Ltd, 4 Farrell Close, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1HW

External directional signage to proposed 'click & collect' pod & canopy located within the Tesco store car park comprising 2 no. gantry signs, 1 no. directional sign and 3 no. directional finger signs on existing posts

Permitted 26 November 2012

Noted

12/05203/COMPLY Tesco Stores Ltd, Kings Meadow Tesco Store, Cricklade Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1NP

Erection of a storage pod and canopy to replace 8 car park spaces - compliance with Condition 7

Permitted 28 November 2012

Noted

12. Website - www.prestonpc.org.uk

The Clerk advised that the website had been updated using new software and is keen to include more information and photographs.

13. Correspondence

- **Information Lists for November and December 2012**

Noted

- **GRCC's Toolkit – Community Approaches to Reducing Traffic Speed**

<http://www.grcc.org.uk/Accelerator/Speed%20toolkit%20VERSION%2010.pdf>

Noted

- **Correspondence from CDC regarding Permitted Development Rights**

Noted

14. Any Other Business

Pavement to Toll Bar

It was noted that tree roots are continuing to grow through the surface making it uneven and dangerous.

Action:

- 15. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Parish Council Meeting
Thursday, 7 March 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm