

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master, Cllr Mrs R Freyne, Cllr A Miles, Cllr N Price and Cllr A Stone.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Ms L Harden, Mrs C Sutton (Village Hall Committee), Cllr M Evemy (CDC), Cllr S Parsons (GCC) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. **Apologies and Reasons for Absence** - None

2. **Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct**

2.1 **To Receive Member's Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda** - None

2.2 **To Receive Updates to Members' Register of Interests** - None

3. **Minutes from Previous Meetings**

3.1 Acceptance and signing of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 2020

RESOLUTION 35/20

The Minutes were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** - Included in the Agenda.

5. **Co-Option for Fill the Vacancy**

RESOLUTION 36/20

Mr Alex Miles was unanimously elected to join the Council to serve until the next scheduled Parish and Town Council elections in May 2023.

6. **Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Shaun Parsons (GCC)

Update on Access to Transport to School

Cllr Parsons confirmed that the walking route proposed by GCC is not satisfactory and agreed to pursue access to transport for children in the Village.

Update on Toll Bar Meeting

Members of the Parish Council had met with Cllr Parsons, Cllr Evemy and Richard Gray (Gloucestershire Highways) to look at options for improving crossing at the Toll Bar but it was agreed that very little can be done. Highways will install warning signs on the South Cerney road, approaching the A419. It was agreed that visibility is better coming from Cirencester in the Preston direction. Quotes are being sought for cross hatch marking at the redundant bus stop on the A419 and Cllr Parsons agreed to contribute to the cost out of his budget.

Cyber Attack at GCC - all emails quarantined until beginning of this week.

COVID-19

GCC has been working with CDC to help address the problems created by the pandemic. It was noted that as the Cotswolds has a small population, infection figures can fluctuate quite widely.

Cllr Mike Evemy (CDC)

Update on Kingshill Lane Verge

Cllr Evemy confirmed that the owners of Kelfield will be pursuing a Cultivation Licence application with Highways to plant bulbs on the verge on Kingshill Lane to the rear of Kelfield.

Update on Wychwood Planning Breach

Despite the length of time that has elapsed since the first complaint had been sent to CDC Planners, Cllr Evemy advised that a retrospective planning application is expected for the front boundary fence. Cllr Stone explained that the fence contravenes the Design

in Preston Statement, which stipulates that hedges or stone walls should be retained. Furthermore, this is supported by CDC's Local Plan which states that "modern and incongruous should be avoided".

Planning White Paper

If adopted, the main concerns for the Cotswolds are : the required for new homes to be built will increase from 429 to 1,400 which could only be built in 14% of the District area so as to exclude the AONB. It was suggested that Water Park should also be protected. Members were advised that our MP will vote against the proposals and Cllr Parsons encouraged everyone to lobby against it. Cllr Every reported that CDC is unanimously opposed and that the future of NDP's is very vague.

7. Questions and Comments from the Public - None

8. Chairman's Report – Cllr Mrs J Tomblin

Thank You Gifts for Community Support during Pandemic

The Chairman confirmed that the gifts had been distributed as previously agreed.

Village Newsletter

It was agreed that despite the second lockdown due to the pandemic, the Village Newsletter should be reinstated particularly as it will be needed to circulate information about the development of the solar farm and its impact on residents. The December edition will be combined with January as in previous years.

9. Playing Field – Update

The Chairman advised that the notices need to be replaced but otherwise all had been quiet.

10. Village Hall

Minutes from the Committee Meeting on 17 September 2020

The Minutes from the last Committee Meeting were noted.

The Village Hall remains open; the electricity supply needs to be improved in order to install a new heating system; it may not be possible to hold a Christmas drinks party this year, but the Committee may organise Carol singing round the Village.

11. Village Affairs

Meetings with Gridserve re Cirencester Solar Farm and Closure of Witpit Lane

Cllr Stone confirmed that details of the signage for the closure of Witpit Lane had been circulated to the Council and also distributed to the Village via email. The road will be closed on 16 November with warning notices posted the previous week. The bridleway be kept open for walkers, riders etc but will be controlled. A complaint had been received from one resident.

Tree Works at Entrance to Village

The Chestnut tree behind the bench (Kelfield) – Cllr Price advised that the tree is not particularly sound, but neither is it dangerous and that he would monitor its condition. He confirmed that cutting of the hedge opposite the old Rectory is in hand.

Overgrown Hedge at 3 Kingsway

Following a request from Highways to advise the householder about the Cultivation Licence limiting the hedge to 500cm, the Clerk confirmed that she had written to the householders and Cllr Stone advised that he had spoken to them.

12. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Examiner Appointment – Andrew Mead

RESOLUTION 37/20

It was confirmed that CDC had been instructed to appoint Andrew Mead as the Examiner. Some Councillors expressed concerns about the future of NDP's and how much weight they would carry in determining planning applications in the light of the new Bill.

13. Finance

13.1 To Receive Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 October 2020

RESOLUTION 38/20

It was resolved to adopt the report as attached

13.2 To Approve Bills for Payment: Attached Schedule

RESOLUTION 39/20

It was resolved to pay the bills as details on the attached schedule.

13.4 Planning for Budget 2021 – 2022. and Precept Request

Revised figures were noted. Cllr Every advised that CDC will probably increase its share of the Precept by 5%.

Budget Estimates and Precept, Public Works Loan Board Repayment Plan, Grass Cutting Contract 2021-2024 – Schedule and Plan

Noted. It was further noted that some of the properties at Preston Leigh are now occupied which will affect the Parish tax base and that Siddington Park Farm will come online in a couple of years' time.

14. Planning

14.1 New Planning Applications - None

14.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting

20/03572/TPO. Site Of Siddington Park Farm Siddington Gloucestershire GL7 6ET

Various Treeworks. - No Objections provided that replanting takes place as detailed on the application.

14.3 Decision Notices Received - None

14.4 Planning Correspondence

Fairford TC Response to Consultation on Reform Planning System

It was agreed that this response is very comprehensive.

CDC Call for Sites. <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/SHELAACallforsites>

Noted.

It was further noted that the field opposite Preston Place is designated as employment land as well as the remainder of Village Farmyard and associated buildings.

15. Correspondence

CDC – Green Economic Growth Strategy Consultation

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GEGSCOct2020>

Noted

CDC Budget Consultation

Cllr Every advised that an event is to be held for Parish & Town Councils and that an invitation will be received shortly.

16. Any Other Business - None

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 14 January 2021 online.

There being no further Business the Meeting was closed at 8.40 pm