

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2021

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: Cllr M Every (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 **Member's Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda** - None

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

2.3 **Letter from CDC's Monitoring Officer and Model Code of Conduct** – Noted

Cllr Every confirmed that CDC is to consider the Model Code of Conduct at its next meeting.

3. **Minutes from Previous Meetings**

3.1 **Acceptance and signing of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 November 2020**

RESOLUTION 1/21

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

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** - None

5. **To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Shaun Parsons advised:

- Many parts of the County had suffered **flooding** during the recent heavy rain but fortunately, Preston had few problems except for the road to Tesco.
- **GCC Budget** is showing 5% increase - 2% general increases and 3% adult social care. As the latter is demand led it must be covered. Fortunately, GCC has good reserves unlike many other Councils.
- **Update on Access to Transport to School**
Cllr Parsons had received a disappointing response from Officers and will continue to pursue as there is not safe route to the Schools at Kingshill. In the meantime, the parent who had raised the issue, is able and has agreed to transport her son to and from school.

It was generally agreed that this Council should be putting greater efforts into fighting for a cycle way on Kingshill Lane to allow access to the Schools and nearby facilities. Furthermore, it was agreed that it is ridiculous that children have to be driven such a short distance to School because there is no safe pedestrian or cycle route.

Cllr Mike Every reported:

- He had contacted the Chairman on Boxing Day to check on the flooding situation in the Village but only the road to Tesco was impassable. The Chairman confirmed that the Village is fairly contained with good support in place for vulnerable residents.
- Road closures in South Cerney and Siddington due to flooding was badly managed and created a lot of problems.
- National Government has dropped housing targets but not all of the new planning proposals have been dropped.
- CDC is also reviewing its Budget which is to be agreed at their meeting on 24 February.

Update on Wychwood Planning Breach. See Item 13.1

6. **Questions and Comments from the Public** - None

7. Chairman's Report

Action: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin said that despite living in difficult times, Christmas in Village was good. The Christmas Window Decorations and Lights, organised by Mrs Warren, brought everyone together and the Carol Service in the Churchyard was enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was agreed to ask Mrs Warren to put something in Newsletter to thank everyone involved.
RF

8. Playing Field – Update

The Chairman reported that everything is in order but the gravel boards on the fence around the electricity sub-station need to be re-attached.

9. Village Hall

Update and to Note Minutes from the Committee Meeting on 12 November 2020

The Committee had met the previous evening when the main item of discussion was improvements to the heating system. The preference of the Committee is to use oil fired heating and they had obtained permission in principle for cabling or an oil tank to be placed on adjoining land. Quotes are being sought for consideration at the next Committee meeting. Members of the Council expressed disappointment that renewable energy was not being explored particularly as this was likely to attract grants.

It was noted that the Committee is in a particularly good financial position with £18,000 in the bank following receipt of a COVID-19 closure grant. Further grants are being researched.

10. Village Affairs

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

Cllr Freyne reported that the Agreement (attached) which had previously been circulated to all Members, was now ready for signing. As the relevant parties are unable to meet face to face during the current pandemic crisis, signed copies of the document would be held by the Council's solicitor, Nick Tanner, until it can be signed in person.

RESOLUTION 1/21

Action: It was unanimously resolved to sign the Agreement, as attached. In view of the current restrictions, the Chairman would sign the document and deliver to the Clerk for witnessing.
JT & CB

It was noted that leasing arrangements have prevented work to start on site. It is anticipated that these issues will be resolved by the end of January allowing work to commence mid-February.

Action: It was further noted that there is no litter along Witpit Lane due to the road closure, however, there is some fly tipping in the wood at the end of the Lane near to the junction with A419 London Road. The Clerk was requested to report this to CDC.
CB

Overgrown Hedge at 3 Kingsway

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the householder and Cllr Stone advised that he had requested the householder to cut back the hedge.

Action: **Arrangements for Village Clean Up – Saturday, 20 March 2021**

CB The Clerk was requested to book the equipment from CDC. In view of the current restrictions preventing people from meeting face to face it was agreed to allocate areas to volunteers asking them to leave the rubbish in an agreed place ready for collection.

Installation of CCTV to Prevent Fly Tipping

Cllr Stone advised that despite fly tipping signs, rubbish was still abandoned although instances have reduced recently.

He had investigated the installation of dummy cameras and had found that, if installed, it would be better to site them on private land as the Council would be subject to too many restrictions.

In any event, it was agreed not to pursue at this time.

Request for Additional Play Equipment on the Playing Field

Action: A request had been received for additional play equipment on the Playing Field. The Chairman had canvassed opinion on the Village WhatsApp group and some suggestions had been gathered. It was noted that there is an increasing number of
JT

young children in the Village to be catered for. The Chairman agreed to investigate possible usage levels, suitable equipment and to look at costings. Cllr Miles requested that consideration also be given to adult gym equipment particularly as indoor gyms now closed due to pandemic.

Cllr Mrs Freyne observed that the Playing Field could be used far more for activities such as car boot sales, Village events etc.

Support of 20 mph Zones

The letter from Dr Morrish was noted. It was agreed to support the initiative but recognised that there are no obvious parishes with whom Preston could partner. It was further acknowledged that if drivers ignore 30 mph restrictions then they will also ignore 20 mph warnings, too.

Action: In the meantime, the Clerk was requested to follow up with the Clerk of South Cerney Parish Council to find out about progress with ANPR.
CB

Village Farm Drain

It was reported that there had recently been a problem with rainwater coursing down Village Farm driveway and flooding the road with then froze when the temperature dropped creating a hazard for both motorists and pedestrians. The owner of Village Farm had been alerted and the drains at the top of the slope had been cleared which had reduced the problem. However, the slot drain at the bottom of the drive has only partially been cleared as half of it is cemented and this still overflows. The owner is satisfied that they have done all they can.

Action: It was agreed to pass the matter to Gloucestershire Highways who may wish to take further action.
CB

11. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Update including: Examiner 's Letter, Examiner's Fact Check Report, Steering Group Response

Everyone was very disappointed to receive the Examiner's Report. The Steering Group had agreed that some points could be addressed, and Dr Pellegram suggested that the Examiner may have misunderstood some aspects of the Portus & Whitton report. The Group had, therefore, agreed that the Plan should be amended to incorporate most of the Examiner's comments and that Dr Pellegram should submit a response to explain the points raised about the Landscape Policy as well as renaming it. The Council supported the Steering Group's recommendations. Members were advised that the ultimate decision whether to accept the Examiner's amendments lies with CDC's Cabinet Member for Planning.

12. Finance

12.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 December 2020

RESOLUTION 2/21

It was resolved to adopt the report as attached.

12.2 Bills for Payment: Attached Schedule

There were no bills for payment

12.3 Budget 2021 – 2022. and Precept Request

ATTACHED: Budget Estimates and Precept Calculations, Public Works Loan Board Repayment Plan

It was agreed to defer agreeing the budget and setting the Precept to a further meeting to be arranged before 31 January 2021. In the meantime, it was agreed to approach the Village Hall Committee to request a contribution to repayment of the Public Works Loan.

Action:
CB

12.4 Adoption of Reviewed Finance Regulations

RESOLUTION 3/21

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the Finance Regulations as attached. It was further noted that the Chairman has applied to the Bank of online access to the Council's accounts.

13. Planning

13.1 New Planning Applications

20/04461/TPO. Hunters Care Centre Cherry Tree Lane Cirencester Gloucestershire

Cherry (T4) - Crown reduce by 1.5 metres in height and 1 - 1.5 metres on all aspects, leaving a finished height of 7 metres and a spread of 4 metres on each aspect (north, east, south and west).

Acacia (T5) - Crown reduce by 2 metres in height and 2 metres on all aspects, leaving a finished height of 14 metres and a spread of 4 metres on each aspect (north, east, south and west). Extensive dieback and thinning of crown.

Purple leaved Cherry (T9) - Crown reduce by 1.5 metres in height and 1.5 metres on all aspects, leaving a finished height of 5 metres and a spread of 2 metres on each aspect (north, east, south and west). Extensive dieback and thinning of crown.

Ash (T11) - Fell to ground level because of extensive hollowing of base of tree on eastern aspect, due to decay. Crown is overhanging footpath which is used by the residents. Replant with one standard Ash on edge of woodland belt, as replanting cannot be undertaken in exact location because of overshadowing from other tree crowns.

Pine (T12) - Fell to ground level as tree is nearly dead. Replant with one Pinus Sylvestica on edge of woodland belt

No Objections

20/04301/FUL. Wychwood Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR

Erection of garage and formation of fence to frontage of the property at 1.4 metres in height.

RESOLUTION 4/21

It was unanimously resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:

- The design of the fence is modern and incongruous; doesn't confirm to any design code; is contrary to CDC's Cotswold Design Code – D55 and 56 and Design in Preston.
- The fence is still too high at 1.4 metres
- The garage utilises more than the gravelled turning area and extends beyond the rear building line.
- The application states that the materials to be used are Siberian larch whereas it is actually softwood.
- Reference is made to trees to be removed but these are not marked on the drawing
- The position of the entrance has been moved but there is no mention of this on any plans.

13.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting

20/03265/ADV Site Of Siddington Park Farm Siddington Gloucestershire GL7 6ET

Proposed temporary main stack signage and flag poles for marketing purposes

No Objections

20/04248/TPO. Site Of Siddington Park Farm Siddington Gloucestershire GL7 6ET

Fell and prune trees in submitted schedule

No Objections provided that replanting is carried out as per the schedule.

13.3 Decision Notices Received - None

13.4 Planning Correspondence – Wychwood. Email from CDC Planner was noted.

14. Correspondence

Ash Die Back Replanting Scheme – To Consider Replanting Sites - Noted.

Launch of Gloucestershire Tree Group - Noted.

15. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that thanks had been received from the Parochial Church Council for the contribution that the Council had made to work on the Lime trees.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 28 January 2021

In accordance with Standing Order 11 and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from the following item
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There being no further Business the Meeting was closed at 9.30 pm