

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2021

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Chairman), Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master, Cllr Mrs C Elson, Cllr A Miles and Cllr A Stone.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr M Evemy (CDC), Cllr Mrs Lisa Spivey (GCC) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs S Cameron (Personal) and Cllr N Price (Personal)

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 Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Parish Council held on 13 May 2021
RESOLUTION 21/21**

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

3.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Preston Sign on the Fairford Road, Potholes at the top of the Village, Broken Drain outside The Old Farmhouse All matters passed to Gloucestershire Highways
Quotation for Early Repayment of Public Works Loan (Attached)

The quotation received was £28,224.49 compared to £26,093 if repayments made at the current rate to the end of the term in 2027.

4. County and District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Lisa Spivey reported:

- First full Council meeting at GCC was attended and it was interesting that of the 53 Councillors, over half are new.
- Responsibilities include: Adult Social Care and Overview & Scrutiny.
- She has had a meeting with Richard Gray (Highways) and discussed the Green and Clean agenda combining the budgets of GCC, CDC and CTC to look at verge maintenance, sowing wildflowers etc., Article 11 of Stockholm Agreement – 20 mph speed limit where pedestrians and traffic meet, and this is being considered by the Scrutiny Committee.
- GCC feels that it should be up to each individual authority whether to meet face to face or remotely and this is being taken up with LGA.
- She is keen to support a safe pedestrian / cycle route on Kingshill Lane to link Preston to local Schools. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward correspondence relating to School transport issues.

Action: CB

Cllr Mike Evemy advised

There is a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman at CDC and that Cllr Mrs Juliet Layton has taken over the Planning and Licencing Portfolio.
He reminded Members to respond to CDC's Public Green Space Strategy.

5. Questions and Comments from the Public. None

6. Chairman's Report. - Cllr Mrs J Tomblin

Reported that she had been to the new retirement Village development at Siddington Park Farm to introduce herself and ask if the developers would provide a noticeboard for Parish information. She was advised that when properties are occupied, we may be able to use the board in the community area. The member of staff asked about maintenance of the roundabout opposite to the entrance to

the site as the developer may be interested in adopting and maintaining it. Cllr Mrs Spivey was very interested in pursuing this request. The Chairman advised that there had been a very noisy motorbike through the Village early one morning which was thought to be travelling in excess of 60 mph. There had been complaints on local social media.

7. Playing Field

Verbal Report – Cllr Mrs Elson

There have been no problems on the Playing Field, however, a pair of binoculars had been found and although a notice had been posted on WhatsApp, there has been no response.

Verbal Update re Lease

The Clerk confirmed that she had now made contact with the solicitors' practice who act as Secretary to the Abbey Farm Trust and that the request to extend the Lease on the Playing Field is being investigated.

8. Village Hall

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2021. Noted

Verbal Report from Trustees

The new Trustees are now registered on the Charity Commission website: Cllr Mrs Julie Tomblin, Cllrs Mrs Sue Cameron, Mrs Chris Sutton, Mrs Anne Mingins, Mrs Sue Gulliford, Mr Ioan Jones and Col Alexander Lyndsay.

The Chairman reported that the Hall Trustees / Committee are considering installing oil fired central heating but has no land on which to site an oil tank. It has been proposed that a tank could be sited on adjoining land with permission from the landowner. Cllr Mrs Spivey, who owns the proposed site, advised that she had a preliminary meeting with Mrs Sutton and Mr Jones, representing the Hall Trustees, but that she needs to take legal advice before proceeding with any agreement. She suggested that it may be possible for the Hall Trustees to either purchase or lease a site for the tank but in any event, planning permission would be needed. It was further noted that there is a covenant on the proposed land restricting its use to agriculture only which may raise a problem as would access/maintenance of the tank as well as the supply route of oil to the Hall.

The Chairman advised that there are now 3 quotations from installers to be considered but she recognised that there are many issues still to be addressed before making any firm decisions.

It was reported that the Hall is in a very good financial position with £33,800 and since COVID restrictions have begun to be lifted, the Hall is starting to be used again. The Committee is considering holding a cream tea event.

9. Village Affairs

Update From Gridserve - Cirencester Solar Farm

Cllr Stone advised that work on the site has been delayed while equipment is being produced in India which won't arrive until November. Therefore, the site will not be completed until the New Year. In the circumstances, it was not considered necessary to meet with Gridserve for the time being there being no issues outstanding.

Invitation to Visit Hunters Care Home

Following an invitation to visit the Care Home, to promote a working relationship for the future, Members were keen to accept but suggested it might be safer for the Care Home residents if the visit is delayed until a further reduction in COVID infection rates make it safe to do so.

Consider Arrangements for an event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee (Big Jubilee Lunch) – 5 June 2022

It was agreed that a Village party would be popular, but the Village Fete is due to take place in September. Members felt that by next year, residents would be keen to hold a Village event and it was suggested that a sub-committee should be formed of representatives from the PCC, the Village Hall Committee and Council to meet in the Autumn to plan for the Queen's Jubilee in 2021.

Ash Die Back Replanting

Action: CB It was suggested that the gap in the hedgerow on the verge opposite Siddington Park Farm would be ideal and shield the Village from the lights of passing traffic at night. Locations on Witpit Lane could also be considered.

10. Finance

10.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 30 June 2021

RESOLUTION 22/21

It was resolved to adopt the report as attached

10.2 Bills for Payment: Attached Schedule

RESOLUTION 23/21

It was resolved to pay the Bills as detailed on the attached Schedule

10.3 Insurance Renewal

RESOLUTION 24/21

Following an email consultation, it was agreed to take up the 5-year agreement with Zurich Insurance.

10.4 Audit 2020 – 2021 Update

The Clerk confirmed that the Certificate of Exemption plus other required documents had been emailed to the External Auditor before the deadline on 30 June 2021 and an acknowledgement received.

11. Planning

11.1 New Planning Applications

C/21/00476/STC Street Trading Application

Gourmet Guineafowl - Layby on Kingshill Lane

RESOLUTION 25/21

It was agreed to object for the following reasons:

1. The lay-by is very narrow and not long enough for more than 2 cars, therefore, customers would need to park in the lay-by on the opposite side of the road and then cross.
2. The road has a 60-mph speed limit (except for the section near to the Schools) and crossing can be hazardous.
3. There is no safe pedestrian route along Kingshill Lane and, therefore, any pedestrian customers from the Football Club would be put at risk.
4. Kingshill Lane can be like a racetrack at busy times which would create a safety issue for vehicles pulling into and out of the lay-by as well as for people crossing on foot.
5. There is already a litter problem in the lay-bys on Kingshill Lane so there is concern that a fast-food outlet would exacerbate it.

21/01532/FUL Norcote Grange Norcote Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5RJ

Change of use of former stables to tourist accommodation together with associated ancillary works including creation of new access from private drive

RESOLUTION 26/21

The Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. Norcote Grange shares a septic tank with Orchard House and there are concerns that it will not adequately cope with the addition accommodation.
2. There are already 11 residential properties exiting this site on to the A417 London Road at the same place. An additional 5 properties will create a serious traffic hazard where there has already been a very serious RTA.
3. The proposed 5 x 1 bed lets plus a communal area, which includes the only cooking facilities for all 5 properties, would attract party groups which have the potential to be very noisy, disturbing the occupants of neighbouring properties, impacting on their privacy and changing the whole dynamics of the site.
4. The proposed 5 letting units are out of character in this quiet rural residential retreat.

11.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting - None

11.3 Decision Notices Received - None

11.4 Planning Correspondence

20/04301/FUL Wychwood Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR - Erection of Garage. For information only

The Council was aware that a new application was to be submitted for the garage only and for the fence to be dealt with separately. However, whilst the application title referred only to the garage, the details also included the fence. Members expressed their concern to Cllr Every regarding the handling of applications relating to this property and the time it has taken for CDC Planners to reach this point. It was agreed that there is still considerable concern about the height and appearance of the fence to the front of the property which could slip through the planning process. The fence does not comply with the Preston Design Statement or paragraph D55 of the Cotswold Design Code included in the current Local Plan 2011-2031.

11.5 Plus Any Urgent Planning Items Received since Publication of the Agenda

21/02393/FUL Land Adjacent To Preston Mill South Cerney Road Cirencester Siddington GL7 6ET

Height of boundary walls increased to 2.0m, erection of side and rear extensions, glass balustrade added to flat roof, black metal flue added, front door changed, garage alterations to include addition of external stair, addition of first floor door, addition of dormer windows, addition of garage doors and addition of windows on West elevation

The Council was unaware of any issues relating to this application and, therefore, raised no objections.

However, following the meeting and further research, the response was made as follows:

Preston Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

The large windows on the western elevation of the garage overlook the neighbouring property and will impact on the occupant's privacy.

There are concerns that the garage could be developed as a separate dwelling and, therefore, the Parish Council requests that if permission is granted, that a condition is included to ensure that the garage remains ancillary to the main dwelling and cannot be used separately. The driveway exits on to the South Cerney Road near to a dangerous bend before joining the A419 (Cirencester Road) and the Parish Council is concerned that any increase in the number of vehicle movements will increase the hazard.

The new boundary wall has been constructed from bonded blockwork whereas the permission granted under 20/02631/COMPLY shows dry stone walling.

12. Correspondence

GAPTC - Free Webinar: How Gloucestershire Parish and Town Councils can Communicate & Engage in a post-lockdown world. - Noted

GAPTC News & Training June 2021- Noted

GAPTC – Invitation to AGM – 24 July 2021 - Noted

Plus Any Urgent Items Received since Publication of the Agenda

CDC's Proposal to renew Public Spaces Protection

Cllr Every enquired if the Council had responded to this consultation and it was agreed to support the renewal, to request posters and stickers for use around the Parish and include in the Council's article in the Village Newsletter.

**Action: CB
13.**

Any Other Business

Bridle way from A419 Bridge to Harnhill. It was noted that since the hedge has been cut back there is further evidence human faeces. Gloucestershire Highways to be notified.

Drugs. It was reported that vehicles have been seen parking at top of Village with the likelihood that drugs are being sold. It was agreed to notify the Police and request advice.

Grass cutting – It was noted that the new grass cutting contractor is doing an excellent job.

Fete Planning Committee. Will meet on 3 August at 10 am

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting Thursday, 2 September 2021

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 21.07