

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2021

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Mike Evemy (CDC), Cllr Shaun Parsons (GCC) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs S Cameron (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

2.3 New Model Code of Conduct 2020

RESOLUTION 12/21

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct 2020.

3. Minutes from Previous Meetings

3.1 Acceptance and signing of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2021

RESOLUTION 13/21

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

3.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Update from South Cerney and Siddington Parish Councils re Installation of ANPR

The recent email from South Cerney indicating that no progress had been made was noted. Cllr Stone advised that Gloucestershire Police are concerned about use of the equipment because of the restrictions of GDPR although this hasn't been a stumbling block in some areas of the country where the equipment is in use. Cllr Parsons confirmed that the action the Police can take is limited because the equipment is not calibrated, and that Gloucestershire Highways is looking at how to overcome these problems.

Fly Tipping in Wood at end of Wit Pit Lane – Report to CDC

Village Farm Drain – Passed to Gloucestershire Highways for action.

4. County and District Councillors

Cllr Shaun Parsons advised that this would be his last meeting before the elections in May. He confirmed that he would be re-standing.

Cllr Mike Evemy advised:

- Preston's NDP would be considered at the Cabinet meeting next week.
- The Council has set its budget for the coming year which would raise Council Tax by £5 per month per band D property and that the Garden waste charge would also increase.
- There is to be a budget for Civic Pride which would cover fly tipping, signage, cleanliness of the roads etc. It would seek to improve the look and feel of the area.
- Crowd funding was launched last week to provide a platform for groups to fund raise online themselves. Criteria for support from CDC would be linked to the corporate plan but operational details were being finalised and workshops would be held shortly.

5. To Receive Questions and Comments from the Public - None

6. To Receive Chairman's Report – Cllr Mrs J Tomblin

The Chairman advised that Cllr Mrs Freyne is moving from the Village towards end of March after 31 years in Preston and a Member of the Council for a considerable part of that. One of her most significant contributions has been negotiating with developers for the benefit of the whole community. Not only has she been a valued Member of the Council, she has also supported the Church, been instrumental in planning and running the Village Fete and supporting production and distribution of the Village Newsletter. Cllr Mrs Freyne said that it had been a privilege to work with the Council and the Village.

7. Playing Field – Safety Check Update and to Discuss Expiry of Lease in 2026

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Safety check will be carried out in April. The Chairman advised that she is carrying out regular checks of the equipment and field and that a new 'NO Dogs' sign has been posted on the gate. Nearby residents had alerted her to dogs being exercised on the field and she had confronted the offenders. There is still, however, issues with dog fouling by a resident despite previous warnings and the Clerk was requested to contact the dog warden for advice on how to deal with the situation.

Action: CB

It was further noted that there remains only 5 more years on the Lease and the Clerk was requested to contact the Trust's solicitor to seek an extension.

Action: CB

**8. Village Hall
Update – Noticeboard**

The Chairman confirmed that some repair work has been carried out and that the case of the noticeboard is solid. It has now been returned to the Village Hall where it is awaiting new doors to be fitted next week. It was noted that it does need regular maintenance.

Change of Broadband Supplier for Village Hall

The Hall Treasurer had advised of an offer from Gigaclear to provide free broadband in exchange for use of the Hall 4 times a year and this would be taken up once the current contract expires.

**9. Village Affairs
Update From Gridserve**

There was no further news regarding the date for commencement of work. However, the contract for community benefit has now been signed and the funds will be payable once the site is connected to the grid.

Members discussed how the funds should be managed but as the funds are to be awarded to the Council it was agreed that it should retain responsibility for the funds. Consideration should be given to: setting up a formal trust fund, rules and criteria for how the funds might be used. The Clerk was requested to investigate how other Councils have handle similar funds.

Action: CB

It was noted that Gridserve have paid Tanners legal fees.

Village Clean Up – Saturday, 20 March 2021

The Chairman confirmed that she had arranged for litter pickers and bin bags to be available. The Clerk was requested to obtain bag stickers from CDC and contact Mrs Warren to request a reminder email to be sent out.

Action: CB

Annual Village Meeting – Thursday, 13 May 2021

The Clerk advised that the legislation allowing remote meetings expires on 7 May and that government guidance is awaited. Both public buildings in the Village remain closed leaving nowhere to hold the Annual Parish (Village) Meeting face to face. It had been intended to discuss traffic and speed through the Village at this meeting but since the pandemic lock down, traffic has considerably reduced, and it is anticipated that it would reduce even further when Witpit Lane is closed during development of the solar farm. However, Cllr Stone requested that this subject is included on agenda so that residents have opportunity to comment.

Action: CB

Village Tree Survey

Cllr N Price advised that no urgent work is required although the tree by the bench at the Kingshill Lane entrance to the Village should be monitored.

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Draft Minutes from the Steering Group Meeting held on 15 February 2021 - Noted Verbal Update

Following agreement with CDC to amend the Plan in line with the Examiner's comments, the document had been completed very quickly allowing Mr Warren to carry out a check before the finalised Plan is considered at CDC's Council meeting on Thursday. Members were advised that CDC Officers had been very helpful. Members agreed that Mr Warren should be thanked for the huge amount of work he had put into the Plan.

11. Finance

**11.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 28 February 2021
RESOLUTION 14/21**

It was resolved to adopt the report as attached.

**11.2 Bills for Payment
RESOLUTION 15/21**

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

12. Procedures

**Accessibility Statement for the Website
RESOLUTION 16/21**

It was resolved to adopt the Statement as attached.

**Cookies and Privacy Policy for Website
RESOLUTION 17/21**

It was resolved to adopt the Policy as attached.

13. Planning

13.1 New Planning Applications - None

13.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting

**20/04407/FUL. Forty Farm Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP
Erection of 3 No dwellings to replace existing barns**

The Parish Council has no objections to the proposal of 3 dwellings replacing a previously approved application for 5 dwellings. However, the Parish Council does object to any development on Kingshill Lane due to the inevitable increase in traffic in addition to there being no safe pedestrian or cycle route to or from the site which present traffic and highway safety issues.

The Parish Council also objects to the change of use from farmland to domestic gardens which will result in an important loss of open space and wildlife habitat and will impact on the surrounding area.

If CDC is minded to approve the change of use, please can you advise if it is possible to include a restriction on the area that this will apply to ?

21/00183/TPO. Siddington Park Siddington Gloucestershire GL7 6ET

The Parish Council is confused about this application to remove further trees as it would appear to have arisen because the proposed drainage system has changed and yet no revised drainage proposals appears to have been submitted to support the location and need for the waste water tank.

The original drainage scheme proposed a number of soakaways around the site thereby negating the need for a waste water storage tank.

Bearing in mind the recent flooding in the area we would have thought the last thing Thames Water would want is more water going quickly into the river system. Please could you confirm ?

With regard to the additional tree work, the Parish Council objects to the loss of yet more trees and would prefer to see an alternative plan where it's not necessary. The removal of mature trees will be an important loss of natural physical features and to the wildlife habitat.

13.3 Decision Notices Received - None

13.4 Planning Correspondence

21/00183/TPO. Siddington Park Farm

Although the application related to tree works, there was concern that there had been no application for the wastewater storage tank, and this had been taken up with CDC 24 February 2021. Thames Water had advised that the tank would only be used when the wastewater system is overloaded but Cllr Every was asked to follow up with the Planning Officer.

Action: ME

14. Correspondence

CDC's Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003) - Noted
Gloucestershire County Council's Updated Minerals and Waste Development Scheme 2021/22-2023/24 - Noted

GAPTC – Vacancy for Parish Councillor on GAPTC Executive Committee - Noted

GAPTC – Advice Regarding Return to Face-to-Face Meetings - Noted

GAPTC – General Information Update - Noted

GCC – Unrecorded Public Rights of Way – It was agreed that the only right of way unrecorded is likely to be the path through the Churchyard which joins Footpath No 6 to No 8. The Clerk was requested to respond to GCC.

Action: CB

15. Any Other Business - None

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AGM). - Thursday, 13 May 2021

Annual Village Meeting. - Thursday, 13 May 2021

Details to be confirmed.

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