

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 MAY 2022

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin, Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr Mrs S Chester-Master, Cllr Mrs C Elson, Cllr N Price, Cllr A Stone, Cllr M Evemy (CDC), Cllr L Spivey (GCC) and 13 Members of the Public: Sue Faulkner, Chris Sutton, John Vokes, Jan Stone, Sue Gulliford, Dot Warren, Julia Hanlon, David Rose, Susan Hunt, Claire Godden, Joy Canton, Rob Webber and Helen Lynas.

Also in Attendance: Mrs C Braidwood (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Ioan & Rosie Jones, Nic Horne, John Lynn, Elisabeth & Martin Cooper,

2. **Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2021**

Item 5 - Cotswold District Council was amended to read Gloucestershire County Council. It was then agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Annual Report of Preston Parish Council**

Cllr Julie Tomblin gave the Council's report as attached. She added that the Village has sadly lost both Mrs Ash and Mrs Rogers recently, both of whom had lived in the Village for many years.

Cllr Tomblin thanked all Members of the Council and the Clerk for their work and support during the year and Cllr Alan Stone proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Julie Tomblin for her work as Chair,

4. **Annual Reports from County and District Councillors**

Both Cllr Evemy's and Cllr Spivey's reports had been circulated and were attached.

Q – Cllr Alan Stone – What percentage of County and District Council staff are working from home and expressed concern about the impact on service delivery ?

A – Cllr Mike Evemy and Cllr Lisa Spivey - Most staff work partly from home and partly in the offices of GCC and CDC, but some departments work full time in Council offices. This reflects what is happening in all sectors both public and private. Staff are beginning to feel more comfortable about returning to work in offices but there are no clear figures. Residents shouldn't be affected or even notice any difference in where staff are located as service delivery should be the same.

It was noted that both GCC & CDC have lost staff during the pandemic and now experiencing difficulty in retaining and recruiting staff.

5. **Village Events:**

• **Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Celebratory Lunch - Sunday, 5 June.**

The Council and the Village Hall Committee have agreed to jointly share the cost of Prosecco, soft drinks, commemorative mugs for all of the Village children and some other supplies up to £250 each but sought help and support from residents to make the event as successful as possible.

- ⇒ Council has obtained formal Road Closure for the section of road outside the Village Hall from 11 am – 3.30 pm
- ⇒ 12 noon start for the Lunch
- ⇒ People would be asked to bring their own plates, glasses etc together with a plate of savoury food for sharing.
- ⇒ The Chairman thanked John Vokes who had offered to provide cakes and sweet traybakes.
- ⇒ Residents are welcome to bring extended family.
- ⇒ Field next to the Allotments can be used for parking

- ⇒ Help needed to put up bunting, set up tables in street and decorate them from 11 am on the day as well as chill the Prosecco and soft drinks from the day before – various people attending the meeting volunteered to help.
- ⇒ It was agreed to have a 1950's theme for those who wished to dress up.
- ⇒ There will be a 'Bake Off' Competition for children to be judged by Joy Canton with Scilla Chester-Master in reserve and prizes for the winners
- ⇒ It was agreed that there should be a raffle and to adopt GARAS as the event Charity.
- ⇒ There will be an Art Exhibition in the Hall for 3 days prior to the event.
- ⇒ It was agreed to put out a WhatsApp message asking for help to support the volunteers should they be needed.
- ⇒ The more who can help will mean there is less for each person to do and it would be good to encourage new people to be involved.
- ⇒ During the week leading up to the event Julie Tomblin (Chair) will check the weather and make provisional arrangements for gazebos (and means of securing) them should they be needed.

Chris Sutton advised that GRCC is compiling a list of information on all Jubilee events in the County and it was agreed that the event would be for people living and working in the Village and their families and not open to everyone.

- **Annual Village Fete**

Mrs Scilla Chester-Master advised that the date of the Fete has been agreed with the Vicar as 10 September 2022. This is the same time as last year. It was noted that many other events take place in July and that the September date may have less competition, but it was agreed to check the date of Poulton's fete.

It was settled to hold a planning meeting on Monday, 4 July at 7pm in Scilla Chester-Master's garden. Everyone is welcome and all new ideas are particularly welcome.

6. **Comments from the Public**

Neighbourhood Watch – Dot Warren said that previously the NW Group was divided into smaller groups who would hold information for others in the group relating to family contact details, alarm codes and keys. She asked if this should be re-introduced but everyone felt that most people have their neighbour's mobile numbers and some hold keys etc. but some might find a formal arrangement to be intrusive. It was agreed to leave Individuals to make their own decision about how much information they wish others to have.

Cardboard Police attached to Lampposts. – Dot Warren asked if this was something that the Parish Council could investigate as she has seen them in other areas.

Dog Stealing - A member of the public asked if there have been any instances locally. The Chair replied that she believed there had been one and that the dog had been recovered. It was agreed that WhatsApp is a good tool to circulate this type of information.

Travellers parked on verge on Witpit Lane – A member of the public enquired if anything could be done and was assured that GCC Traveller Officers are aware and have made contact but there has been no problem and they are on Highways land.

Lorries cutting through Village - Now that Witpit Lane has been re-opened there have been more lorries travelling through the Village and a member of the public asked if a weight restriction could be imposed. Cllr Spivey replied that a weight restriction would require a Traffic Regulation Order which is very expensive and would not be enforced by the Police. She suggested that lorry registration numbers should be reported to the Police.

7. **Any Other Business**

None

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending

The Meeting Closed at 19.47 pm