

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2020

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr Mrs R Freyne, Cllr Mrs N Jones, Cllr N Price and Cllr A Stone.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr M Evely (CDC), Cllr S Parsons (GCC) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master (Personal)

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

3. Minutes from Previous Meetings

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

RESOLUTION 14/20

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Contribution to Cost of Works on Churchyard Lime Trees

Cllr Mrs Chester-Masters email had been circulated which explained that quotations for the work on the tree had come in, in the region of £6,000. An alternative quote had been given to cover maintenance only to make the trees safe amounting to £2,000. Mindful that the Council is prevented from contributing funds to the Church and the only power available is s137, any possible funding would be limited to £2,030 less the contribution to Churchyard grass cutting. The Clerk was requested to enquire what other funding sources had been explored and to clarify the ownership of the trees.

Action: CB

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Shaun Parsons

Verge on Kingshill Lane

RESOLUTION 15/20

Residents who had treated the grass verge with weedkiller are in breach of the law and needs to be rectified either by the resident or by Gloucestershire Highways who will re-charge the cost to the resident. Cllr Evely explained that the resident has offered to sow the area with wildflowers or return to its previous condition. Members acknowledged that it can be difficult to establish wildflowers and it was unanimously agreed that the Council would prefer the grass on the verge to be restored. Cllr Evely agreed to make contact with the resident and to put them in contact with Richard Gray (Gloucestershire Highways) as he may have grass seed available.

Action: ME

Bus Stop Lay By – A417 Cirencester Road

Members considered the proposal from Gloucestershire Highways to build out the layby on the A417 Cirencester Road to improve the crossing for pedestrians. It was agreed that whilst it may make some improvement the on Preston side the problem would remain on the South Cerney side of the road. Cllr Parsons agreed to arrange a site meeting with Richard Gray (Gloucestershire Highways).

Action: SP

Traffic Speed in the Village

The problem is the same in every village in the County. Although it is an acknowledged problem, no accidents are reported to the Police. The Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership is being resurrected to address these issues

Action: SP and Cllr Parsons agreed to put Preston's issues on the agenda. It was noted that there are now more children in the Village.
Coronavirus Hub
It was advised that the hub, a partnership of County and District Councils had been very successful during the height of the crisis.

Cllr Mike Every advised:

- Parking responsibilities are now within his remit.
- Car parking charges will increase on 1 September by 30%. However, there will be free short-term parking in some car parks. Free after 3pm is remaining.
- Two senior members of staff have recently taken retirement and recruitment for a CEO is underway.
- Green Bins - confirmed that weekly collection of green waste will not be re-instated.

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

7. **Chairman's Report – Cllr Mrs J Tomblin**

The Chairman thanked everyone in the Village who had volunteered during the coronavirus crisis and especially Mrs Warren for circulating weekly information bulletins and Tim Thompson for setting up a website and WhatsApp group. It was agreed to invite everyone involved to a social event once it becomes safe to hold gatherings. Also mentioned were Chris Elson and Oliver & Daniel Horne who produced videos. The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Freyne will discuss arrangements in due course.

Action: JT & RF

8. **Playing Field**

Re-Opening of Play Area – Risk Assessment, Equipment Checklist, and Notice RESOLUTION 16/20

The Chairman confirmed that her son has thoroughly cleaned the play equipment and carried out repairs before the area being re-opened with appropriate notices posted regarding the coronavirus crisis (see attached). The graffiti and rubbish have also been cleared. During the lockdown reports have been made of groups of teenagers meeting in the Playing Field at all times of the day and night and there is concern that the new notices could be removed and further graffiti marking the play equipment. It was agreed to purchase anti-graffiti paint.

Action: JT

9. **Village Hall - Update**

It was reported that the Village Hall Committee have made the decision not to open the Hall at the moment, but the required Risk Assessments will be done prior to opening. In the meantime, the Committee will look at ways to improve the heating and lighting. Finances are good with only one bad debt. The Village Hall notice board is damaged, but the Committee are dealing with the repair. The next meeting will be held on 17 September.

Cllr Every asked if the Committee has applied for a business grant and Cllr Stone agreed to pass the information on.

Action: AS

10. **Village Affairs**
Village Tree Maintenance

Cllr Price had carried out a survey of trees in the Village and reported that some need minor work. He was asked to include privately owned trees in next survey so that residents could be advised of impending problems.

Contribution to Works on the A419 to Extend Footway – See Email from Gloucestershire Highways RESOLUTION 17/20

It was agreed that the cost of the work outweighed any possible benefit and, therefore, the offer should be declined.

11. **Neighbourhood Development Plan - Update following Regulation 14 Consultation**

It was reported that Dr Pellegram and Martin Portus are re-writing some sections of the Plan and responded to queries raised during the consultation process. It is hoped that this will be complete and ready for final submission to CDC in the next few weeks

12. Finance

12.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 15 July 2020

RESOLUTION 18/20

It was resolved to adopt the report as attached.

12.2 To Approve Bills for Payment: Attached Schedule

RESOLUTION 19/20

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

12.3 To Approve Audit Return for Year Ending 31 March 2020

Certificate of Exemption

RESOLUTION 20/20

It was resolved that the Council's turnover is below £25,000 pa. and the Certificate of Exemption completed as attached.

Annual Internal Audit Report

RESOLUTION 21/20

It was resolved to adopt the Annual Audit Report as attached

Annual Governance Statement

RESOLUTION 22/20

It was resolved to adopt the Annual Audit Report as attached

Annual Accounting Statements

RESOLUTION 23/20

It was resolved to adopt the Annual Audit Report as attached

13. Planning

13.1 New Planning Applications

20/02269/TPO. Siddington Park Farm Siddington Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6ET

RESOLUTION 24/20

Proposed works to TPO trees as outlined in reports

No Objections.

13.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting - None

13.3 Decision Notices Received - None

13.4 Planning Correspondence

Wychwood – Issues regarding Boundary Fence and Rubbish on the Verge

Following complaints to CDC and GCC Highways, the rubbish has now been removed but vehicles are now parked on the verge.

The issues surrounding the boundary fence are being dealt with by CDC Planners.

The front of the building has been painted contrary to the planning permission given for natural cedar and it is completely out of keeping with the rest of the Village.

13.5 Impact Planning

It was agreed to meet with Impact Planning to discuss their response to the NDP and the proposed care home at the top of the Village and also to invite Dr

Action: CB Pellegram.

14. Correspondence - None

15. Any Other Business - None

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting - To Be Advised

There being no further Business the Meeting was closed at 8:05