

Preston Parish Council (PPC) consists of me, Chris Sutton as chair, Julie Tomblin as vice chair, Scilla Chestermaster, Rex Canton, Regine Freyne, Nick Price and Sue Cameron.

Our **District Councillors** are Clive Bennett, Juliet Layton and Esmund Jenkins.

Our **County Councillor** is Shaun Parsons.

Our **Parish Clerk** is Caroline Braidwood, who also looks after Tetbury Upton Parish Council

As you know, the PC is funded by the Parish Precept part of everyone's Council Tax, so it is good that everyone knows what we do.

Although we have had no major project this year, there seems to have been quite a lot going on.

Many of our concerns have been about road safety.

We have looked at various means of getting a cycle/footpath from the village to Kingshill school, with, as yet, no success.

There is concern about the lack of speed limit along the A419 that makes crossing the road to get into Cirencester or to the local shop, hazardous. This was highlighted by the proposed building of a roundabout at the entrance to a development at Siddington Park Farm, although that project is now dormant. At that time, Cirencester Town Council were keen to reduce the speed limit on all the ring road to 50 mph, we had the support of the police and a speed survey was done, which showed that most of the traffic was sticking to the current speed limit – which is not surprising as it is 70mph.

However, this appears to have dropped off the town Council's agenda. Caroline has recently been in touch with them to raise the matter formally again.

The speed of traffic through the village is an ongoing concern. A band of volunteers has done speed surveys, which raises awareness.

We met with Councillor Roly Hughes, who was active in getting the 20mph speed limit in Cirencester (that no one seems to know about), and have looked at the voluntary and mandatory "20's Plenty" Schemes. However, our preferred option at the moment is to erect white "gates" at the entrances to the village – raising awareness that motorists are in a residential area.

The proposed island at the junction of Kingshill Lane and Preston Village is dependent on Section 106 funding from the proposed development opposite the top of Kingshill Lane.

Our largest expenditure is on our support for the **Village hall**. The PC continues to repay the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) money borrowed for the renovation. This year, supplementary double glazing was installed, paid for 50/50 by a grant from the Cotswold Conservation Board and the Parish Council. We have also established a "sinking fund" for any future decoration/repairs that the Village Hall Funds cannot cover.

Our other asset is the **Playing Field**. Rex Canton has kept a regular eye out for problems, the grass is cut bi weekly in the summer by Bibury Garden Services on a 3 year fixed contract, and tree work has been required this year. There is a yearly RoSPA inspection of the play equipment. We know that some of the equipment needs upgrading and are seeking input from families with children who would use it, as to what would be valued. Again, we have established a sinking fund that we will add to yearly to fund this.

Another area we now support is part of the cost of grass cutting in the **Churchyard**, which seems sensible as more people use that than the playing field.

The **Village Newsletter** is still edited by Dot Warren and taken to the printer and distributed by Regine Freyne. We owe thanks to them and to the band of people who distribute the finished

product.

Many people now receive their copy on line and it is also posted on the village website. Dot is keen to encourage as many people as possible to receive it online as it cuts down on printing costs.

Caroline, our parish clerk has set up and maintains the **village website** www.prestonpc.org.uk

This has been gradually expanded and will soon have lots of photos of past village events that Dot Warren has collected. Please send any more that you have to Caroline.

Planning . The Parish Council is invited to comment on all Planning Applications within the Parish and two members attended training for this, this year.

Neighbourhood Watch This is coordinated by Regine Freyne with representatives in all parts of the village whose names are in the newsletter. If you do not currently receive Neighbourhood watch information, please contact Regine, regine.freyne@prestonpc.org.uk with your address, and phone or preferably an email address.

Electoral Review From May 2015 the number of Cotswold District Councillors will be cut from 44 to 35. Each will then represent a ward of approximately 2,210 people. Preston will be grouped with Siddington, Cerney Wick and the Army Camp.

Precept For the year 2014/5 we have again received precept from the most of Kingshill Meadow, as a large part of the estate falls within the Parish of Preston. This will not reoccur as the town Boundary will be changed in May 2015. As I explained last year, the extra money will be kept on deposit until interest rates rise to a level where it is advantageous to pay off part of the PWLB loan for the village hall.

Other News

Great joy ! After 2 years of trying, the **bridlepath** alongside the A417 has been cleared, but the **footpath** through Kingshill Meadow remains closed as building is still progressing.

You will have noticed that we no longer have doubledecker **buses** parking in the village.

The **dog poo bins** are emptied regularly and 2 more litter bins have been ordered – one for the Tetbury road close to the poo bin by Tesco's and another for the playing field. And after a bit of reminding – the **phone box** got a new lightbulb and a lick of paint. A little evidence that the PC tries to look after our environment.

Unfortunately the PC has to say goodbye to Rex Canton, who is standing down after many years. Rex has been a really valuable member of the Council and has done sterling work sorting out problems that occur with the playing field and keeping an eye on “happenings” there. Thank you , Rex for all your work.

This means that we will be actively looking for a new Council member. Anyone who feels they may be even vaguely interested in joining, please get in touch with Caroline or me chris.sutton@prestonpc.org.uk or chat to any of the Council members.

It just remains for me to thank the **District and County Councillors** for their interest and support, the **Parish Councillors** for the tasks they individually do and the **Parish Clerk** for all the work she does behind the scenes.