

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Sutton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master, Cllr G Edwards and Cllr Mrs R Freyne.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Handley (Road Safety Manager, Road Safety – Gloucestershire), Cllr N Dummett (CPRE), Mr J Lynn, Cllr S Parsons (GCC) from 7.15 pm and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

Mr G Handley, Road Safety Manager, Road Safety – Gloucestershire

- Mr Handley explained that he works as part of a Partnership with the Police, Fire & Rescue.
- The Partnership has recorded road injuries data for the last 40 years and use it to evaluate whether road safety measures are working.
- Collision Data is accessible on GCC website – road safety
- Last year had the lowest road injuries figure ever.
- All accidents are due to driver error and the aim is to change attitudes by retraining speeding motorists.
- Speed is public enemy no 1 and it is drivers' responsibility to drive within the limit.
- 78% motorists regular exceed 40 mph limit.
- Need to change the attitude of local drivers first and gave examples where communities had been successful.
- The Partnership can lend monitoring equipment for residents to use
- By creating 'Intrigue and Uncertainty' can effect mental traffic calming and influence drivers' choice by making them less comfortable.

Concern was raised that the Village has become a rat run for traffic since the road works have begun on Burford Road. It was further noted that the 30 mph repeaters are in wrong place and are **not** bold enough.

Mr Handley advised that when discussing issues with authorities, not to take 'No' for an answer and to ask questions when told that something is not possible or is illegal.

Cllr Parsons offered to help with a proposed traffic-calming scheme from the Highways Local Fund and recommended that any scheme under consideration should be discussed with him and Mr Handley.

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr N Price (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

3.1 Acceptance and signing of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 3 July 2014

RESOLUTION 20/14

It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Check of Vehicle Activated Sign at Toll Bar

The Clerk reported that no update has been received.

Cost of Replacement Village Sign

Richard Gray, Gloucestershire Highways had confirmed that a new sign would cost in the region of £150. Despite Highways refusal to install gates at each end of the Village, it was agreed to investigate plastic gates together with new signs requesting drivers to observe

Action: an advisory speed limit of 20 mph. The Clerk was requested to obtain samples for the

gates.

Re-modelling of Junction with Kingshill Lane

The comments of Road Safety were noted.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Shaun Parsons (County)

Following approval of the recent planning application to park HGVs in the Yard at the north end of the Village, Members raised concerns that the closure of the Cirencester Lorry Park may result in further requests to park on the farm yard site and that there will be an increase in HGV traffic through the Village. Cllr Parsons confirmed that 7.5 ton traffic is allowed on few roads except for access and that restrictions can be imposed where appropriate. He agreed to investigate a change in the limit. It was noted that Belectric had agreed that lorries delivering to the solar farm site would use Witpit Lane and not the

Action: Village road.

6. Mr N Dummett – CPRE

Mr Dummett explained that CPRE is a national organisation that aims to protect the countryside by lobbying the government about the planning system. CPRE is concerned with how something will affect the general public's enjoyment of the countryside and not individuals.

With regard to the proposed solar farm he made the following observations:

- Main objections would be impact on the landscape, principally from the bridge and bridle path, a little from Wit Pit Lane but not from further away.
- The solar panels will be angled towards the road (A417 - south) and, therefore, the aspect from the north will be minimal. A key point is to establish that the pathways and bridleway are well used.
- Planning has some protection for the best and most versatile agricultural land but this is not guaranteed. Members expressed concern that Belectric may have inaccurately claimed that the land is 3b and 4 and Mr Dummett agreed to try to find the official statistics for the site.
- Unfortunately, the site is outside the AONB.
- Will need to explain why the landscape is so important – open landscape that can be seen from public spaces and that if the site is hedged in, it will change the landscape.
- The proposal to plant mature trees on fast draining land will require maintenance and is high risk.
- Need to see the planning application but it is likely that CPRE will object because of the way the site sits in the landscape.

7. Questions from the Public

Mr Lynn asked questions relating to road safety that were answered by Mr Handley and reported above.

8. Playing Field

Play Area Refurbishment

Cllr G Edwards reported that he had met with a representative of one of the play equipment manufacturers and had obtained some prices. He had been advised to apply for grants from CDC and the Lottery. It was agreed that whilst the Council has a budget for play equipment it is unlikely to fund a great deal of equipment and that grants would be a sensible approach. It was noted that there are not many young children in the

Action: Village but quite a few visiting children. Cllr Edwards would report to the next meeting.

Replacement of Safety Surface underneath the Slide

The Clerk advised that she had been unable to progress this work and Cllr Edwards offered

Action: to replace the safety surface and repair the roof on the climbing frame.

9. Village Hall

9.1 To Receive Report and Update from the Last Meeting

Cllr Mrs C Sutton reported:

The Harvest Supper will take place on 28 September and the damp in the storeroom is due

Action: to lack of guttering that hasn't been resolved. She would chase.

10. Village Affairs

Proposed Solar Farm Off Wit Pit Lane

Cllr Mrs Sutton and Cllr Mrs Cameron reported that they had met with Mrs A Pellegram to explore what help she could offer in relation to planning issues. Mrs Pellegram had recommended developing a Community Statement following a consultation exercise involving all residents. The Clerk was requested to contact CDC Planners to check that such a Statement would be of value and carry weight when responding to applications and Cllr Mrs Cameron would contact Mrs Pellegram to make initial arrangements to hold a consultation evening on Thursday 25 September.

Action:

Provision of Allotments at Kingshill Meadow

The Clerk reported that CDC Planners have confirmed that allotments will be provided on the site agreed during the planning process.

Public Rights of Way

It was noted that it is important to use the bridge path and other footpaths in the Parish to ensure that they are maintained and remain open. The Clerk was requested to notify PROW at GCC that the footpath notice, from the village street by the dog poo bin

Action:

needs to be replaced and the footpaths on Village farm land need clearing and cutting back.

Provision of Public Noticeboard

The Chairman advised that Mr & Mrs Mingins have kindly agreed to a residents' noticeboard being fixed to their wall adjacent to the Village Hall. Cllr Edwards agreed to obtain a quote from Gary Kendrick & Spalding for an 8 x A4 size board.

Action:

11. Finance

11.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 August 2014 (Attached)

Noted. It was agreed not to place funds on high interest deposit, as there is currently no 'high' interest.

11.2 To Approve Bills for Payment :

RESOLUTION 21/14

It was resolved to make the following donation:

Churchyard grass cutting	Chq 482	£400.00
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RESOLUTION 22/14

It was resolved to pay the following bills:

Clerk's Expenses	BACS	£ 13.05
Busy Fingers	BACS	£ 36.96
Busy Fingers	BACS	£ 33.79
Grant Thornton	BACS	£ 120.00
Bibury	BACS	£ 235.20

It was noted that the grass has not been cut under the goals on the Playing Field and the Clerk was requested to notify the grounds maintenance contractor.

Action:

11.3 To Consider Out of Pocket Expenses for Councillors

RESOLUTION 22/14

It was resolved to pay at the same rate as CDC pays its Members expenses. The Clerk was requested to investigate and advise by email.

Action:

11.4 External Auditors Report and Completion of the Audit 2013-14

The External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion was noted.

12. Planning

12.1 New Planning Applications

None

12.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting

14/02240/FUL Land Parcel Off Witpit Lane Adjacent To The A417, Preston, Gloucestershire,
Change of use to park two HGV's including trailers

12.3 Decision Notices Received

14/02240/FUL Land Parcel Off Witpit Lane Adjacent To The A417, Preston, Gloucestershire,
Change of use to park two HGV's including trailers
Permitted 10 September 2014.

12.4 Planning Correspondence

None

12.5 Any Urgent Planning Items Received since Publication of the Agenda

14/02240/FUL Land Parcel Off Witpit Lane Adjacent To The A417 , Preston, Gloucestershire,
Change of use to park two HGV's including trailers
Permitted 10 September 2014

13. Website - To Receive Update
Nothing to report.

14. Correspondence
List of Correspondence Received in June, July and August

Action: To Follow

GCC Highways – Winter Maintenance

Chris Huck is the Snow Plough Operator and it was agreed to ask Mr R Canton if he wishes to remain as Snow Warden.

Action: to remain as Snow Warden.
Keep Safe Gloucestershire
Noted

15. Any Other Business
Traffic Speed

It was agreed to contact the owners of businesses at Village Farm and ask them to request that their customers and delivery drivers reduce their speed in the Village.

Trees Along the Verge Opposite Village Farm

It was noted that the trees are heavily covered in ivy and it was agreed to take advice from Cllr Price.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting
Thursday, 6 November 2014 at 7 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.07 pm