

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2015

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Sutton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master, and Cllr N Price.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr S Parsons (GCC), Cllr Mrs J Layton (CDC), Cllr C Bennett, PC Mark Wheedon and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

PC Mark Wheedon introduced himself as the Beat Manager for Cirencester Rural South i.e. the local Bobby. He works with PCSOs and part of his responsibility is to hold the quarterly Community Neighbourhood Policing meetings. He reported:

- Between 1 January – 20 February there had been 8 crimes. 7 in the same period last year. These had included: 1 attempted burglary, 6 thefts (shoplifting from Tesco) and 1 criminal damage (at Kingshill Meadow)
- There appears to be no difference between day light hours and night time.
- Thefts generally feature electrical equipment, jewellery, expensive bikes and items from sheds.
- PC Wheedon recommended that the Police should be called anything suspicious is seen. Use either 101 or 999 if it is suspected that an offence is being committed.

The next Neighbourhood Police meeting will take place on 9 April at 7.30pm in Siddington. In response to questions, PC Wheedon advised that Hawkers need a licence and that if this is of concern 'No Cold Caller' zones could be set up and that Cirencester has an incident response team working 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs R Freyne (Personal) and 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. Acceptance and signing of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 9 January 2015

RESOLUTION 8/15

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

4. Village Design Statement Meeting Notes and Updates

Cllrs Mrs Sutton and Cameron reported that the Group had held 2 meetings with the second one being yesterday. They had started taking photographs of the Village and commenting on what has been seen. Once this part of the research has been completed it will be extended to areas outside the Village centre.

The Group is made up as follows:

Alan Stone – Chairman

Karen Thornton – Note taker

Peter Mingins – Maps

Tony Warren – History

Liz Hamey and Howard Spivey - Photographs

Others include Rex Canton, Bill Mortimer, John Lynn, Ioan Jones, Cllr Mrs C Sutton and Cllr Mrs S Cameron.

Quotations from Planning Professionals

The Chairman advised that the Group has decided to write up the Statement within the group and not to employ a planning professional.

Emails re Conservation Area Statement

Noted

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Quotations for STOP sign and marking for Village Farm

The Chairman confirmed that she had met with David Huck who had agreed to install a STOP sign and had given permission for the PC to have white lines painted at the exit to Village Farm. Since the meeting, however, he has withdrawn his permission for the white lining but may consider installing a STOP sign to his own design. It was noted that visibility when exiting the Village Farm drive way is obscured by the hedge to the left and Cllr Mrs Chester-Master agreed to have it trimmed back.

Action: In the meantime, the Chairman would pass on the details of STOP signs used by Gloucestershire Highways to Mr Huck.

Way Marking on Footpaths

Cllr Mrs Chester-Master advised that she had walked the footpaths with the Chairman and had identified several arrows that need replacing and 4 sites where new posts are needed for the arrows. She confirmed that she is trying to arrange a convenient date to meet with Mike Barton, PROW Officer, GCC.

The Chairman advised that Cotswold Volunteers may be able to install the posts but a request must be made via Mike Barton.

Action: It was noted that some walkers are taking incorrect paths due to the lack of way markers.

Provision of Snow Plough

The Clerk confirmed that she had tried to contact Nick Lazenby of Amey to enquire if they are able to provide snow ploughs and is waiting for a response.

6. County and District Councillors

Cllr Shaun Parsons

• **GCC's Transport Plan**

Drew Members attention to GCC's Transport Plan consultation and his comments that the Plan does not recognise the probable impact of the Chesterton development and increased services at Kemble station. He confirmed that British Rail is trying to extend the car park at Kemble to accommodate additional trains – every half hour. He encouraged Members and residents to respond to the consultation to enable GCC to pick up on issues in the future.

• **Incinerator**

GCC wanted to cancel the contract but there had been a motion to block the action and it will now be going to judicial review.

• **Finance**

County Council Tax rate will remain at the same level.

There needs to be £24m in savings in the next 4 years and it is currently on track to do so. The biggest cost is still adult services.

• **Solar Farm**

It is procedes Cllr Parsons advised that conditions should be placed to ensure that it is returned to farmland at end of 25 years and that no construction traffic is allowed to go through the village.

Cllr Clive Bennett

Commented that the Public notice relating to the proposed solar farm shows that the developer is being very careful about land ownership. He then advised that he wouldn't be representing Preston after the forthcoming local election due to the boundary change.

Cllr Mrs Juliet Layton

Confirmed that she will be standing for South Cerney Ward at the elections and not Preston. She further advised that there is central government funding for noise reduction on the A419 but it is not yet clear how it will be spent.

7. Questions and Comments from the Public

None

8. Playing Field

Play Area Report – Cllr G Edwards

Noting to report

Play Area Refurbishment Update

It was noted that letters of support are needed from residents in order to progress the grant applications. Cllr Edwards would attend the forthcoming Jumble sale to make residents more aware of refurbishment intentions and the Clerk would provide a draft letter.

Action:

9. Village Hall - Report and Update from the Last Meeting

Cllr Mrs C Sutton advised that there had been good attendance at the AGM and one new member on the committee. The next event will be the Jumble sale.

10. Village Affairs

Feedback from Meeting with Richard Gray, Gloucestershire Highways

Mr Gray had suggested placing a bench on the verge outside Kelfield with bulbs planted beneath to emphasise the entrance to the Village.

RESOLUTION 9/15

It was unanimously RESOLVED to obtain quotes for cutting the verge and also include the area at other end of the Village. These would be considered at the next meeting together with the proposal to install a bench and plant bulbs.

RESOLUTION 10/15

It was further RESOLVED to request that Highways carries out a trial of the proposed junction remarking and to request that the 30 mph roundel is repainted at same time. It was also agreed that the Village Signs should be cleaned at the same time as the litter pick and to continue this on regular basis to see if it makes a difference and to include

Action: this on the Agenda for next meeting.

Footpath Sign at Village Farm

It was noted that the signpost at the entrance to Village Farm has fallen and needs to be repaired. The Clerk was requested to notify Gloucestershire Highways.

Action:

Community Noticeboard - To Consider Quotations

RESOLUTION 11/15

It was RESOLVED to accept Gary Kendrick's quotation.

Cultivation Licence for 3 Kingsway – check conditions for no 1

Noted

Litter Pick – 21 March at 10 am – Meet at the bottom of Church Farm drive

Noted

11. Finance

11.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 28 February 2015

Noted

11.2 Bills for Payment

RESOLUTION 12/15

It was RESOLVED to pay the following Bills:

C Braidwood – Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£235.89
HMRC – PAYE	£ 15.00

11.3 Financial Regulations

RESOLUTION 13/15

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Finance Regulations as attached.

11.4 Feedback from Clerk's Finance Training

Noted

11.5 GAPTC Internal Auditor Scheme

Noted.

11.6 Risk Assessment

RESOLUTION 14/15

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Risk Assessment as attached.

11.7 Quotations for Grasscutting Contract 2015 – 2017

RESOLUTION 15/15

It was RESOLVED to offer the contract for the next 3 years to Bibury Landscapes.

11.8 To Consider Annual Donation Requests from:

RESOLUTION 16/15

It was RESOLVED to make the following donations:

Citizens Advice Bureau - £50

Cotswold Volunteers - £50

12. Planning

12.1 New Planning Applications

None

12.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting

None

12.3 Decision Notices Received

None

12.4 Planning Correspondence

- **Letter from Rangeford re Siddington Park**

Noted

**12.5 Any Urgent Planning Items Received since Publication of the Agenda
Public Notice in Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard re Proposed Solar Farm**

It was noted that a public notice had been published in the local press although Belectric has made no further contact with the Council since last year. The Clerk was, therefore, requested to contact Belectric stating that the Parish Council was surprised to see the

Action: Notice and disappointed that there had been no communication beforehand.

13. Website - To Receive Update

Nothing to report

14. Correspondence

CDC Press Release – Funding for Environmental Work

Noted

CDC – Parish Council Elections – 7 May 2015 and Nomination Process

Noted

Email from Cllr S Parson re Local Transport

Noted. See Item 6.

CDC Press Release – Reduction in Council Tax

Noted

Police Meeting – 9 April – Siddington

Noted

GAPTC – Local Council Award Scheme

Noted

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Mrs Cameron was concerned that the potholes at the top of the Village have been filled but done so badly that the holes have returned.

Cllr Mrs Tomblin expressed regret that a copper beech has been felled at the Rectory.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING will be held on **Thursday, 14 May 2015 at 7 pm in the Village Hall** and followed by **THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm