

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2015

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Sutton, (Chairman), Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr G Edwards, Cllr Mrs Regine Freyne, Cllr N Price, Cllr Mrs J Tomblin, Cllr S Parson (District & County), Mr J Lynn, Mr A Lindsay, Mrs A Rawlins, Mr W Mortimer, Mr and Mrs R Canton, Mr C Huck, Mr I Jones and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on 1 May 2014

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

Matters Arising

None

3. Annual Report of Preston Parish Council

Cllr Mrs Sutton gave her report as attached. She added that Belectric has asked for suggestions for community benefits relating to the Solar Farm development and the following items were put forward:

- Security cameras at the solar farm site to also point outwards and monitor Wit Pit Lane and the footbridge for fly tippers, which has been a regular problem in the past.
- Power for the Village Hall
- Speed activated signs at the entrances to Village

Cllr Mrs Chester-Master then gave a huge vote of thanks to Cllr Mrs Sutton for her work for the Village and the Parish Council.

4. Finance Report

The report was given at attached. Mr I Jones asked what this year's precept is and the Clerk confirmed that it would be £12,906.

5. Annual Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Shaun Parsons advised that he will now represent the Village at both District and County Councils and reported that:

- At GCC the Conservatives have a minority administration.
- Have a balanced budget for this year but it becomes more difficult to save as the years go on.
- There will be no reduction in service despite loss of staff.
- The call on services to older people increases with the fast growing elderly population.
- Roads – introduced a new contract with Amey, which has taken a long time to settle down. Amey has been good at dealing with the bigger issues but not the smaller and more irritating problems. This has now been recognised and being rectified.
- Cllr Parsons said that he has concerns about the infrastructure around Cirencester and the impact of the possible development at Chesterton.
- In addition it is expected that traffic through Kemble will double in the next few years with the additional rail line.
- Will investigate the current position about re-surfacing the A419 in time for the next Parish Council meeting. It was noted that no one was available to come to the meeting from a419nag.

Cllr Mrs Sutton raised the issue of speed at the toll bar and on the ring road. Highways' survey had shown that drivers were not speeding but missed the point that the limit needs to be reduced to make it safer for people to cross the road.

**6. Things Happening Around the Village
Community Design Statement**

Cllr Mrs Sutton reported that a small working group supported by other residents were working on the Statement and Tony Warren has done a piece on the history of the Village. It is expected that it will be completed by end of the summer and that there is enough expertise within the Village making it unnecessary to employ a professional planner. Cllr Parsons advised that there is evidence of Design Statements being used in Planning Appeals.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman thanked Mr Mortimer for his work with Neighbourhood Watch and for taking over the co-ordination work from Cllr Mrs Freyne. Mr Mortimer confirmed that email is best way to circulate information although some people are still not on email. There were no questions.

Village Hall Committee

Mr Lindsay said that there is a small committee whose function is to manage the Hall and provide a service to the Village. It is well used with the Art classes providing a steady income; various organised events during the year; the theatre production very successful, as was the Christmas party, quiz night and jumble sales. Ideas are needed for new events. Some improvements have been made to the structure including double glazing (paid for by a Conservation Board grant and a donation from the Parish Council). The Committee are trying to resolve the damp problem in the kitchen and the leak in the roof is being rectified. The small profit from bookings is able to pay for small improvements. The Committee are now looking at providing blinds or curtains and asked for residents' views.

Village Newsletter

Mrs Warren was thanked for her continued work in editing the Newsletter. This is now circulated by email except to the few residents who are not on-line. The Newsletter is also available on the Village website.

Speedwatch

Cllr Mrs Tomblin reported that speed is always high on the agenda and affects everyone. There is a narrow section of road through the Village, which is particularly dangerous. A small group has had training from the Police in the use of borrowed speed cameras but signs and regulations restrict the use. The Group, which includes Mr J Lynn, Mr R Canton and her will investigate using equipment from the County Road Safety Partnership and carry out further monitoring.

7. Comments and Ideas from the Public

Mr J Lynn

- Gateways at either end of the Village would help reduce traffic speed.
- The grass at the junction with Kingshill Lane and A419 needs to be cut.
- All of the 30 mph signs through the Village are on the right hand side of the road and would be placed on the left and, in any case, hedges and trees obscure many.
- The signs near to Foxleaze could be removed.
- Concern about tree roots growing through the footway at the junction with Kingshill Lane and creating a trip hazard. It was reported that a pedestrian had fallen and received compensation from Gloucestershire County Council.

The Chairman confirmed that the Village signs need to be replaced and that the Council would be considering these and the installation of a bench or gate at the following meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr Mrs Chester-Master thanked Mr Huck for installing STOP signs at the exit to Village Farm, as these had been very effective.

The Meeting Closed at 8.05 pm