

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Chairman), Cllr A Stone and Cllr N Price

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr M Every (CDC), Cllr L Spivey (GCC), Mrs D Tasker and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr Mrs S Cameron (Personal), Cllr Mrs C Elson (Personal) and Cllr Mrs P Chester-Master (Personal) Cllr A Miles (Personal)

2. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct

2.1 To Receive Member's Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda - None

2.2 To Receive 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 3 November 2022

RESOLUTION 1/23

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

3.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.2.1 Police

The Clerk confirmed that she had requested a Crime Report if the Police are unable to attend Meetings.

3.2.2 Coronation Event – May 2023

The Chairman agreed to lead the arrangements for the event and to liaise with the Village Hall Committee and volunteers in the Village via WhatsApp. It would follow the same format as the Jubilee which had proved successful.

- The Clerk was asked to advise the number of bottles of Prosecco purchased for the Jubilee

Action: CB

- It was confirmed that the Village Hall Committee will share the costs.

3.2.3 Clerk's Salary

RESOLUTION 2/23

It was unanimously agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the 2022-23 National Salary Award.

3.2.4 Licence Giving Access to Playing Field

RESOLUTION 3/23

The Clerk confirmed that she had been unable to find an access licence in the Council's records but had found a licence allowing the Council to install a sign. As the general public had accessed the Playing Field over the land owned by Bromford Housing for more than 12 years, it was agreed to take no further action at the moment.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Lisa Spivey (GCC)

- GCC is currently looking to set the Budget for 2023-24 at £560m.
- Inflation has had a huge impact on costs
- Staff Pay settlement was budgeted at 2% but came in at an average of 6.4%.
- Unable to fully support all children's educational needs and it is cheaper for the County Council to be taken to court than to provide all children with the educational support they need.
- There will be a 4.99% increase on Council tax.
- Unbalanced budget. National Government expects Councils to support budgets by using reserves.
- Speed Watch: need to keep monitoring traffic especially as it is expected to

increase by 50%.

Cllr Mike Evemy (CDC)

- Recent planning applications for Preston Court would have been refused if not withdrawn.
- Revised Local Plan is to include defibrillators for all new developments.
- Support is to be given to women during the menopause.
- Will be increasing publicity for the Council Tax CT support scheme so that people are more aware of it.
- During the budget consultation for 2023-24 more people supported the £5 increase on Council tax which is the maximum that can be imposed.
- The Consultation showed a division of opinion on car parking.
- Cashless car parking has been introduced throughout the District. It was noted that many elderly residents are struggling with the cashless scheme. Pay on Exit had been considered but raised other problems such as collection of data and the costs of installing new equipment and barriers. It was noted that there are no directional signs in the Town to the Forum Car park. CDC is considering spaces signage.
- Elections May 2023 – voters will be required to show photographic ID.

5. Police – PCSO Beverley Rowe and PCSO Sue Fellows

Not Available

6. Questions and Comments from the Public

Mrs Diana Tasker raised concerns about the lack of signs on the Witpit Lane bridge over the A419 making drivers aware of horses. She explained that the Highway code states that 10 ft is needed to pass a horse and that signs are needed on the bridge to make drivers aware. It was noted that drivers cutting through Witpit Lane are probably driving too fast whereas local residents are aware of horses being ridden over the bridge. It was suggested that a sign indicating a 'narrow bridge' may have the best effect and Cllr Spivey agreed to take it back to Highways staff. Mrs Tasker commented that Bus and refuse drivers very considerate.

Action: LS

7. Chairman's Report – Cllr Mrs J Tomblin

The Chairman advised that a resident had been badly injured slipping on the ice while pushing her bicycle down the slope into the underpass in Watermoor. Cllr Spivey thought that Gloucestershire Highways concentrated on gritting A roads and provided grit for local communities to spread on other dangerous routes where the responsibility is uncertain. Cllr Spivey agreed to make enquiries with Cirencester Town Council and Gloucestershire Highways.

Action: LS

8. Playing Field

Verbal Report – Cllr Mrs Elson was unavailable but there was nothing to report.

Update re Lease – nothing further to report as there has been no response from Abbey Farms Trust's agent. It was further noted that Bromford Housing is closing down all of their garage sites.

9. Village Hall

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2022 - Circulated

Verbal Report from Trustees

- The next Committee meeting is the week after next.
- Balance at the bank stands as £15,000
- The Committee is looking into how they might make best use of the TV.
- Christmas evening was very successful.
- New Insurance cover is more comprehensive but has saved around £300 pa.
- A food hygiene certificate is required by the insurance company to serve hot food but there is some ambiguity in the documents. 2 of the Trustees hold a food hygiene certificate but will not necessarily always be available. The course can be done online and is inexpensive.
- Cllr Stone is investigating the leak in the ladies toilets and believes that the flashing may not be sealed properly. He will attempt to seal the flashing when the weather is dryer and also replace the guttering which may not be the

correct grade. Decorating can be progressed once these issues have been resolved.

10. Village Affairs

Replacement Noticeboard for Kingsway

Cllr Price advised that this is in hand but needs to replace one of the posts as they are too far apart for the width of the noticeboard.

Action: NP

Community Speed Watch Fund <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/the-community-speedwatch-fund/ieni>

- Cllr Stone reported that he has selectively circulated some of the speed limit signs for waste bins so that they are used to best advantage.
- The fund has £600,000 available for the whole of the County.
- Some traffic speed measurers are restricted such as humps which need streetlights.
- Electronic signs need to be installed on public land and in strategic locations.
- These can be solar powered and be mobile so that they can be moved from place to place to avoid familiarity.
- The data from cameras needs to be handled by the Police who will charge the Parish for sending letters.
- It was noted that delivery vans are frequently parked on pavements which blocks access for pedestrians.
- Cllr Stone proposed forming a small committee to explore suitable speed calming measures and report to the next meeting of the Council.
- Cllr Spivey suggested that a community speed watch group would have access to training, hi viz jackets and a gun for recording speeds.

Action: AS

11. Finance

11.1 Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 December 2022

RESOLUTION 3/23

It was resolved to adopt the report as attached.

11.2 Bills for Payment: Attached Schedule - None

11.3 Budget and Set the Precept for 2023 – 2024

RESOLUTION 4/23

Cllr Every showed that the Council's current average Band D rate of 106.59 is higher than neighbouring Parishes. In view of the increase in the number of properties at Siddington Park bringing the Tax Base up to 224.8 from 119.3 and the Council's current financial position, it was unanimously agreed to reduce the average Band D rate to £85 giving a Precept of £19,108.

11.4 External Auditor Appointment until 2026- 2027

RESOLUTION 5/23

It was unanimously agreed to approve the SAAA's appointed External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

12. Planning

12.1 New Planning Applications - None

12.2 Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting - None

12.3 Planning Applications Awaiting Decision

21/03907/LBC Old Farm House Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR

Replace existing wooden casement single glazed windows with double glazed, wooden casement windows.

22/03404/COMPLY Forty Farm Kingshill Lane Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP

Compliance with condition 9 (contamination) of permission 19/02806/FUL-

Conversion of stone threshing barn and attached cow byre into two dwellings and erection of a detached open fronted car port replacing Dutch barn

22/03490/FUL Straw Barn Witpit Lane Preston Gloucestershire

Change of use from agriculture to storage use with ancillary office accommodation (retrospective)

12.3 Decision Notices Received

22/02687/FUL Preston Court Siddington Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6ET

- Withdrawn
12.4 Planning Correspondence & Other Matters - None

- 13. Correspondence**
Hedgehogs RUS Highway Project. - Noted

- 14. Any Other Business**
Cllr Price advised that he seen SSE staff taking down some trees close to the electricity line.
Cllr Stone advised that he is unavailable for the next meeting.

- 15. Date and Time of Next Meeting** Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 20.43