

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Cameron, Cllr A Stone, Cllr Mrs H Lynas, and Cllr N Price

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk)

1. **Apologies and Reasons for Absence**
Cllr L Spivey (GCC), Cllr M Evemy (CDC)
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 7 September 2023**
RESOLUTION 25/23
Item 10 Verbal Report from Trustees – changed to read “the roof valley between the men's and ladies' toilets may continue to leak.”
The Minutes were then unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.
 - 3.2 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
Charge for Advertising in Village News – it was agreed to request a donation that would be used for benefit of the Village.
Action: CB
Caravan Parked in Layby off Witpit Lane
Action: CB As this is parked on private property it was agreed to contact the owner and offer to arrange for rubbish to be collected if it is placed on edge of road.
4. **County and District Councillors**
Cllr Lisa Spivey
Cllr Spivey's report was circulated as attached.
Cllr Mike Evemy – not available
5. **Co-Opt to Fill the Vacancy**
It was reported that no-one has yet come forward and those residents who have been approached have declined. It was agreed to post a notice on the community board at Siddington Park Retirement Village to see if someone might come forward.
Action: CB
6. **Police – PCSO Beverley Rowe and PCSO Sue Fellows** – Not available
PCC Councillor Advocacy Scheme
Cllr Mrs Lynas has agreed to represent the Council in this new initiative but has been unimpressed so far. It has been reported that the Police will no longer attend shoplifting incidents unless the value of items stolen is over £250 and that they rely on residents having door cameras and CCTV when dealing with burglaries.
7. **Questions and Comments from the Public** - None
8. **Chairman's Report – Cllr Mrs J Tomblin**
The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Lynas for hosting the meeting as the Village Hall is unavailable but had nothing further to report.
9. **Playing Field**
Verbal Report - No issues to report.
Update re Lease
Concern was expressed by the Clerk and Councillors that no response has been received from phone calls and emails to the Agent representing the Trustees regarding the Lease that expires in September 2026. The Council is keen to use reserves to purchase the Playing Field site or an alternative to secure it for the Village in the future so the Clerk was asked to contact Will Chester-Master to see if he can help.
Action: CB

10. **Village Hall**
Minutes of the last Meeting - 2 October 2023 attached. - Noted
Verbal Report from Trustees
It was reported that the redecoration including the Ladies toilet is in progress. There are still some damp places, but the appropriate treatment has been used before painting.
The Quiz Night was well supported, and the Village Christmas Drinks event will take place on 22 December.
11. **Village Affairs**
Feedback from the Village Fete
The funds raised by the Fete was good and were comparable with the amount raised in previous years. Despite this, it was generally felt that the new location on the Playing Field lacked the ambience and atmosphere of Church Farm; it required a lot of additional work, and everything was very spread out; the weather was very hot with no shade; many of the usual helpers were away on holiday and perhaps September is not the best month.
It was disappointing that a general 'thank you' and an announcement of the total raised hadn't been sent out immediately after the event. A Thank You Get Together is now to take place, but details have yet to be advised.
12. **Finance**
 - 12.1 **Bank Reconciliation and Budget Status up to 31 October 2023 (Attached)**
RESOLUTION 26/23
It was resolved to adopt the report as attached.
 - 12.2 **Bills for Payment: Attached**
RESOLUTION 27/23
It was resolved to pay the bills as detailed on the report attached.
 - 12.3 **Conclusion of Audit 2022 – 2023**
The External Auditor's Opinion was noted as follows:
On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
 - 12.4 **Draft Budget for 2024 – 2025** - The draft Budget was noted.
 - 12.5 **Banking Arrangements for Reserve Funds**
The Clerk was requested to explore options where higher interest rates can be found.
 - 12.6 **HMRC Response to Penalty Notice**
The Clerk confirmed that the Appeal had been upheld.
 - 12.6 **New Arrangements for the Village Website**
The Clerk explained that the website is currently hosted on a server at her home and that alternative arrangements should be considered. 2 Proposals were put forward and another is to be found for consideration at the next meeting.
- Action: CB**
- 12.7 **Grass Cutting Requirements**
It was noted that the area down to toll bar should be included on the Plan as well as the verge opposite the Church between allotments and Village Farm. See amended Plan attached.
- Action: CB** Quotes will be sought for consideration at the next meeting.
- Action: CB** It was noted that the Tree roots growing through the footway near to the Toll Bar are very dangerous and that Highways should be notified.
13. **Planning**
 - 13.1 **New Planning Applications**
23/03190/COMPLY. Forty Farm Kingshill Lane Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP.
Compliance with condition 3 (sample roof materials) 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.
Members supported the comments of the Conservation Officer.
23/03189/COMPLY. Forty Farm Kingshill Lane Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP
Compliance with conditions 4 (Materials samples), 5 (Sample walling panel), 9 (Materials schedule), 9 (Cast Iron Goods), 18 (Surface water drainage scheme) of permission 20/04407/FUL - Erection of 3 No dwellings to replace existing barns and associated works.
Members supported the comments of the Conservation Officer.
 - 13.2 **Planning Applications Responded to Since Last Meeting**
23/03033/LBC Forty Farm Kingshill Lane Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP
Conversion of stone threshing barn and attached cow byre into 2no. dwellings and associated works (revised scheme)
 - 13.3 **Planning Applications Awaiting Decision**

23/02504/FUL. Forty Farm Kingshill Lane Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP

Variation of conditions 2 (plans), 6 (window gate details) and 10 (fire hydrants) 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.

23/02502/FUL Forty Farm Kingshill Lane Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PP.

Variation of conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 22 (Southern entrance details) and compliance with condition 3 (Scale drawings for windows/doors etc) of permission 20/04407/FUL - Erection of 3 No dwellings to replace existing barns and associated works

13.3 Decision Notices Received

23/01597/OUT Land West Of Kingshill Lane Cirencester Gloucestershire

Residential development for up to 280 dwellings, associated works including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space, landscaping, and pumping station. Construction of a new vehicular access off Kingshill Lane (Outline application)

Application Refused 27 September 2023

Good to see retention of green

13.4 Planning Correspondence & Other Matters. - None

13.5 Tree Works - None

13.6 Any Urgent Planning Items Received since Publication of the Agenda

14. Correspondence - None

Zero Hour - Support for the Climate and Ecology Bill

Members were reluctant to support this initiative without knowing who Zero Hour is and who the organisation represents.

15. Any Other Business - None

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 11 January 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 20.19.