

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 20 th May 2013.	Time:	7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall		
Present:	Keith Irons	Chairman	
	Charles Bradshaw	Vice-Chairman	
	Alan Owencroft		
	Daphne Prosser		
	Marion Philips		
	Rob Marks		
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
	PC Andy Reid		
	One member of the public		
Apologies:	David Wilson		
	Mark Ruffell		
	Anna McNair Scott		

The Chairman's Statement

The Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council has been very active during the past year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Councillors for their help and support, although much of the efforts made have yet to bear fruit. In that respect this has been yet another year of frustration, although we have made progress.

There was a very successful Jubilee celebration which the Council was pleased to support financially, and we have been able to launch, in conjunction with the neighbouring Candovers Council, our own Candover Valley website which we hope will become an effective and valuable means of communicating with residents and others with an interest in local developments and events. We were given some financial assistance by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for which we are most grateful. However, the site website is still in its infancy, with further developments pending and we are grateful to Cllr David Wilson for taking on the management of this project, and for the assistance of Councillors Marion Phillips and Di Peisley as the local editors.

Planning issues in 2012/13

The council has considered and commented upon 10 planning applications on properties within the parish of which six were approved, one was refused and three have yet to be decided. A full list of those applications is included at the end of this report. There were also a number of tree felling/lopping proposals.

The Parish Council sees part of its role as trying to improve facilities and services for residents, while also trying to conserve its character and rural appearance and there are a number of things which are still very much 'work in progress', but I will say no more at this stage.

Parish property – 2012/13

It has always been assumed that the parish council owned, on behalf of the village, two areas of land which are available for the use of residents. This included an area known as the Chilton Pit –the site of the old village tip on the east side of the road to Chilton and Brown Candovers - which is largely overgrown. This is registered as common land, and should have been registered in 1983 in the ownership of the parish council on the instructions of the Chief Commons Commissioner. Regrettably, Hampshire County Council failed to do this properly in 1983 and recent enquiry has shown it is actually listed in the Land Registry as being owned by other persons. While this is to be regretted it does mean that the Parish Council has no responsibility for tidying up this land, and for ensuring there is safe access to this area of Common Land which may present problems as the area is open to the public. This is now the legal responsibility of the current owners and it could be quite onerous as it is a former refuse tip last used in 1977, during the “winter of discontent”.

The other land in the ownership of the parish council is an area of about an acre at Preston Oakhills, just outside the parish boundary, and we are in the process of identifying the exact boundaries of the area, prior to registering the Council’s ownership.

Other property owned by the Council includes the Children’s Play area in Stenbury Drive, where we are seeking to add to the facilities and improve the general maintenance, and the Village Green, the appearance of which has been much improved in the last year by regular mowing and maintenance. We are planning some restoration work on the Memorial which has suffered some minor damage, and work is expected to start shortly on repairs to the bus shelter.

Parish office

Last year I reported on the Council’s attempts to secure use of the room at the rear of the Village Hall – the former doctors’ surgery – as a parish council office. We had hoped to be able to hold committee meetings there, provide filing for the council’s essential records, and display planning applications and development proposals for residents to view. Regrettably, we have not been able to reach agreement with the Village Hall Committee as the room is needed for the storage of equipment and catering supplies, and is not available for other purposes. This is disappointing as it will deprive the community of some useful additional services which the Parish Council could provide, as well as an indirect contribution to the running costs of the hall. It would be possible to install a broadband telephone connection, with Wi-Fi, which would benefit all users of the hall, and provide an internet connection for those residents without internet who need to gain online access to government services.

Traffic and road safety in 2012/13

A continuing point of some concern is the speed of traffic now coming through the village. It seems that many drivers totally ignore the 30 mph signs erected at the entrances to the village. I can speak with authority about Wield Road, where the speed limit on entering the village starts at the recreation ground and yet cars, lorries and tractors pass my house at anything between 40 and 50 mph. Going out of the village they accelerate madly up the hill. This road is narrow and highly dangerous for pedestrians and it can only be a matter of time before someone, possibly a child, is seriously injured or even killed. There have been many near misses.

In an effort to reduce this danger I had a discussion more than a year ago with the County Council’s assistant highway engineer with a view to modifying the junction with the B3046. He was generally in agreement with the changes proposed and there are funds available for this work in the Section

106 grants allocated to highways improvements. It is one of the great frustrations that we are still waiting for the County Council's highways department to bring forward plans for the Parish Council's consideration.

On other highways matters we are still waiting, after many months, for the road sign at the Axford junction to be replaced, and for the 'finger' sign to Herriard to be restored.

We have also been investigating the possibility of acquiring an electronic speed indication device (SID) for installation on village roads to deter drivers from speeding through the village. Regrettably, many of these drivers are local residents, as PC Andy Reid has pointed out on various occasions. We are grateful to Cllr Rob Marks for his work with SID and we are hopeful of being able to use some of the S106 funds for its purchase.

Much of the traffic on the Wield Road emanates from Wield and Medstead, and many of the other vehicles are drivers cutting through the village from Alresford to join the M3 and A303 or going on to Basingstoke. In Basingstoke itself, the borough council has closed off most of the "rat runs" used by through traffic and has installed any number of traffic calming measures, humps and bottlenecks, on roads which are wider than those in the villages and which are also served by footpaths. Yet, the Borough and County Councils ignore the same problems in the rural areas.

Financial matters – 2012/13

The Parish Council is currently well-funded, although we do have some important commitments in the year ahead. Total income for the year, including the rate precept and grants from BDBC was £9,774 of which the Council spent £8,448 on such items as street lighting, grounds maintenance and the major expenditure on the Jubilee celebrations (£2,000) and website design (£600).

Other matters in 2012/13

On other matters the Parish Council has been active in supporting local organisations, sometimes through donations, as we did to help with the start-up of the new Beavers group, and we have been able to give financial support to the Parochial Church Council for important work on some of the trees in the churchyard, and, as mentioned previously, to the committee organising the local Diamond Jubilee celebrations, who should be congratulated on the great success of the Jubilee week-end.

Personnel – 2012/13

Finally, there have been some changes to the council membership; Sabrina Gurling resigned in June 2012, and Councillor David Wilson and Councillor Marion Phillips were co-opted in September 2012. Ron Darley resigned as Clerk in June 2012, and we have been very fortunate in securing the services of Wendy Simson who took up the Clerk role as of October 2012. Wendy is also clerk to the Candovers Parish Council which is a great help in ensuring close co-operation of the two councils on matters of joint interest.

Councillor Alison Davidson resigned in March this year and, consequently, we now have a vacancy on the Parish Council and I will be pleased to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining us.

Policing in 2012

PC Reid gave an overview of the Policing issues in 2012, which are as follows:-

Preston Candover

Reported Crimes in 2010 – 10

Reported crimes in 2011 – 7

Reported crimes in 2012 - 9

Sadly the village also saw an increase in crime with two other reported crimes' taking place. Reported crime in this Parish consisted of seven thefts, which included heating oil, the copper lightening conductor from the church, a mobile phone and York stones to a value of £7,000 and equine equipment. There was also a dwelling burglary whilst the occupants were away on holiday and an attempted break-in to the telephone exchange.

Other incidents in the village included ten reported suspicious incidents or people, a drink driver, two door-to-door salesmen, one being reported for summons and convicted in court, one abandoned 999 call, one injury road traffic incident, an illegal immigrant arrested in the village, eight false burglar alarm activations, a dispute, a neighbour dispute and a report of cruelty to dogs.

PC Reid attended the Primary School on several occasions and maintained a close watch on the parking situation. I also carried out several speed enforcement sessions with various enforcement actions being taken including summons to court.

Nutley

Reported Crimes in 2010 – 1

Reported crimes in 2011 – 1

Reported crimes in 2012 - 0

I am pleased to report that no crime was reported in this village, a reduction of one on the 2011 figures.

Other incidents reported in this village included an injury and damage only road traffic incident, the damaged car having hit a deer, a false burglar alarm activation, a flooded road and a loose man hole cover.

Axford

Reported Crimes in 2010 – 1

Reported crimes in 2011 – 1

Reported crimes in 2012 - 1

Reported crimes in the village remained the same as in 2010 and 2011 with one crime being reported, that of an assault.

Other events included reports of a tree across the road on two occasions, a domestic dispute, four men in a field, these were all stopped and checked and found to be in order. We had a call for a concern for welfare for a man, flooding on the Dummer Road and two false burglar alarm activations. Several visits were made for speed enforcement on both the Dummer Road and the B3046 resulting in 13 warnings being issued. The speed camera van also visited this village.

Planning applications and decisions

There have been 10 planning applications in 2012/13, 7 were granted, 1 was refused and 2 are to be decided.

They are:-

- BDB/76332 & BDB/76333 – land adjoining green waste composting facility on Bushywarren Lane, Ellisfield – construction of anaerobic digestion installation for rotational arable crops and local food waste together with landscaping and highway improvements. **GRANTED**

- BDB/76178 – Broad Acre – erection of single storey pitched roof rear extension, construction of dormer and roof lights to rear roof and bay window to side elevation following partial/full demolition of existing extension, conservatory and bay window. **GRANTED**
- BDB/76677 – Shepherds Cottage – erection of retaining wall to support bank built out of railways sleepers. **REFUSED**
- BDB/77124 – Nutley Water Tower – demolition of redundant water tower and erection of single dwelling house and alterations to existing vehicular access. **GRANTED**
- BDB/77317 – Preston Grange – erection of single storey pool house building. **GRANTED**
- BDB/77443 – Malmsmead - erect a two storey extension to the north elevation and a single storey to the west. Conversion of outbuildings to ancillary annex accommodation with the erection of single storey extension to the east and external alterations. **NOT DECIDED**
- BDB/77530 - Hectors House – the erection of a double garage with an artist studio above. **GRANTED**
- BDB/77529 - Rose Cottage – the erection of a side and rear extension. **GRANTED**
- BDB/77614 - Wilanda House – the erection of a conservatory following the demolition of the existing one and conversion of the garage to living accommodation and erection of anew double garage. **GRANTED**
- BDB/77722 - Thorpe’s - Erection of a single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, re-roofing, alteration of windows and external insulation. Erection of a detached garage and store following demolition of the existing. **NOT DECIDED**

The member of the Public thanked the Parish Council for their hard work over the last year.