

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 21 st July 2014.	Time:	7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall		
Present:	Keith Irons	Chairman	
	Marion Philips		
	Alex Taylor		
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
	PC Andy Reid		
	Steve Grove	Chairman of Tennis Club	
	Four Members of Tennis Club		
	Gina Matthews	Chairman of Village Hall	
	One Member of Village Hall Committee		
	Ian Camack	Chairman of School Governors	
	Ian Armstrong		
Apologies:	David Wilson		
	Daphne Prosser		

313 Apologies

The Clerk passed on apologies from Councillor Wilson and Councillor Prosser who were not able to attend the meeting. There had been no communication from the Vice Chairman, and no communication from Councillor Marks.

Action: Clerk to confirm status of Councillor Mark's position.

314 Minutes of the last meeting

The Council agreed the minutes as a true record of the last meeting and agreed to sign them.

315 Field Next to the Village Hall

The Chairman explained that he was aware that the majority of the guests at the meeting had attended to express views about the plans for the Field next to the Village Hall and so this would be moved up the agenda.

The Chairman gave an overview of the current situation explaining that access to the field next to village hall had always been allowed on a "grace & favour" basis with no formal agreement from the landowner that it could be used for events such as the fete and bonfire night. There are few places in the village for children to play except the playground at the top of Stenbury Drive which is for very small children. By securing the 21 year lease on the land, there was now a record at the Land Registry of community use. The rent was £12 a year which was seen by the Parish Council as good value. There was a clause in the agreement that if the landowner did not agree with what was being done with the land that it could be taken back after 3 years.

The Chairman circulated the plan which had been drawn up for the area and approved the landowner, and said that a £3,000 grant had been secured from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to support these improvements. The Chairman explained that the area had been seen as un-kept and uncared for, especially the lay-by and grass area behind it.

A presentation had been made to the Village Hall Committee in February and representatives from this group had attended the Parish Council AGM in May to voice their opinions. Information had also been sent to the Tennis Club in February but there had been no response until July. There had also been informal discussion with the Governors of the school and other local residents had also been advised.

The Hampshire Fire Service had been asked about access to the field in connection with the annual bonfire. Following a meeting on site, the Council had been advised that they would not enter the field as both fire engines, and ambulances, were too heavy and so they would park on a hard standing area and work from there.

The Village Hall Committee expressed disappointment about the area being described as being un-kept and uncared for, as a group of volunteers had worked hard to ensure the field looked at its very best for the fete in June. The "role model" of the green in Old Alresford was held up by the Chairman and the Village Hall Committee said they felt the two were very comparable and the field with the tennis courts in use was a lovely busy centre to the community.

The plan to reduce the height of the fence along the road was discussed and an objection raised on the basis that small children and dogs often used the field and the high fence stopped both running out into the road.

Parking was seen as an issue. It appears that the 145 children at the school represent about 100 families, with between 50 and 60 cars dropping and collecting children each day from the school. The main reasons for parents driving their children are, 1) that they are outside the bus catchment area, 2) that children attending the pre-school cannot use the bus service, 3) children attending after school clubs leave after the bus has left, 4) the length of some bus journeys (example 45mins from Axford) requiring a very early start for children, and 5) parents simply choosing not to use the service for various reasons. There are also 20 members of staff at the school who drive. There are parking spaces for the following cars:-

- 22 – 27 at the tennis court
- 12 in the lay-by
- 10 outside the village hall
- 8 for staff in school

This means there is a shortage of 20+ spaces on a day to day basis.

The Chairman of the School Governors explained that work was being done to look at re-landscaping the school property. He was asked if this would include more parking and also if it would be possible to allow cars to enter the property during the day through separate gates as, currently, the entrance must be locked and used for pedestrians during school times. An agreement had also been reached to allow 6 staff cars to park all day in the tennis court car park, this would reduce the number of times the road to this area was used each day.

Mr Armstrong, who owns this entrance and part of the lane, explained that currently there can be up to 120 journeys made through this entrance each day with 30 cars using it in the morning and again in the evening. While they wanted to be good neighbours, the lane was

unsuitable for children to walk along as the sight lines were poor. The road surface and verges had been destroyed by the increased traffic and that significant costs had been incurred by him to repair this damage as the Borough Council would not contribute to the costs. A number of posts were planned to stop cars driving on the verge and a sign saying “no right of way” be placed at the entrance. The Chairman questioned if a right of way had been established over many years and, if so, it could not be removed without court approval.

Action: Chairman to look into public right of way to tennis club.

The Chairman of the Tennis Club pointed out that when additional housing was built in Stenbury Drive and Farriers Close that additional facility such as parking, road crossings etc were not put into place causing additional strain on the existing infrastructure.

The new access route to the back of the field next to the Village Hall for parking, which would go up the lane to the tennis club and then right behind the building, was discussed. Concern was raised by Mr Armstrong about increased traffic along the lane. The proposed route was very narrow and he said a tree would need to be removed to provide enough width. There was also little understanding why the route to this area needed to be changed from using the gate at the front of the field on the B3046. The Chairman explained that if traffic used the existing gate that it would damage a large area of the field but by using the new entrance this would reduce damage to a smaller area at the back and side of the field.

It was pointed out the wheelchair access from the village would go out onto the proposed road-way. The Chairman explained that parking at the back of the field was only allowed by the terms of the lease for just 2/3 events each year, such as the School’s family fun day and sports day and, possibly, the school nativity. It was agreed that this would not provide a solution to the day to day parking issues. The Chairman pointed out that the lease on the field next to the village hall did not allow for parking in the front area because of the damaged caused in the winter of 2013/14.

Councillor Philips apologised for the perceived lack of consultation on the plans and the anger felt by some in the community. The Parish Council were only looking to improve the look of the centre of the village and there was no intention to upset any groups or individuals.

It was agreed that the plans to sort out the lay-by were good and would make a real difference to the area. The area at the front of the field to have a couple of memorial trees and benches was also seen as being OK. The change of access route to behind the Village Hall was seen as un-necessary and Mr Armstrong had concerns about increased traffic along the lane. The proposed hedge along the tennis courts was also seen as un-wanted as it was believed its roots would disrupt the tennis court surface and would generate more leaves.

The Parish Council were asked to review the plans and re-consult on the areas which were an issue.

316 Police Update

PC Reid explained that there had been a number of incidents since the last meeting, they were:-

- 3/7 – abandoned 999 call from a house in Axford
- 4/7 – a dangerous driving complaint in Axford
- 9/7 – an unwell female visited the garden of a large property in Preston Candover

- 10/7 – a suspicious man was seen in Preston Candover – an area search revealed no trace
- 13/7/ - a tree limb fell across the B3046 blocking the road and this was removed by local farm staff.

PC Reid also carried out speed enforcement work in Axford and Preston Candover and issued 2 fixed penalties and 5 verbal warnings.

A public order situation is also being investigated.

317 Matters arising

Councillor Mark's position on the Parish Council – the Clerk reported that she hadn't heard anything to say if he intended to continue in post.

Action: Clerk to try to speak to Councillor Marks

Hazard signs in Nutley – PC Reid had contacted Keith Holdsworth about the signs but hadn't had any feedback so agreed to follow it up for the next meeting

Action: PC Reid to report at next meeting

Jubilee funds – The Clerk had been given a cheque for the £446.04 of remaining funds left in the Jubilee account. This money is to be spent on a tree for the front of the field next to the village green.

Close down project for Wield Road junction – the Chairman copied the Council in on an email to Holly Drury explaining that the Parish Council would not be pursuing this work.

Additional Street Lamp – the additional street lamp had been fitted but as a replacement for a lamp already in place on a pole opposite the rear of the school as opposed to being by the telephone exchange opposite the entrance to the school. The Chairman had complained to SSE and they were meeting on Tuesday 22nd July to discuss the situation.

318 Financial statement

The Clerk presented invoices for the following payments:-

- £120.00 – grass cutting at war memorial
- £774.00 – grass cutting at field next to the village hall and children's play area, plus removal of branches

The Clerk also informed the Council that in addition to the £446.04 from the Jubilee funds that 90p interest had been earned on the bank account.

319 Planning Applications

None

320 Council Property

The funds have not yet been received from the Heritage Trust for the work on the War Memorial, so it was planned that it would be "patched up" in time for the November service and the work carried out in 2015.

321 Section 106 funds

No feedback about using the section 106 money for flood work at this point.

322 Flooding

The Chairman said there was an issue of the 9" drain pipe which runs under the B3046 road from the Axford end of Preston Candover and terminates in a "soak-away" in the village green by the war memorial. This is ineffective during periods of high groundwater and it needs to be extended into the ditch. This is work which needs to be done by the Highways authority.

323 Valley & Council Website

The Chairman returned the copy of the "Welcome to Preston Candover" and was working on updating the content and getting it on the website as soon as practicable

324 Play areas

Councillor Taylor reported that the fence was now falling down at the children's play area. He had a quote of £280 to have the 4 fence post replaced which the Council agreed to.

Action: Councillor Taylor to get fence repaired at children's play area.

The Council were still looking at ideas for an extra piece of equipment for the play area and a see saw was agreed to be a good idea

Action: Clerk to bring price along to next meeting

The equipment at the play area needs pressure washing, the water supply for the allotments could be used and it was suggested that power be sourced via one of the residents of Moundsmere Close.

The skate park also needs a clean and the damage filled.

Action: Councillor Taylor to get this work completed.

325 Highways

The grass cutting has been completed along the verges

326 Rights of Way

The bridleway sign at Moundsmere is still missing. Councillor Philips explained that she had reported it a number of times via the website as it were difficult to get through on the telephone number. The Chairman asked to be provided with evidence of last contact so he can follow this up.

Action: Councillor Philips to let Chairman have confirmation email

328 Shop Update

There is a presentation by the Community Store action group on Thursday 24th July in Preston Candover Village Hall.

329 General Correspondence

The Clerk had received a survey request about the polling facilities in Preston Candover. The Clerk asked the Council's view which was that the facilities were good and that there wasn't a more appropriate location for the station.

Action: Clerk to complete survey and return

The Clerk had received a request from a member of the community whose home falls into Ellisfield Parish Council, but which is geographically closer to Axford and would like to be included in the Preston Candover & Nutley Parish area. The resident had been informed by

Hampshire County Council that the Parish Council could decide if the boundary could be moved. The Council were sceptical about this but requested that the Clerk follow it up.

Action: Clerk to report at next meeting

330 Any other business

Councillor Taylor had been informed that the bus shelter needed some grass cutting and weed removal work.

Action: Councillor Taylor to carry out the work on Tuesday 22nd July

The Chairman reported that when the fire service attended to look at the field access it was noted that the closest fire hydrant was in Stenbury Drive. The Council felt that there should be one closer to the school to serve both there and the village hall.

Action: Clerk to speak to water board

The Chairman reported that a number of Ash trees in the valley had die back and that a tree surgeon may need to be consulted

The Chairman distributed a copy of a survey which Overton Parish Council had carried out as a comparison to the one proposed for Candover Valley.

331 Date of next meeting

Monday 15th September 2014, at Preston Candover Village Hall at 7:30pm.