

## PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2014.	<b>Time:</b>	7:30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Preston Candover Village Hall		
<b>Present:</b>	Keith Irons	Chairman	
	Charles Bradshaw	Vice-Chairman	
	Marion Philips		
	Alex Taylor		
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
	PC Andy Reid		
	4 members of the public		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Daphne Prosser		
	Rob Marks		
	David Wilson		

#### **272 Election of Chairman**

The Chairman expressed his intention to stand down as Chairman of the Parish Council, however agreed to stay in role for 2014/15 if there was no other candidates. No-one else expressed an interest at taking on the role so the Vice Chairman proposed and Councillor Philips seconded his election. Following this the Council voted the Chairman in for 2014/15.

#### **273 Election of Vice Chairman**

The Vice Chairman also agreed to stand for the position in 2014/15, the Chairman proposed his election and Councillor Taylor seconded. The Vice Chairman was then voted in.

#### **274 Election of key roles and responsibilities**

As there was not a full Council the Chairman went through the key roles and who currently took them on and confirmed where possible that they would continue. Councillor Taylor brought to the Council's attention the email from Councillor Marks suggesting that he was looking to resign from the Council. There is also a vacancy on the Council which the Councillors having been looking to fill.

The Key roles are as follows:-

- Communication (Chairman)
- Planning (Chairman)
- Section 106 funding (Chairman)
- Legal issues (Vice Chairman)
- Affordable Housing (Vice Chairman)
- Highways (Councillor Prosser)
- Street Lights (Councillor Prosser)
- Recreation Ground (Councillor Taylor & Councillor Wilson)
- Civil Emergencies including Flooding (Vice Chairman)

- Rights of Way and footpaths (Councillor Philips)
- Website (Councillor Philips)
- Grounds Maintenance (Councillor Taylor & Councillor Wilson)
- Children's Play area (Councillor Taylor)
- Liaising with Village Hall Committee (Councillor Taylor)

It was agreed that these roles would be confirmed at the next meeting.

**Action:** To confirm all roles and Councillor Mark's resignation at next meeting.

#### **275 Sign off year end accounts for 2013/14**

The Clerk read out the letter from the internal auditor and made the Council aware of his comments about moving to electronic banking to make payments. The Council agreed that as so few payments were required that it would continue to use a cheque book and require 2 signatures for all cheques. The Internal Auditor also pointed out that the first action at the AGM should be the election of the Chairman and then other roles which had been followed. The governance statement from the annual return was read out and the Council answered all the questions including reviewing the audit process and confirming that it met the requirements. The Annual Return was then signed off by the Chairman. The Clerk explained that the Audit documents were required to be posted to the External Auditor by 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 which was the date they would be processed.

**Action:** Clerk to ensure paperwork is posted ready for External Audit.

#### **276 Overview of 2014/15 plans**

The Chairman informed the Council of the decision to make the section of road from Axford to Preston Candover a 40 mph speed limit. It was agreed that this was a good development and that the section from Preston Candover to Chilton Candover needed to be tackled next. The Council discussed the finances for 2014/15 and agreed that since the Green next to the Village Hall had fallen under their responsibility that grass maintenance costs were increasing and that these needed to be kept in line.

The Chairman had received confirmation that a grant of £3,000 had been awarded by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to carry out work on the area around the Village Hall including at the front of the field. The Chairman explained that this money along with the section 106 funds for open spaces (£2,604) and playing fields (£2,402) gave a total of £8,006 to be spent on the plans for this area. The Chairman explained that work needed to start as soon after the fete as possible as he believed that the section 106 funds needed to be spent in 2014/15 or they would be returned to the developer.

A member of the public asked about the plans for the field next to the village hall and spending so much money on this area. The Village Hall Committee currently look after this area and keep it mown and flower boarder kept in good order, all of which was done on a voluntary basis. The public raised a concern that the Parish Council were spending public money on un-necessary work. The Vice Chairman explained that the field had been ploughed up by parents who used it as a parking area last winter and by making the changes this would be avoided and would keep the area in better condition for the community. There was concern raised about the plans to take out the gate at the front of the field and divert access via the rear of the hall, with particular reference to getting a fire engine into the field for the bonfire party each year. The meeting discussed this point and it was agreed that the

fence would be moved back as planned but a gate would be maintained in the new fence line. It was also agreed that the Village Hall Committee would continue to mow the area next the Hall and along the roadside on a voluntary basis so it kept looking neat. The Council discussed buying a mower and shed for its storage so the volunteers would have the correct equipment to carry out the work instead of having to bring their own tools, it was agreed that the Vice Chairman would look at costs so this could be discussed further at the next meeting. The Village Hall Committee would also discuss where this would be sited.

**Action:** Vice Chairman to bring costs of a mower and shed to next meeting.

The yew hedge which was planned for around the tennis courts was also questioned as this is a bridal path. Planting trees by the tennis court was also felt to be an issue as leaves on the courts made them slippery. The Chairman explained that he had sent a copy of the plans to the Chairman of the tennis club and had not yet received any feedback about the proposals.

The plan to plant an oak from the remaining Jubilee funds to replace the felled tree at the front of the field was considered very appropriate and additional trees for the anniversary of WW1 and WW2 were also much praised.

#### **277 Update from the Allotment Charity**

The Chairman of the Allotment Charity explained that Dickers Field had been left to the community in the 1900s and part had been leased for the development of affordable housing and part used for 15 allotments. The charity's main aim is to relieve hardship and stress of the local people by giving funds either to individuals or the community. The income for the charity was approximately £4,000 a year which was mostly from the interest on the capital investment. Currently there is about £8,000 in the bank and so if there were any requests for grants that they should be made to the Clerk and would always be kept confidential. The Charity used about £900 per year through Christmas boxes of £25 which were given to members of the community, along with paying for the Christmas lunch for all OAPs in the villages. The allotments are rented at £10 per year and currently there are a number without owners and the charity are looking to get them let.

The Chairman thanked the public for attending the Annual General Meeting and invited any who wished to stay for the regular meeting to do so. The Annual General Meeting was then closed.