

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 17 th March 2014.	Time:	7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall		
Present:	Keith Irons	Chairman	
	Charles Bradshaw	Vice-Chairman	
	Daphne Prosser		
	Rob Marks		
	David Wilson		
	Alex Taylor		
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
	PC Andy Reid		
	Councillor Anna McNair Scott	County Councillor	
	Holly Drury	Highways Department, HCC	
	Gavin Bourne	Eastleigh Borough Council	
	15 members of the public		
Apologies:	Marion Philips		

239 Apologies

The Clerk passed on apologies from Councillor Philips.

240 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and were signed by the Chairman.

241 Police Update

PC Reid explained that there had been no crimes in the Parish since the last meeting, just the traffic issues with the flooding.

242 Presentation about Wield Road junction planned changes.

The Chairman explained that as part of the development of Farriers Field that £18,000 had been made available to Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council for Highways work and that this money was being held in trust by Hampshire County Council. He then handed over the meeting to Holly Drury and Gavin Bourne (acting as a consultant to HCC) to talk through the proposals to improve pedestrian safety at the Wield Road junction. Ms Drury explained that part of the funds had already been used to install an additional street lamp opposite the school to ensure there was sufficient lighting for children in the winter. There was also a plan to spend part of the funds on a speed indication device; however the Chairman explained that a plan to pilot the system with a rental from Basingstoke & Deane was to be put in place before a unit was purchased.

Ms Drury then explained that the Highways Department had initiated a study of the Wield Road junction to suggest ways in which it could be made safer. The main issue is that traffic approaching from Basingstoke along the B3046 and turning up the Wield Road does not slow down to make this turn and so any pedestrians have to dive into gardens to avoid being run down. The same is the case when using this junction approaching from Chilton Candover. Due to hedges and the angle of the bend visibility is poor and although there has not yet been an accident along this stretch, it is seen as being an issue.

Ms Drury described the option of making part of this area one way but this was not feasible due to the tight turning for larger traffic. She also described changes which could be made to the road marking and signage, but again as most of those using the junction were local that this would not change how people used it. The suggestion was to create a “shared space” at the junction by taking out all signage and applying a coloured road surface. This would have the effect of making uncertain who had right of way and so slow traffic down. Photographs of similar projects were circulated to the Council and public showing areas where this application had been used. Mr Bourne said that the example in West Meon would be similar to how the junction would look.

There were concerns from the Council about making this junction “uncertain” and if this would not add to the danger. Councillor McNair Scott suggested that this had not been found to be the case.

It was questioned that if this option of road surface would stand up to the heavy use of farm traffic. Ms Drury confirmed that HCC would be responsible for maintaining the surface once the Parish Council had paid to have it put down.

There were also concerns raised that while this junction was an issue that speeding through the whole of the village needed addressing. The Chairman explained that was why the speed indication device and other proposals were being investigated.

The issue of not having pavements throughout the whole of the village was also raised but it was agreed that in most part of the village where there currently aren’t any paths this is due to the road being too narrow to create pathways.

Councillor Marks suggested that with the massive amount of damage that has been created along the road that this section 106 money should first be used to modify the culverts to ensure this flooding across the road doesn’t happen again and then to repair the roads. Councillor McNair Scott explained that as flooding in Hampshire had been the worst in the Country that additional funds were being applied for from central Government to ensure this work could be done. It was agreed that Councillor McNair Scott would organise a walk through with the relevant authorities to look at what was required to prevent future flooding and repair the roads.

Action: Chairman to inform the Parish Council and public when this inspection will take place and allow any interested parties to join the discussion.

The Chairman agreed to investigate the West Meon project and report back at the next meeting, he invited other Councillors to join him.

Action: Chairman to visit West Meon.

The Chairman then closed this part of the meeting and thanked Ms Drury and Mr Bourne for their work and they left the meeting along with 13 of the members of the public.

243 Financial statement

The Clerk talked through the financial statement and the Council signed off cheques for the following items:-

- £178.75 – Street Lamp maintenance contract (Feb – July 2014)
- £81.00 – Hire of Village hall for January to March meetings
- £354.30 – Clerk’s salary
- £71.60 – PAYE

The Clerk explained that these were the last payments to be made in the 2013/14 financial year but that the VAT claim needed to be processed before the year could be closed.

Action: Clerk to process VAT claim.

244 Planning Applications

There has been just 1 planning application since the February meeting which was for a barn style garage and workshop/store at Park House. As this is the Chairman’s property he stepped out of the meeting to allow the Councillors to discuss. No objections were raised and the Chairman rejoined the meeting.

245 Council Property

As there was a strong possibility that the field next to the village hall could not be used as a site for a community shop alternatives needed to be identified. The Chairman explained that there is a triangle of land behind the bus shelter which is owned by the Parish Council and which could be an alternative site if the neighbouring land owner was also prepared to sell, or lease a small area of their land to ‘square off’ the site then a plot of about 25’ by 100’ could be available.

Action: Chairman to speak to Community Shop committee

246 Section 106 funds

No further information

247 Flooding

It was agreed that the flooding was being caused by both surface water and ground water which in some cases was coming up through the floors in some resident’s homes. Where ground water was the issue it was agreed that apart from ensuring water escapes from the area as quick as possible that little could be done to stop this from happening.

The 2 members of the public explained that they would like to be involved in helping sort out the issues with surface water and wanted to be included on the inspection visit and ongoing discussion about remedial actions to take.

Action: Chairman to ensure that the public were made aware of when the inspection was taking place.

248 Valley & Council Website

Councillor Wilson informed the Council that the date for getting faster broadband into the valley had been moved back from phase 2 (June 2014) to phase 7 (end of 2015). He did however believe that this new date may be pulled forward but only by a maximum of 3 months. Councillor Wilson asked that a piece be put into the Oxdrove asking residents to

sign up to get the faster broadband more quickly as the new cabling would give 100mb in the centre of the village and about 60mb at the edges.

Action: Clerk to put piece in May Oxdrove with website address to sign up

249 Play areas

Councillor Taylor explained that there were still the few minor risk items which had been ongoing for a while and plans had been put in place to sort these out in the spring. The issue with the skate ramp was to be discussed with Bernard Crisp, the inspector at Basingstoke & Deane, to confirm that the repair would be satisfactory.

Action: Councillor Taylor to speak to Mr Crisp

The Council agreed to use the contractor which Councillor Taylor had received a quote from for cutting the grass at the children's play area and the field next to the village hall but to leave the area at the war memorial with Brian Hills for 2014. The cost of the field next to the village hall is £70 a cut and the Council agreed to 10 cuts a year as a maximum. The cost of the Children's play area was £40 but this included the war memorial so Councillor Taylor to get a quote for just the play area for the next meeting.

Action: Councillor Taylor to get quote for just cutting the grass at the children's play area.

The Vice Chairman asked if the contractor could be used to top the grass in the area by the allotments. The Chairman asked that contact details be passed on but this was not a cost the Parish Council could take on.

The Chairman also explained that there were still issues with the recreation ground association and that the charities commission were reluctant to speak to anyone except the former treasurer who was no longer involved. Once this has been sorted out then the Chairman and councillors Bradshaw and Wilson had agreed to become trustees.

250 Highways

The main issues were the poor road surface throughout the Parish which had been discussed with the flooding issues.

251 Rights of Way

Councillor Philips was not at the meeting but it was reported that a number of trees had fallen across the footpaths.

252 General Correspondence

Nothing to report

253 Any other business

The Chairman raised a suggestion made by Andrew Fannon to place a defibrillator in the village as they had done in Wield. This issue is that the time taken for an ambulance to reach the valley is too long to save someone who has had a heart attack. By placing a defibrillator in the telephone box in Preston Candover and training up a number of residents to use it lives could be saved. The Parish Council asked how it worked as initially it appeared that the patient would have to be taken to the telephone box to receive treatment.

Action: Chairman to investigate the model in Wield and report to the next meeting

Councillor Prosser asked if the Parish Council would consider raising the precept to support the church. The churchyard has a large damaged tree and work was required to get this removed and additional tree work was needed to protect it from further damage. The Chairman said he had been working with the PCC to set up a "Friends of St Mary's" charity to raise funds to provide support with these issues. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would not be involved at this stage.

254 Date of next meeting

Monday 28th April 2014 at 7:30pm, in the Preston Candover Village Hall, this meeting has been moved back a week due to Easter.