

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Monday 15th September 2014. **Time:** 7:30pm
Venue: Preston Candover Village Hall

Present: Keith Irons Chairman
Charles Bradshaw Vice-Chairman
David Wilson
Alex Taylor
Daphne Prosser
Wendy Simson Clerk
PC Andy Reid

Apologies: Marion Philips

332 Apologies

The Clerk passed on apologies from Councillor Phillips who had informed the Council that she would not be able to attend the meeting.

333 Minutes of the last meeting

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

334 Matters arising

Councillor Marks position on the Parish Council – The Clerk explained that Councillor Marks had confirmed that he was stepping down from the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to inform Basingstoke & Deane and advertise the role.

This means that there are 2 vacancies for Councillors. A discussion about possible replacements took place and a number of candidates are to be approached.

Action: All Councillors to speak to likely candidates and report at next meeting.

Additional Street Lamp – The Chairman met with Christian from SSE Contracting on 22nd July about the position for the additional street lamp opposite the school entrance. Confirmation of placing the lamp on the telephone pole was required and if this was not possible then an additional post would need to be erected. If an additional pole was required this would, probably, be situated on the grass area at the back of the lay-by on the left hand verge of the entrance to the tennis club. This would require the cable to be laid under this entrance. The Chairman asked for an update prior to the meeting and was informed that the work would take place on Tuesday 16th September. It was agreed that either the Chairman or Vice Chairman would be about to speak to the contractor.

The Chairman explained that he believed that the light, which has been placed in the wrong location and replaced an existing light by mistake, should be left in situ and the new lamp should be installed at no additional cost to the Parish Council, apart from the cost of an additional pole.

335 Police Update

PC Reid explained that there had been three incidents in the Parish since the last meeting, they were:-

- 10/8 – a branch across the B3046
- 1/9 – an assault at the Purefoy Public House
- 11/9 – a malicious telephone call to a Preston Candover resident

The second and third of these incidents are being investigated.

The Chairman asked PC Reid about the changes to the Rural Policing Project and PC Reid read out the following statement:-

Statement from PC Reid

The Parish Council agreed that PC Reid had always given an exceptional service to the community and were concerned that these changes would mean the deterrent of having the Police House and an Officer based in the Valley would be lost. It was agreed that a letter be drafted from the Parish Council to Simon Hayes, Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

Action: Chairman to draft letter and circulate for agreement of all Councillors

The Council also discussed a public meeting and including Councillor Mark Ruffell to ensure the community were aware of the changes proposed.

The Clerk asked about progress on the hazard signs at Nutley and it was agreed that when Keith Holdsworth next visited the valley that it would be raised with him.

Action: Vice Chairman to raise with Keith Holdsworth

336 Financial statement

The Clerk confirmed that in August the following invoices were received and payment agreed by the Councillors via email:-

- £120.00 – grass cutting at war memorial
- £378.00 – grass and hedge cutting at field by village green and children's play area
- £214.50 – 6 months maintenance contract for street lights (Sept 14 – Feb 15)

The following invoices were presented at the meeting and payment approved:-

- £120.00 – grass cutting at war memorial
- £235.60 – PAYE (July – Sept 14)
- £354.30 – Clerk's salary (July – Sept 14)
- £500.00 – grant for community defibrillator
- £240.00 – grass cutting at field by village hall and children's play area

Councillor Taylor informed the Council that the fencing work at the children's play area had been completed and an invoice was due for this work.

The Council discussed the work required on the war memorial. The Chairman informed the Council that none of the applications for additional money had been successful and suggested that some remedial work be done to ensure it was presentable for the November 11th service but that large scale work is planned for 2015.

Action: Vice Chairman to get a quote for remedial work from Blackwell & Moody

337 Planning Applications

Sheerings House – Initially feedback on this application was required by 21st August, however the Council raised a question to Brian Conlon, planning officer, about the materials being used for the cladding and its final colour. His colleague Nicky Spinks gave the following response:-

I have picked up this case from Brian and hopefully can assist with your questions.

The application proposal is to clad the whole of the first floor although as set out in an email below from the agent, they are asking that the details of the cladding be subject to planning condition as no final decision has been made on colour or exact finish. I have sought advice from the Conservation officer about the principle of cladding and have attached below the response from the agent for your information, also confirming that the garage will not be re-provided. If you do wish to make any additional comments to those already made, I would be grateful if you could let me have those as soon as possible in view of the decision date of 18 September.

If I can assist in any other way, please do email me.

Kind regards

Nicky Spink;

Email from agent,

'Dear Nicky

Following our conversation and your e-mail I can confirm that it is intended to provide cladding to the whole of the first floor elevations (both existing and proposed) from ground floor window/door head upwards. It was always my intention that, as the applicants are undecided as to the exact finish, the material for this aspect be covered by a planning condition if successful.

I additionally confirm that no garaging is proposed for this submission as ample parking facilities exist on site as shown on the 1:500 site plan.

Regards

Lawrence'

It was agreed at the meeting that the Council had no objections to the size of the alterations but would like a concern raised about the lack of clarity of the materials to be used. It was agreed that a hung clay tile, as used on a number of other properties, would be more appropriate.

Action: Clerk to pass on concerns to Basingstoke & Deane

Oak Tree at 11 Stenbury Drive – a tree preservation order has been placed on this tree following an application to fell it.

Beech Tree in St Mary's churchyard – The Parish Council agreed that instead of felling this tree that work should be done to balance the tree up after it losing a branch in the storms.

Action: Clerk to report comments to Dave Harris, Tree Officer at Basingstoke & Deane.

Pruning of 3 trees at Preston Candover Primary School – The Council had no objection to this work.

Change of use for Ménage to garden at 6 Farriers Close – The Councillor had no objections to this work.

Field next to Village Hall – The Clerk passed round a copy of a letter (Annex A) to each of the Councillors from Mr & Mrs Armstrong and read out the document. The Chairman said that he believed, from his own knowledge and that of several others, that there was a long-established public right of way across this entrance which could not be removed arbitrarily. He was consulting the Council's solicitor

Action: Clerk to acknowledge letter

Councillor Prosser also raised concerns about moving the fence line back from the road edge and the creation of the sitting area at the front of the field. Councillor Prosser explained that this would be very close to a bend in the B3046 and that this stretch of road was often very busy and that the community would not wish to be sat close to the traffic. Councillor Prosser also raised the issue of the piece of the field which would no longer be available for the fete. The Vice Chairman reassured Councillor Prosser that the changes would improve the look of the centre of the village. The Vice Chairman asked if other members of the community had the same concerns and Councillor Prosser confirmed that they did. Councillor Prosser agreed to take the Council's comments back to those who had approached her.

The fencing work is planned in with Michael Maxwell for October 2014.

The Jubilee and WW1 Oak Trees are due to be planted in November 2014.

Lay-by opposite the Old Post Office – It was agreed that this area looks much better with the first session of work carried out by Jim Kimber. The hedge was due to be planted in the next 1-2 months and would comprise of holly, beech, and Hawthorne.

Bus Shelter – Councillor Taylor explained that he had taken his strimmer down to cut down the grass and weeds at the bus shelter but the strimmer had broken part way through the job and he had not been able to complete it. It was agreed that Jim Kimber be asked to quote for doing this as part of the regular visits to the parish.

Action: Councillor Taylor to get quote for bus shelter maintenance

Councillor Prosser raised a concern about the increasing costs of the additional grass cutting and it was agreed that when budgeting for 2015/16 that the Council may need to look at increasing the precept. The Clerk also explained that she had been asked about how much grass the Parish Council maintains as there are additional grants available from Basingstoke & Deane to support this work.

339 Section 106 funds

The Parish Council was due to be given a free trial of a speed indication device but this had not yet been put into place.

Action: Chairman to look into why this hadn't happened.

Concern was raised that the £18,002 held by Basingstoke & Deane for highways work needed to be spent before April 2015. To date only £583.44 had been used for the additional street lamp.

The Chairman confirmed that the other 3 sums of money, £2,604 (open spaces); £2,402 (playing fields) and £4,529 (equipped play areas) were safe as they were held in the Parish Council's bank account. However, he did confirm that these did need to be spent and projects were planned to take up these funds.

340 Flooding

The Vice Chairman explained that 2 public meetings had been held in March and April to discuss the work required preventing the flooding situation of 2013/14 being repeated. A plan to cover the whole valley was being developed to ensure that water was not moved further down the valley to flood other properties. This plan was due to be presented to the community and the Vice Chairman to chase up when this was likely to be ready.

Action: Vice Chairman to speak to Sarah Reghif about progress with plan

The Vice Chairman explained that a meeting to walk through the valley and identify the areas of concern for immediate action would take place on 29/9, 30/9 or 1/10 with Simon Cramp from the Borough Council.

Councillor Wilson raised concerns that after the flooding in the winter of 2013/14 that the community expected action and to date nothing had been done. There were a number of culverts in Preston Candover which needed to be removed or made larger and the section 106 money could potentially be used for this work. Councillor Wilson explained that if this work was not done and flooding occurred again in the winter of 2014/15 that the community would be rightly displeased with this lack of action by the Parish Council.

The Vice Chairman promised to have all the answers at the next meeting.

341 Valley & Council Website

The Chairman has updated all the minutes on the Parish Council website.

342 Play areas

Councillor Taylor reported that the children's play area was looking very tidy and was well used by the community. The fence has been repaired and the Council were waiting for the invoice.

All the equipment needed to be power washed and it was agreed that the Chairman had a generator and Councillor Wilson had a power washer and water could be used from the allotments to enable this work to be done. It was also agreed that Councillor Taylor would get a quote to have a local company do this work as it would be required each year.

Action: Councillor Taylor to get quote for power washing the children's play area each year.

Councillor Taylor presented a number of items of additional play equipment and their costs. It was agreed that a roundabout would be the best option and total cost of £4,141 with grass matting or £4,735 with tiger mulch including installation. Both these costs are not including VAT but the Parish Council can claim any VAT back.

The Chairman offered some logs which could be used a table and seats for the play area as the existing table is very old. Councillor Taylor agreed to look at this option.

The Chairman also offered a "Wendy House" for the play area.

Action: Councillor Taylor to look at space available and what would suit best

The skate ramp also needs cleaning and there is water and electricity at the changing rooms for the recreation ground.

Action: Councillor Taylor to include with quote for cleaning children's play area

The Chairman informed the Council that he had been able to present the last 10 years of accounts to the Charity Commission and that he and the Vice Chairman have put themselves forward as interim trustees of the charity as there are current trustees. Councillor Prosser explained that the changing rooms needed a huge amount of work and the current committee was disheartened by the lack of support. The Council discussed using part of the

£4,529 of section 106 money for equipped play areas to match fund with a lottery grant to have the changing room renovated. It was agreed that Ken Green and Dennis Smith from the Recreation Committee would be invited to the next meeting and lottery/sports grants investigated.

Action: Councillor Taylor to invite Mr Green and Mr Smith to the next meeting

Action: The Chairman to look at grants

343 Highways

Councillor Prosser informed the Council that she had been asked to raise the issue of the public footpath along the Dummer Road in Axford. Signage is required to indicate that pedestrians are likely to be in the road.

Action: Vice Chairman to discuss with Keith Holdsworth on his next visit

344 Rights of Way

Councillor Philips was not at the meeting but had completed a grant application to provide a map board and maps for the local walks. The grant would be for £787 and the Parish Council would provide £100 of labour and £687 in funds to match fund the project. The closing date for applications is 24th October 2014 so it is hoped Councillor Philips will have feedback at the November meeting.

345 Shop Update

The Council was advised by the vice chairman that the project appears to be progressing well and there are significant funds pledged to the Community Store. The Chairman of the Candover Valley Community Store Project, Bob Wood, has sent through an email explaining that the “preferred site” in Preston Candover, on the village field, was being investigated and a local Landscape Architect and Planning Consultant was working on a feasibility study including a traffic assessment. The Chairman pointed out that this was being done without any prior consultation with the Council.

346 General Correspondence

The Clerk has received a letter asking for support in maintaining the war memorial at Axford. The round seating area with slate roof on the Bradley junction in Axford is owned by a housing association which also owns the group of bungalows. The Council agreed that they would look at how much it would cost to get Jim Kimber to include it in the grass cutting work he carries out. When the potential cost is known, and if funding is available, the Chairman will approach the housing association with a view to having the ownership of the grassed areas in front of the bungalows and the memorial transferred to the parish council.

Action: Chairman to report back at next meeting

347 Any other business

Councillor Prosser informed the Clerk that street light number 2 is out.

Action: Clerk to report it the SSE Contracting

Councillor Prosser also pointed out that a new salt bin had been delivered but had been placed where the road floods.

Action: Chairman to check if it had been filled with salt already in which case it could not be moved but if it hadn't then to see how easily it could be relocated.

The Vice Chairman asked about the insurance on field next to village hall, the Chairman pointed out that this had been covered at the meeting on 16th June and quoted:-

"The Clerk reported back that the addition of the field did not require any additional cover, as all that would be needed was Public Liability Insurance with the Council already had."

Councillor Wilson asked about the container at Thorps, Alresford Road, Preston Candover. The work on this property was now finished and it was agreed that if the containers were not removed in the next 2 months that the owner be asked about their long term intentions.

348 Date of next meeting

Monday 20th October 2014, at Preston Candover Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Annex A

Dear Councillors,

We saw on the Parish Council notice board that there have been some changes to the Village Improvement Plan following the discussions at the July Parish Council meeting. We would like to thank the committee for taking into account local concerns about relocating the main vehicular entrance to the field, and agree that at this point it remains sensible for the entrance to be from the main road. Additionally, we would like to thank the parish council for its work in cleaning up the area behind the lay-by and look forward to the planting of the hedge. We wondered if anyone has raised the question of who should empty the bin on the verge of the lay-by, as it seemingly has not been done for months and is now far more accessible and noticeable to passersby.

There were two points in the revised plan that we would like to comment on.

First, the plan states that the parish council would install bollards along the lane to the tennis club. Having been informed previously that the council did not have the funds for this, and followed up with the Chairman on progress/extent of funds, we have undertaken the installation of bollards with the agreement of the tennis club, at our expense. As the weather changes for the worse we did not want to risk further erosion of the verges by delaying their installation further.

Second, the plan calls for a footpath between the village hall and the telephone exchange for children to use to get to the school when parking at the tennis club. We have reached an agreement with the tennis club and the school, that the tennis club parking will only be used under a license to be granted for a determined timeframe and number of staff cars, and not for parents' parking. This has been communicated very clearly to all Primary school parents in the first newsletter of the term. Moreover, we would object to any intensification of use of the lane, and we continue to reserve our position that there is no right of way over the road, which is private. As mentioned at the last parish council meeting, we have made an agreement with the tennis club that respects its users' rights and need for access. We would be grateful if the Parish Council could refrain from associating school parking with the tennis club car park in future plans and documents.

We are always open to further discussions on the scheme and would like to play a constructive role in this. Unfortunately we cannot attend this evening's meeting, but are generally available by phone and over the weekends for discussion.

Kind regards

Ian and Clare Armstrong