

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Monday 20th October 2014. **Time:** 7:30pm

Venue: Preston Candover Village Hall

Present: Keith Irons Chairman
Charles Bradshaw Vice-Chairman
David Wilson
Alex Taylor
Marion Philips
Wendy Simson Clerk
PC Andy Reid
4 members of the public

Apologies: Daphne Prosser

349 Apologies

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

350 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.

351 Public Forum

Three member of the community attended the meeting to raise concerns at car parking outside the school in Preston Candover, particularly at school starting and closing times and also speeding in the valley. It was reported that a large number of children attending the school are from outside of the catchment area and, as a result, they were not able to the school bus and so needed to be brought by a parent.

The current situation of school parking was outlined with particular issues being between 2:50pm and 3:30pm as the children leave school when cars are often parked behind the 3 buses to form one long row along a blind bend on the school side of the road through Preston Candover. It was suggested that either double or single yellow lines along this stretch of road would enable PC Reid to stop vehicles parking in the area and force parents to park up Stenbury Drive or further down towards the war memorial. The Clerk read out a letter from another resident who lives on Stenbury Drive, expressing concern about cars being parked too close to the junction of the B3046. On a number of occasions the resident had been forced to reverse back out onto the B3046 because parents pulling out of the junction would not give way. The suggestion was that the yellow lines be continued round into Stenbury Drive allowing a safe distance for cars to pass.

The Chairman explained that car parking for the school had been an issue for some time and that he had completed a study in 2013 to identify additional parking which had been submitted to Hampshire County Council and the school. Some provision had been agreed at

the tennis club for teachers as there are 20 members of staff at the school and only 7 spaces within the grounds. There was only a limited facility for the remaining cars at the tennis club, in order to reduce the numbers of vehicles using this narrow lane. Consequently, some staff parked in the lay-by, thereby reducing spaces for parents to park. The Chairman also pointed out that the Chairman of School Governors had said, at the Council's meeting in July, that plans were being considered for some 'landscaping' at the school. It was not known if this would provide any additional parking for staff.

The residents asked if the field next to the village hall could be used for parking as it was in Autumn 2013, with a hard surface being laid to ensure the field did not become a quagmire as it had last winter. The Chairman explained that the lease on the land did not allow for any parking except for special events. He also said that when the County Council were consulted in 2013 their only suggestion was to get the parents to park properly.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the school to ask them to get parents to stop parking behind the buses and also not to wait for their children to go into school but drop them off and move on.

Action: Chairman to write letter

PC Reid agreed to give his full support to any request for additional road markings and would pass on details of who to speak to about yellow lines for the area.

Action: PC Reid to pass on details

The speed at which vehicles travel through the village was also raised as a concern. One of the residents explained that they regularly walked through Preston Candover and most cars were travelling in excess of the 30mph limit. As Preston Candover is the only village in the valley with a school on the road, and the pavements were not wide enough, and in some areas did not exist, to allow pedestrians to walk safely.

The Chairman said that £18,000 of section 106 funds had been allocated for highways and that the Parish Council had looked at ways to spend this money on traffic calming measures. The area at the Wield Road junction was investigated as this is especially hazardous for pedestrians as there are no pavements and a number of blind spots. A speed indication device was also considered to show drivers their true speed so they will keep within the limits. Road narrowing at the "gates" either ends of the village and speed bumps were also discussed. None of these suggestions could not be taken forward as the Hampshire County Highways department would not agree to any of the changes, or traffic calming measures proposed. Officials had also refused to allow any speed indication devices.

352 Police Update

PC Reid informed the Parish Council that there had been no incidents since the last meeting except for a number of calls about criminal damage to crops. This was happening at night with groups of people gaining access to fields with dogs for illegal hare coursing.

The Chairman asked about a telephone call he received about security consultants being in the area and claiming Hampshire police support in their offering 'security advice'. PC Reid said he hadn't been informed of this scam.

The potato lorries had also been redirected to use the Bradley Road as opposed to travelling through Preston Candover and using the Wield Road.

The Council asked for an update on the changes to rural policing. PC Reid explained that there would be a public meeting on Saturday 8th November at 10am possibly at Herriard British Legion Club where Simon Hayes, Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner would present the plans and answer questions. Further details to follow.

It was agreed that a letter to the Commissioner would be helpful

Action: Chairman to draft letter

353 Planning

A member of the community had expressed an interest in hearing the feedback about the planning application for a biomass plant at Nutley Manor. The Chairman agreed with the Council to move this item to the top of the agenda.

Nutley Manor – erection of a new building for a biomass plant, woodchip storage, estate wood seasoning and associated machinery (14/02661). The Vice Chairman explained that he had studied the plans and was comfortable that the new building replaced an existing open barn which was by the drying barn next to the site of the old church in Nutley. Initially the wood would all be produced on the estate but there may be a requirement to bring in additional wood but this would be limited to no more than 7 lorries per year. The Council had no objections to the plans.

Axford Lodge – erection of two storey front and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing. Alteration to fenestrations and various internal alterations (14/02657). The Councillors studied the plans and raised no objections.

Berrydown Farm – barn conversion (14/02884). This application falls into Ellisfield Parish Council's boundary and so the Parish Council were not able to make comment. However having looked at the plans several members of the Council raised surprise that permission was being sought to create another dwelling on that site. The Chairman said that the Parish Council could not raise any comments, but if members of the Council wished to comment personally then they could do so.

354 Recreation Ground

Mr Dennis Smith, a member of the Recreation Association committee joined the meeting to discuss the work required on the changing room facilities at the recreation ground on Wield Road.

The Chairman explained that he had helped the Recreation Association, which had been de-listed by the Charities Commission, to become re-established with the Commission by completing financial accounts for the 10 years since 2003 when accounts were last submitted to the Charities Commission. As the charitable status of the Association had been reconfirmed it would now be possible for the Parish Council to make a grant again.

There are 4 football teams who use the ground regularly, playing Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and with each paying £35 per home game. This gives an annual income of between £1,400 and £1,500 per year. The costs of the pitch maintenance which include mowing, reseeding and top soil, and paint for lines, upkeep of the goals and costs for electricity and water in the changing rooms. The Parish Council had previously given a grant to the Recreation Association committee each year to help to cover all these costs, but while the Association was under the threat of being permanently de-listed by the Charities

Commission it was not possible to continue the grants. It was agreed that a grant application be considered for 2015/16 as part of the budgeting process at the next meeting.

Action: Grant application to be raised by Recreation Association.

It was also agreed that additional uses for the field should be investigated. The Council suggested camping for the Scouts, an Archery Club, Radio Controlled model planes, etc.

The changing rooms are in a very poor condition. A number of the windows are broken and the doors are rotten. The exterior render is coming away from the walls and needs to be removed and replaced. Councillor Taylor had a quote for the render and replacing the doors amounting to £4,500. An estimate of the cost of the windows could be sourced via a window company. The Chairman suggested that it may be easier for the Recreation Association to raise funding if it sought a larger grant to make the facility larger and provide for a larger group of users.

Action: Chairman and Clerk to look at grant options from HCC, Basingstoke & Deane and/or the Sports Council.

The insurance is due and costs £600; there is £900 in bank to cover this. The Council asked the Clerk to investigate with our insurance company.

Action: Clerk to ask insurance company about policy costs

355 Matters arising

Vacant position on the Parish Council – The Clerk has informed Basingstoke and Deane that there are now 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. The Chairman asked for suggestions of who could be co-opted onto the Council having reminded the Councillor that it would be for just 6 months until the elections in May 2015.

Hazard signs at Nutley – The Chairman to contact Andrew Kettlewell about new signage.

Action: Chairman to contact Highways team

War Memorial – The Vice Chairman explained that he was making contact with the War Memorial Trust and a specialist from Wales to get a plan for major work on the area next year.

Additional Street Light – The Chairman has had a cost through from SSE Contracting for removing the new white lamp and putting the old lamp back and the erecting a new pole by the lay-by. The total cost was £1,200 but the Council agreed that the cost of removing and replacing the old lamp should be taken by SSE.

Action: Chairman to speak to SSE

War Memorial at Axford– Councillor Taylor has got a quote for £25 to cut the grass at the war memorial at Axford. The Chairman is now going to speak to Sovereign Housing about the possibility of the Parish Council buying the memorial for a nominal sum.

Salt-bin at War Memorial in Preston Candover– the salt bin at the village green is full but when the road works are completed the Vice Chairman will ask if they can move it to a spot where it won't fill with water if we have flooding again this year.

Action: Vice Chairman to arrange moving of the salt-bin

356 Financial statement

The following payment were presented by the Clerk and agreed by the Parish Council:-

- £120.00 – Grass cutting at War Memorial
- £312.00 – Grass cutting at Village Hall

- £35.00 – Data Protection Policy insurance.
- £56.00 – Hall hire for meetings.
- £300.00 – Fence repairs at Children’s play area
- £182.32 – replacement bulb for street lamp

The Parish Council has received the final payment from Basingstoke and Deane on the precept of £3,500 and 74p in interest on the account.

The Council questioned the £35 cost for Data Protection and asked the Clerk to investigate if it is required. The Clerk has reported that as the Parish Council hold personal data including the electoral role that this insurance is required.

The Clerk presented a grant application from the Village Hall Committee for £100 towards the New Years Drinks Party. This application was agreed and the payment will be made at the November meeting.

Action: Clerk to raise cheque for next meeting

357 Council Property

The grass has been cut at the bus shelter and was included within the £312.00 invoice from Jim Kimber. Councillor Prosser asked that it be reported that the shelter looks much better since the work has been carried out.

The new fence at the field next to the Village Hall is being installed in October and the hedge at the back of the lay-by will be planted in the last week of October as this is half term. The old tree stump on the field next to the village hall will be ground out in November and a 10 year old Oak purchased to be planted on the same month. A plaque for the Jubilee Oak is to be purchased and a second one for the Oak Tree planted for the Queen’s Silver Jubilee will also be ordered.

While the work is being carried out in the lay-by the bench from the bus shelter will be moved to its new position in the area of the old telephone box, where the children cross to get to school. This will allow those catching the bus to have somewhere to sit and see the bus approach.

358 Section 106 funds

The trial on the speed reminder device is to be placed at the Chilton Candover end of the village, however when it was discussed the Council agreed that they would have one device on free trail and pay for a second one for the Axford end of the village past the Bradley Road.

Action: Chairman to organise trial.

359 Flooding

The Candover Valley held a well attended meeting with representatives from HCC and the Environment Agency (EA) in late April to discuss the flooding problems. Out of this the Valley formed the Candovers Flood Action Group (CFAG), with representatives from both Parishes, chaired by Charles Bradshaw. Since then CFAG have attended a number of meetings with HCC and the EA, culminating with a meeting on 29th September to discuss an action plan.

A summary of the actions agreed are set out below:

- Within the next two weeks, all drainpipes and gullies throughout the village to be cleared.

- Headwall to culvert crossing Church Lane rebuilt (just completed).
- Pipes to be jetted shortly.
- Trial hole to be dug over the main culvert opposite us at the Old Vicarage to assess location of mains water pipe and lowering the culvert within the next two weeks.
- Installation of new 9 inch pipe next to existing pipe across the Wield Road by the church (hopefully within the next month).
- Remove the culverts by the church path and old bus stop along the B3406 (timescale as above).
- HCC to discuss removal of culverts with the owners of South Hall and Old Timbers within the next two weeks.
- Resurface the small piece of road by the village green (HCC accidentally re surfaced the piece of road by the church).
- Re-surface the footpath from the village green to Stenbury Drive (within this financial year, i.e. before March 2015).

A note is to be put in the November Oxdrove detailing the work done to date.

Action: Clerk to place piece in Oxdrove.

360 Valley & Council Website

The website is being regularly updated with information and meeting minutes but there are concerns that very few people look at it. It was agreed that an advert should be put in the Oxdrove a number of times each year to remind the residents of the site.

Action: Clerk to ask costs of an advert

361 Play areas

Councillor Taylor reported that another hole had appeared in the skate ramp and that work was now urgently required to bring this into line.

Action: Councillor Taylor to investigate what is required to be done and get quotes for next meeting.

Councillor Philips reported that a hand-made sign had appeared at the children's play area say "no ball games". Councillor Taylor explained that he knew nothing of this sign and would investigate and remove it.

362 Highways

As part of the Chairman's conversation about signage with the Highways Team, the Chairman is to raise the issue of getting a sign on the Dummer Road to indicate there may be pedestrians on the road.

Action: Chairman to speak to Highway Team

363 Rights of Way

Oak Hill Lane which is a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) has been closed for resurfacing work. Councillor Philips explained that this was being carried out by Hampshire County Council through James Emmett's budget as it has been flagged a number of times because it gets so badly churned up in the wet weather.

The finger post which has been missing at Axford is due to be replaced. Councillor Philips explained that this has taken so long because part of the road will need closing as the sign is very close to the verge and there is no room for the workers to stand.

The map board grant application has been submitted and the Parish Council should hear later this month if their bid has been successful. The Council will be required to find £312.00 and £100 of labour costs as their contribution to the new boards. The labour can be either installation or design time. Councillor Philips is to update the direction sign which sits alongside the maps to ensure they are ready for the new board.

364 Shop Update

There is no further information on the Community Shop Plans, the Parish Council are waiting to see the proposed plans before making further comment.

365 General Correspondence

None of note

366 Any other business

The Clerk had been approached by the Chairman of the PTA at the school to ask if parking could be granted on the field next to the village hall on Saturday 29th November 2014 from 11am to 2pm for the school Christmas fair. The Chairman explained that grass seed will have just been put down but would look at moving this to later so the parking could be granted.

Action: Chairman to look at date change for grass seeding

The Chairman informed the Councillor that there is a vacancy for a Community Governor for Preston Candover School. The position would require attendance at 4 main meetings and 4 committee meetings per year. Any applications should be directed to Ian Commack as Chairman of the Board of Governors.

The Clerk explained that she would not be at the next meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would be recorded and the Clerk would transcribe the minutes on her return.

367 Date of next meeting

Monday 17th November 2014, at Preston Candover Village Hall at 7:30pm.