

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH ASSEMBLY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Monday 20th July 2015.

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Preston Candover Village Hall

Present: Alex Taylor Chairman
Charles Bradshaw Vice-Chairman
Ruth Chattell
Tish Owencroft
Adam Alexander
Wendy Simson Clerk
PC Reid
David Chattell Vicar

Apologies: Daphne Prosser
Arnout Van Der Veer
Rob Marks

519 Apologies

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillors Prosser, Van Der Veer and Marks to say that they would not be able to attend the meeting.

520 Minutes of previous meeting

Councillor Chattell asked about point 517 and the context in which it was discussed at the last meeting, as she felt that the message not to give money to the church but instead to the friends of St Mary's may be misleading. Councillor Alexander explained that the discussion was about the possibility of the Parish Council making a grant to St Mary's to support the maintenance of the churchyard in particular and therefore to make this donation to the friends of St Mary's may be the best route. The Chairman suggested that the Vicar had been invited to the meeting so the Parish Council could get a good understanding of the process and how the Parish Council would be best to proceed.

It was agreed that the Chairman would sign off the minutes at the meeting but that the wording of this point be changed from:-

"Councillor Alexander asked that if any donations are to be made to St Mary's church that they be made to the "Friends of St Mary's" account and not just to St Mary's church. The Council discussed the possibility of giving a grant to St Mary's in the budget for 2015/16."

To this:-

"The Parish Council discussed supporting St Mary's church with a grant either in the current financial year or for 2016/17. The Councillors were particularly keen for help to be given for the maintenance of the churchyard at St Mary's in Preston Candover."

This change was to be made prior to the minutes being published.

The minutes were then signed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman.

521 Church Update

David Chattell gave the Parish Council an overview of how the church works and the managing bodies into which they report. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a legal body made up of the Church Wardens who are asked to take an oath each year as part of their role. St Mary's forms part of the Benefice for which David is responsible and there is a requirement for the benefice to cover all costs including admin and training from the revenue generated. Each Parish is required to pay a share of these costs, which for St Mary's is £15,000 a year. The money each Parish contributes then pays for costs such as heating, lighting and general maintenance of the church and its grounds.

There are rules around the churchyard and what can and cannot be placed in this area. The Vicar is required to work within these rules and if an application is received for a memorial which falls outside of these guidelines then it would be referred to Legal Department for a final decision. There are a number of stones in the churchyard at St Mary's which fall outside of this brief, however the church takes a view to manage this locally and ensure new installations meet the requirements.

The PCC pay for the maintenance of the churchyard which costs about £700 a year. However, there was some tree work which needed action in both St Mary's and old St Mary's at a cost of approximately £600 earlier this year.

The friends of St Mary's charity were set up about 8 years ago to give the opportunity for donations to be made to the upkeep of the fabric of the church. Donation of about £700 has been made to this account in the last year, which has been used to support the work required on the trees.

Councillor Owencroft asked about the Oxdrove magazine and how much that contributed to the church funds. David explained that as printing costs were now paid for the publication, that it just covered its own costs.

There are a number of working parties which help to keep the churchyard tidy and the PCC employ someone to cut the grass at £10/hr, approximately £400 a year. The church also has groups of people on community payback schemes that come to help with clearing the churchyard, which enables larger projects to be completed. It is planned that with the next visit the large compost heap will be cleared. Councillor Owencroft asked if an advert could be put in the Oxdrove prior to any community activity to invite residents along to help, as it is often just a thank you for those who did attend after the event.

The Chairman thanked the Vicar for his time and agreed to get the Grant Application Form sent across after the meeting. The Chairman explained that if the church wished to make an application in 2015/16 then the Parish Council would discuss this, however budgets had been set already and it may not be possible. The Parish Council would ensure that the church was given the paperwork prior to the budgeting process in November ready for 2016/17.

Action: Clerk to send Vicar the Grant Application Form

522 Police update

PC Reid gave an update of the incidents since his last report in June, these were:-

- 28/6 – missing person report from Preston Candover (found all in order)
- 29/6 – Speed enforcement at Preston Candover (3 warnings and 4 tickets issued)
- 1/7 – Speed enforcement at Axford (3 warnings issued)

The Chairman asked about progress with the rural policing policy and PC Reid confirmed that the Police were keen to push forward with the proposal. The final decision is being made by Simon Hayes, the Police and Crimes Commissioner at a meeting on 29th July.

Ellisfield Parish Council have flagged the poor state of the road to PC Reid which border the Parish Council's roads.

The Clerk asked about the possibility of dropping the speed limit to 20mph in the villages. PC Reid explained that a number of Councils had done this but it is not enforceable if it isn't approved by Highways.

The Vice Chairman asked about planning for future policing in the valley and if when PC Reid decided to retire would he be able to train up his replacement. PC Reid confirmed that this was his expectation.

523 Matter arising from previous meeting

Bank account – The Clerk apologised for the bank mandate still not being correct but following a call with Lloyds that a new mandate had been completed and required a signature from the two remaining signatories, Councillors Bradshaw and Prosser, and personal details and a signature for Councillors Owencroft and Van Der Veer as new signatories. Councillors Owencroft and Bradshaw completed this information at the meeting, the Clerk is to get the others to complete after the meeting before forwarding to Lloyds.

Tree felling – Councillor Prosser had information the Chairman that she was working on the quotes and hoped to have them for the September meeting.

524 Financial statement

The Clerk had received confirmation that the £2,722.30 had been paid from the section 106 money held by Hampshire Highways for the additional street lamp. A further £4,179.41 was due to be received in this financial year with the majority of this £3,500 as the remaining 50% of the precept due in September.

The following payment were agreed and signed off at the meeting

- £28.34 – paint and brushes for posts at war memorial
- £204.00 – HALC subscription
- £89.03 – replacement glass in street lamp (£179.64 less £90.61 owed by SSE)
- £586.00 – Map board
- £112.00 – hall hire for April – July meetings plus flood meeting
- £312.00 – grass cutting

The Clerk also presented a cheque for £120.00 for the external audit fees, the invoice for this has not yet been received but is due to be paid in the next couple of weeks. This audit is chargeable for 2014/15 as the spending was more than £10,000.

The Parish Council discussed the additional section 106 money which was being made available with the development of the Water Tower at Nutley. The £1,440 was to enhance community facilities (Community Halls) in the area. It was therefore agreed that the money should be allocated to Preston Candover Village Hall as the only facility which fits this description in the area. Councillor Alexander, who is on the village hall committee explained that new radiators were required and that this money would provide a good contribution to the total costs.

The Chairman asked for a vote which was unanimous.

525 Rights of way

The Clerk had been sent an information pack about the rights of way and who has responsibility for them, this was passed to Councillor Alexander.

The sign on bridleway 6 is waiting to be delivered and fitted.

Councillor Alexander is also looking into who is responsible for clearing the Oxdrove as it is very overgrown.

Action: Councillor Alexander to report at next meeting.

The map board has arrived back having been repaired. It was agreed that permission was to be gained from Hampshire Highways who own this land before it is erected.

Action: Councillor Prosser to ask for permission to put the map board up.

526 Website

Councillor Van Der Veer and Councillor Marks were not at the meeting to give an update on the website.

527 Planning

Tree work at Fairview Cottage – the Parish Council looked at the plans to remove the three trees and agreed they were a danger and needed to be removed.

528 Council property

The area behind the bus shelter has been cleared and most of the rubbish was burnt. Chris Chivers along with Councillor Alexander and the Chairman had completed the work and there was just a large climbing frame which couldn't be disposed of. The Vice Chairman agreed to speak to the landlady about removing the frame as it had come from the pub garden.

529 Flooding

The Vice Chairman reported that the meeting on 23rd June had gone well but that the work required would not be completed quickly. The engineers plan has to be drawn up and costed before being looked at with 40 other communities to priorities the activity. The minutes of the meeting are as follows:-

THOSE PRESENT:

Charles Bradshaw, Vice Chairman, Preston Candover & Nutley PC

Arnout Van Der Veer, PCN PC

Jantiene Klein Roseboom

Jonathan Moseley, Chairman, Candovers PC

Simon Cramp, HCC

Tor Peebles, HCC

Anestis Demirtzoglou, HCC

Ian Miller, Environment Agency

Subject – Preston Candover Flood Risk Reduction Study

- a. Introductions – SC introduced his Team and thanked the Parish Councils for their help in providing much of the information required in helping to put together the study for reducing the flood risk in the valley in the future. CB introduced his team and confirmed that he would be handing over the reins of chairing the Candovers Flood Action Group to his colleague, Arnout Van Der Veer who will now oversee the implementation of any action on

flood management. Jonathan Moseley was present to represent the interests of the villages further down the valley.

- b. SC set out the background on the flooding problems and where things stood on Funding. There are two sources of funding – Flood Defence Grants/Aid from central government and money from local levying. Central Government set aside a pot of money in December 2014. The EA manages this money via DEFRA. It is then up to Local Authorities to bid for this funding. Any bids have to make a strong cost/benefit case in order to succeed. HCC have put in a bid for the Candovers area as well as 33 other areas in Hampshire. It was stressed that, given the limited amount of money available, for a project to succeed, an element of local levying, or financial contributions from the beneficiaries of the scheme, must also be found.
- c. SC explained how and who makes the decisions on funding. At the top is the National Environment Agency. Below them is the Southern Regional and Coastal Flood Committee, and below them the County Councils who manage and put forward the individual cases for flood defence grants. Each case is assessed in terms of the urgency and need. Cases are put into a 6 year or a 7 year plus investment programme. The Candovers has been assessed into the latter category. As things stand the Committee has earmarked some £200,000 for funding flood alleviation work in Preston Candover. CB asked whether the 7 year plus period was too long a time to wait – SC confirmed that this could change to a shorter period. The aim of any works would be to manage ‘surface flow’ of water to prevent damage to property caused by high ground water.
- d. AD gave a slide presentation of effects of the 2014 floods and HCC’s draft plans to alleviate the effects of flooding in future. Excerpts of the presentation are attached with these minutes. SC stressed that the proposals were still under review and had yet to be costed. It was stressed therefore that the Parish Council’s expectations on what can be delivered, and when, should be cautious. Each pinch point, gully, water course, and area of flooding was discussed in detail. JM raised the question as to how all of this would affect the valley downstream, and whether the ‘pinch points’ in drains in Chilton and Brown Candover would be dealt with at the same time as Preston Candover? SC and TP replied that the current plans did not involve these areas at present. JM insisted that they should be, not least because the local landowners in these villages had invested heavily in maintaining the riparian water courses on their land in recent months, and needed a comparatively small amount of help from HCC/EA to finish the job. SC promised to revisit the timing of this work.
- e. IM stressed that any works needed the consent of the EA first.
- f. Discussion ensued on the need of the highways department to regularly maintain the ‘grips’ along the main road enabling surface water to drain into the main ditch. Should the grips be properly constructed or continue to be ‘scraped’ as happens at the moment? SC discussed the possibility of the Parish employing a Lengthsman to keep the ditches and drain pipes cleaned and maintained – he would forward the PC some information on this. Also the need for riparian owners to maintain water ditches along the front of their properties.
- g. Next steps. Consultations between the various public bodies and the PC will continue – SC asked that the PC should not raise their expectations for a ‘quick fix’ – there was much more work still to do on the feasibility, the cost, the funding and liaison with local people on local contributions. It is likely that any work done would be on a ‘bit by bit’ phased basis. SC mentioned that Scottish and Southern Electricity Company (SSE) might contribute some money on a community by community basis. SC and TP to revisit whether the s.106 highways funds held by HCC for Preston Candover, can be used for flood defence work?
- h. Further review by HCC on progress by late September 2015.

530 Children's play areas

Councillor Owencroft produced information about the Timber Trail 9 which had been identified as the best fit for the space available at the children's play area. The piece is brightly coloured and 9m long with a jigsaw traversing wall, log snake and slalom rope walk. The total cost including fitting and the correct surface to go under the piece is £3,650 plus VAT, total £4,529, which leaves £259 for ongoing maintenance. Lapset, who supply and fit, will also sort out all the faults with the existing equipment as part of the installation. The Chairman asked for a vote on the new piece and all the Councillors agreed this was the correct way forward.

Action: Councillor Owencroft to contact Lapset to arrange purchase and fitting

The pigeons have taken to sitting on the top of the swings and making a mess of the swing seats. It was agreed that a number of cable ties with the ends pointing upwards would deter this and help keep the swings clean. The fence also needs some attention.

Action: Chairman to look at these two pieces of work

531 Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

532 Highways

Councillor Prosser was not at the meeting but had informed the Chairman that she was still looking to meet with the Highways Team to discuss the work required.

Councillor Chattell asked about the plans for the footpath at the back of the lay-by, the Vice Chairman explained that John Sorrell was drawing up the plans and would bring them to a Parish Council meeting for sign off before work would commence.

533 TAG Farnborough

The Vice Chairman is continuing to ensure that these plans are kept high on the agenda with all interested parties as it could have a huge impact on the rural communities in the area. The Civil Aviation Authority are reviewing the plans and the Vice Chairman will keep the Council informed when a decision is made.

534 Community Liaison meetings

Councillor Chattell presented a letter and proposed list of attendees for the meeting which was agreed for Thursday 17th September. The Councillors approved the content of the letter and agreed that a limit be put to only include those groups based in Preston Candover, Nutley and Axford. A budget for food and wine was agreed at £150.

535 Community Shop Update

The Community Shop Group were planning to hold their consultation meeting on 5th and 6th July, however this has been postponed as Hampshire Highways have asked a number of questions. The consultation meeting is now planned for October.

536 War Memorial

No further information, Vice Chairman to chase.

537 General Correspondence

Southern Electric has been in contact about possible savings on the electric bill for the Parish Council.

538 Any other business

The defibrillator is being fitted at the Preston Candover Village Hall on Thursday 23rd July. Two training sessions are to be co-ordinated and there is a shortfall of about £900 on the target figure to pay for all three units. It was agreed that at the training sessions, residents would be asked to give a donation to make up the shortfall.

518 Date of next meeting

Monday 21st September 2015, at Preston Candover Village Hall at 7:30pm.