

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Monday 19th March 2018. **Time:** 7:30pm

Venue: Preston Candover Village Hall

Present: Alex Taylor Chairman
Paul Sadler Vice Chairman
Ruth Chattell
Ian Simpson
PC Andy Reid
Wendy Simson Clerk

Apologies: Rob Marks
Daphne Prosser
Tish Owencroft
Ian Simpson

892 Apologies

Councillors Marks, Owencroft, Prosser and Simpson were not able to attend the meeting and sent apologies.

893 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 15th January were then approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

894 Police Update

PC Reid explained that there had been several incidents since his last report in January, they were:

- 22/1 – Several severed sheep's heads were found near the B3046 in Nutley
- 5/2 – the alarm was activated at the school at 03.05, this was a false alarm
- 7/2 – two men from Cambridgeshire found selling gravel in the villages
- 20/2 – a false alarm activation at a house in Berrydown Lane, Axford
- 23/2 – A water leak in Nutley

There have been no crimes in Preston Candover or Axford to date in 2018 and a non-dwelling burglary in Nutley.

The Chairman thanked PC Reid for his support in keeping the village safe.

895 Matter arising

Speed Indication Device (SID) data – The Clerk reported that she had not been able to arrange with the Lengthsman to get the SID brought in, so the data can be downloaded but would look to get this done as quickly as possible.

War Memorial Base – the Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for the work done on the base of the War Memorial to protect it from the mowers this summer. The Councillors discussed the posts around the edge of the grassed area where the War Memorial sits as these are very rotten. It was agreed that a price for the same size and a slightly larger post be collected for the next meeting.

Action: Chairman & Vice Chairman to look at costs

Purefoy Arms – The application to make the pub a “community asset” has been accepted, this stops the current owners from selling it on without offering it to the community first. It was agreed that a letter to support the work of the action group be sent to the MP from the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to circulate letter send to Planning Department as first draft of letter for MP.

Good Neighbours scheme – it was agreed that the Good Neighbours scheme was not viable in such a small community. Councillor Prosser was not at the meeting to give an update on the affects of the reduced bus timetable, but this had been one of the key reasons for implementing the project.

Action: Councillor Prosser to update the Parish Council on buses at next Parish Council Meeting

896 Financial Update

The Clerk presented the finance report.

There were three payments to be signed off at the meeting they were:

- £354.30 – Clerk’s salary (Jan - Mar)
- £235.50 – PAYE (Jan - Mar)
- £375.00 – Painting of Playground equipment (this invoice was received in December 2017 but was paid out of the Lengthsman Grant in error).

The year end accounts are to be closed after these three payments are made and so the VAT refund has been claimed back from HMRC for £1,201.73. The majority of this was the VAT on the work completed on the War Memorial.

The Councillors again reviewed the budget for 2018/19 based on the full years accounts for 2017/18 and it was agreed that funds were going to be tight, with income and expenditure being even. The Parish Council does hold funds of £11,615.12 as a carry in value which is higher than the suggested value of one year’s precept, however the Clerk explained that as the area is prone to flooding that additional reserves can be maintained to ensure emergency work can be carried out if required.

The Parish Council had received two Grant applications, they were:

- £600.00 – St Mary’s church for work in the churchyard including removal of a large tree stump where the tree fell during high winds last year.
- £1,000.00 – Preston Candover Village Hall for community events including the fireworks party, tree burning event and fete.

The Councillors discussed both these applications, and both were approved after a lengthy debate. There was some concern raised about exceeding the budgeted value for Grants for 2018/19 for these two applications. It was agreed that the application form should be updated to allow more information to be collected about the detail of the application as some of the Councillors felt they did not have enough information to base the approval.

Action: Clerk & Vice Chairman to look at form, amend and present at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to pay grants at the start of the new financial year.

897 Planning

Hellebore Cottage, Axford – to erect a two-storey side extension, conversion of garage to additional living space and additional alterations to existing house, including front porch. Increase of roof height to existing garage and annex to provide improved living space and single storey side extension to annexe. (no objections)

Meadow House, Church Lane, Preston Candover – erection of a replacement 5-bedroom dwelling following the demolition of existing bungalow. Councillor Graham explained that this application had been granted in the past but had expired (no objection)

898 Children's play areas

The Vice Chairman reported he was investigating some reflective tape for the top of the slide to deter birds from sitting there. The Oakley play area has very similar equipment so there was also a plan to visit and look at the preventive measures in place to stop birds from making a mess on the equipment there.

Action: Vice Chairman to report at the next meeting

899 Recreation Ground

There has been no feedback from the public about the piece in the Oxdrove in relation to the skate ramp. It was agreed that it would be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. The Chairman explained that the recreation ground committee are to produce a full report on the future of the community asset.

900 Rights of Way

Nothing to report at this time.

901 Highways

Pot holes are still the biggest concern throughout the Parish and Councillor Prosser continues to lease with the Highways team to get repairs carried out.

The flooding on the Dummer Road is within Candovers Parish Council area but Highways have been informed and have placed cones and signs to warn drivers about the water. It is believed that one of the issues is that there is nowhere lower than the road for the water to be drained away to.

902 Council Property

Nothing to report

903 Community Store Update

Richard Walker, Chairman of the Community Store Group, approached the Parish Council about support for the project as they start fund raising. Part of the documentation they will be distributing to inform people about the project is a list of FAQs. One of these is "Is this a Parish Council Project"? The answer we would like to give is "No, but the initiative is supported by Preston Candover Parish Council which have both made contributions to the project."

The Councillors discussed this request for support and agreed to send a letter agreeing to this.

Action: Clerk to draft letter of support

904 Website

Nothing to report

905 General Correspondence

None

906 Any other business

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting needs to be moved as the Gardening Club are using the hall on that date, it was agreed that the meeting be moved to Thursday 26th April at 7:30pm.

Action: Clerk to send Councillor Chattell the list of invitees

907 Date of next meeting

Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 21st May at 7:30pm for AGM and usual meeting to follow.