

## PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Date:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Venue:** Preston Candover Village Hall

**Present:** Alex Taylor Chairman  
Ruth Chattell  
Tish Owencroft  
Tina Spicer  
Paul Sadler Vice Chair  
Daphne Prosser  
Wendy Simson Clerk  
PC Andy Reid  
Mark Ruffell

**Apologies:** Rob Marks  
Ian Simpson

#### 908 Public Forum

Councillor Ruffell gave the Parish Council an update on the key topics at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, these included:

- That Basingstoke & Deane Council Tax is the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country and has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest spend
- The leisure Park in Basingstoke is to be redeveloped by a private partner in the second half of 2019. A new pool and leisure facilities will be built prior to the existing resource being knocked down and a new designer retail outlet village is planned which will allow the complex to self-finance. The new trading park will be different to Bicester and Festival Place and will have a large catchment area to attract new shoppers to the area.
- Festival Place continues to be successful with low vacancy rates and being in the Top 20 shopping destinations in the UK, Winchester city centre is 450<sup>th</sup>.
- The Top of the Town and The Malls are both due to be updated
- The road into Basingstoke from Cliddesdon is going to become dual carriageway.
- The View, which is currently old offices, is going to be redeveloped and the area will include a high-quality business hotel including conference and leisure facilities.
- There are rumours of new service on the M3 at J6 but there has not yet been an application.
- New housing numbers are planned to 850 to 900 per year but there are currently 5,000 unbuilt homes which planning has been granted for but have not been built. This suggests that the property market is close to saturation.
- Neighbourhood Plan, Councillor Ruffell suggested that the Parish Council should consider writing one for the Parish. The Clerk explained that this has been

investigated in the past but the planning of getting the survey work completed meant that sufficient volunteers had not been found.

- The Ward Boundaries may change which would mean Upton Grey & The Candovers would be split up into three areas.
- The Skate Ramp was discussed and possible funding opportunities for having it resurfaced.
- The Community Store was also discussed and the Chairman informed Councillor Ruffell that planning had been granted and fund raising started.
- Councillor Chattell asked about the football ground in Basingstoke and where was it planned that this would move to. Councillor Ruffell informed the Councillors that it is planned to go the Winklebury.

**909 Election of Chairman**

Councillor Taylor informed the Parish Council that he planned to stand down as Chairman and also as a Councillor due to work commitments.

Councillor Sadler agreed to step up the Chairman role, this was proposed by Councillor Owencroft and Seconded by Councillor Prosser.

**910 Election of Vice Chairman**

As the Vice Chairman had stepped in to the Chairman role, Councillor Chattell agreed to step up into the Vice Chair role on a temporary basis as she is due to start a new job in the Autumn. This was proposed by Councillor Prosser and seconded by Councillor Owencroft.

**911 Election of key roles and responsibilities**

Councillor Spicer also announced that she planned to resign her position on the Parish Council.

The Chairman confirmed that the following Councillors would continue to look after the roles given:

- Councillor Owencroft – Children’s play area and skate ramp
- Councillor Prosser – Highways
- Councillor Simpson – Rights of Way
- Councillor Chattell – Community Liaison
- Councillor Slater – Lengthsman Duties
- Councillor Marks – Flooding & website

All those present confirmed that they would continue with these roles.

**912 Police summary of activity in 2017/18**

Preston Candover

REPORTED CRIME 2015	11
REPORTED CRIME 2016	14
REPORTED CRIME 2017	21

Sadly an increase in reported crime for the fourth year in succession with seven more crimes reported than in 2016 making twenty-one in total. Reported crime has never been this high in this parish since 1975 when thirty-four crimes were reported including fifteen thefts (13 detected), six unlawful sexual intercourse offences all detected, eight burglary dwellings of

which six were detected. Thirty of the thirty-four crimes were detected and four local men were the main offenders.

Back to 2017 and of the crimes reported in this parish they consisted of a burglary dwelling in which a shotgun was stolen, two non-dwelling burglaries of outbuildings, an indecency report that did not affect anyone in the parish, two thefts, a harassment offence, a theft of a quad bike from a field, three assaults two of which were counter allegations and nine criminal damage offences, seven were of crop fields driven over by poachers, a gate and a car were also damaged.

Other incidents reported in this parish included two injury and eight damage only road traffic incidents (accidents), a domestic dispute, an injured deer, four reports of concern for welfare of people, one someone who had not got to work, another regarding a vagrant walking through the village. We had two abandoned 999 calls, one was a mobile dialled whilst in the owners pocket, two fallen tree's across roads, a suspicious man, a suspicion vehicle, gravel sellers from Pembrokeshire, a report of a man taking photographs of a nude female in the old church, I called at his home and there was insufficient evidence to take the matter further although appropriate advice was given. We had an abandoned car which had links to criminals and was linked with rural crime in the Thames Valley Police area. Whilst making a check of a school late one night I found it insecure, and called the caretaker.

I also had the pleasure of attending the local fireworks display which with the support of the Head Teacher who allowed parking within the school grounds and the Village Hall Committee who provided staff to assist people with parking, passed off extremely well with no reports or concerns of bad parking which the previous year had.

I also had the honour of laying a wreath at the War Memorial for the annual Remembrance Service.

I also carried out speed enforcement in the village issuing warnings.

With the Parish Council and Cllr Chattell a great deal of work has been done regarding the use of speed indication devices, which came into effect in the village during 2017 and have both provided a record of speeds recorded, albeit not the numbers of those speeding, and displayed the speeds of vehicles. From the date received we will be able to see when and where the main problems of speeding motorists are and take the appropriate action. .

You may recall in my last annual report I mentioned the development with a known criminal from Leicestershire concerning two burglaries in Preston Candover, I am pleased to report that two men were arrested in Suffolk and given a prison sentence for similar offences all across the country.

I am aware that a resident in Preston Candover did take up a similar offer and the mess left was considerable and a professional Gardner was appointed to finish the job off, the trees, shrubs and hedge cutting etc. were found later in a gateway.

We also had a vehicle linked with poaching in Berkshire and Oxfordshire which was found abandoned in Preston Candover.

## 2018

2 false burglar alarm activations – I stopped two gravel sellers from Cambridgeshire after a residents call. A rough sleeper at Moundsmere Close, a large pot hole and the circus which was extremely well organised with no complaints or problems.

## Crime 2018

3 Non dwelling burglaries – 1 Southwood, 1 Moundsmere Manor Farm, 1 Moundsmere Manor (2 quad bikes stolen)

2 Vehicle crimes linked with the MM burglary

2 Assaults

**913 Statement by Chairman of activities in 2017/18**

The main activities for 2017/18 were:

- Lay-by project
- Speed Indication Devices
- Skate Ramp repairs
- War Memorial restoration
- Repairs to Children's Play Area
- Charles Bradshaw's retirement
- Changes to Bus Service
- Planning granted for Community Store
- Lengthsman Grant
- Good Neighbour Network presentation
- Purefoy Arms development
- 11 planning applications

**914 Sign off audited accounts for 17/18**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the accounts have been audited by John Murray on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, his comments are as follows:

- Asset Register – you need to show the “frozen” values as well as the insurance values on your paperwork. This will make it easier in future years if you dispose of an asset.
- We discussed the Grants you had made in the past to the church considering the legal note LO1-18 issued by NALC in January 2018. I understand that HALC's Policy Group are currently discussing this with a view to offering further advice to Member Councils. I have also seen copies of a completely opposite view from a Church Lawyer. Since your Council has used the provisions of the 1972 LGA to make these payments and no External Auditor has challenged them I can see no reason you should not continue to make such Grants until either there is a Case Law or further Legislation to clarify the situation.
- I gave you a list of documents that should be on your website to satisfy the current Transparency Protocols, these are:
  - Standing orders
  - Financial Regulations
  - Code of Conduct
  - Protocol for reporting at Meetings
  - Data Protection Registration
  - Investment Policy
  - Legal Powers & Duties
  - Press & Media Policy
  - Planning Protocols
  - Complaints Procedures
  - Publication Scheme
  - Equality & Diversity Policy

- Recruitment Policy
- AGAR
- Several documents were not available when you visited, and the Clerk has since emailed these to the Auditor

The Parish Council had a total income of £15,007 of which £8,085 was precept and grants from B&DBC. Expenditure was £13,763 of which £2,644 was the Clerk's salary. The Opening balance of the accounts was £10,169 and closing was £11,414.

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement from the Audit document and once completed the Chairman and Clerk signed off the Audit paperwork.

The Audit Documents will then be scanned and put on the website for public view.

The Internal Auditor also asked that the Parish Council signed a letter allowing continued communication following the introduction of the GDPR regulations around Data Protections, the Council agreed to sign this.

**915 Any questions**

None