

## Preston Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in Preston Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr O Chapman (Chairman)  
Cllr J Matthews  
Cllr Bradley  
Cllr L Hunt  
Cllr J Lawson  
Cllr A Pidgen  
Cllr C Wallis  
Cllr T Bartlett (DDC)  
Mr F Pinnington (Clerk)

1. **Issues to be raised by members of the public prior to the formal meeting.**  
The following members of the Village Society were present: Josie Leicester, Trevor Alinson, Mrs Mitzie Lemms, Mr and Mrs Mason Wood. Josie Leicester explained that a number of people had contacted the Village Society regarding the Village Sign. A survey had been conducted among residents and the overwhelming opinion was that it should be painted. The Village Society had considered various options and were willing to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the sign and repainting it; they may require some financial assistance.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Nil.
3. **Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and changes of interests**  
Nil .
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of November 2nd 2016.**  
Cllr Hunt proposed and Cllr Lawson seconded that the minutes of the meeting of November 2nd 2016 be confirmed as a true record. It was then **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes were a true record and they were signed as such by the Chairman.
5. **Proposal by the Village Society re Village Sign.**  
After discussion the Parish Council proposed that the sign be painted. They would ask the Village Society to take on this project and would agree a maintenance budget. There was also discussion on the state of the Historic Villages board in the Village; it was deteriorating and the pictures were fading. Cllr Bartlett offered to contact DDC on this matter.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes of November 2nd 2016.**
  - i) Report of crimes: Cllrs Pidgen reported on a burglary in the village when the owner was away on holiday. Entrance had been forced via the back of the house. He also reported that the police had been pro-active in contacting local residents to discuss and advise on protection issues.
  - ii) Removal of telephone boxes. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted DDC and BT regarding the two boxes threatened with removal. The council could only adopt the Padbrook Lane box. **161201**

iii) Information on Road closures: The Clerk reported that he had not yet been able to contact the appropriate person. (FPi).

iv) New Homes Bonus. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was not eligible for a bonus.

v) Caravan in field behind Bishop Jenner Court (Item 6)

vi) Traffic survey. Cllr Pidgen reported that he had posted the council's response and asked whether this information should be shared with the Village Society.

It was agreed to post the survey result to Josie Leicester the Chairman of the Village Society. (Action FPi)

## **7. Planning Applications and Parish Council response.**

1. Planning Applications. DOV/16/01282. Butchers.Preston. First floor extension. No comment. DOV/16/01219. The Heather Elmstone. Rebuild. Still being circulated.\_

ii) Decisions. Nil

iii) Enforcement issues. Mobile Home ref DDC/16/00128. Cllr Pidgen stated that the caravan had been moved on the site but reported a stable block had been erected, Cllr Chapman explained the various planning issues surrounding the use of the land, erection of stables, change of use, planning permission etc. It was agreed to await the outcome of the enforcement officer's visit in early December and to contact him in January regarding any outstanding issues.

iv) Appeals. Nil

Cllr Matthews raised the issue of the building work being undertaken at the Nursery in the Forstal. She did not believe that the building agreements were being adhered to. Cllr Chapman recommended that the Conditions Officer at DDC, Alison Gravitt, be contacted.

## **8. Report from a District or County Councillor**

Cllr Bartlett reported:

1. Free parking at Dover and Sandwich from 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

2. The Waste Collection for the Christmas period and 2017 had been distributed.

3. Community Grant Scheme: The Preston Village Hall committee had been the only applicant in 2016. There was a need to contact village organisations to alert them of this scheme during the coming year. (Action FPi)

4. A new energy deal was being advertised.

5. Kearsney Abbey had submitted a successful lottery bid. The Dover Water Front Project was looking into the council involving itself in a buy/let project.

## **9. Reports from representatives.**

(i) The Village Hall Committee: There had been a successful Christmas Fair. It had Raised £430. There had been a positive discussion with East Kent Housing about the Russian Vine problem. Frank Pinnington was Chairman of the Community Centre Renovation Committee and four architectural firms had been asked to submit outline designs.

(ii) KALC: No report.

(iii) Village Society: There had been a successful Pamper evening and £350 had been donated to the Village Hall Renovation Fund. There was to be a quiz at the pub.

(iv) Sandwich Neighbourhood Forum: No report.

**161202**

(vi) A257 Committee. No report. Cllr Matthews had been unable to attend the last meeting.

10. **To authorise payments.**  
There were no payments.  
It was agreed to make the customary Christmas gifts to Hubert and Mrs Robinson.
11. **Finance.**  
i) Budget for Financial Year 2017/8.  
The Clerk explained that the grant element of the Precept had been reduced by approximately £100.  
ii) Adoption of precept for financial year 2017/8. A decision on this was postponed until the January meeting. (Action FPi)
12. **Grove Road update.**  
i) The Clerk reported that he had received no response from the council's solicitor regarding the gift of six acres.  
ii) Pedestrian Routes. Cllr Chapman reported that the recent email on the subject of the pedestrian route had looked positive. The Clerk reported that Kate Stewart from David Wilson Homes had suggested the date of Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> for a progress meeting (pm) and it was suggested that Huw Evans be invited. The Clerk would circulate the date to councillors. (Action FPi)
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13. **Cost of providing a secure box for the defibrillator.**  
Cllr Hunt proposed and Cllr Pidgen seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** That a sum of £445 (exc. VAT) be approved by the council.(Action FPi)
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14. **Calendar for Parish Council Meetings 2017.**  
This was approved.
15. **Correspondence.**  
i) Rural Weekly Reports. Dealt with under Matters Arising.  
ii) Bishop Jenner Court: Cllr Bartlett had reported that he had raised the issue of antisocial behaviour. The Clerk confirmed that a report from East Kent housing had been circulated to councillors.
16. **Any other information.**  
Nil
17. **The date of the next Parish Council Meeting**  
The next council meeting would be on **Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2017** in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.53 pm

Chairman

Date

**161203**

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