

Preston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 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 M Conolly (DDC)
Mr F Pinnington (Clerk)

1. **Issues to be raised by members of the public prior to the formal meeting.**
No members of the public were present.
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 October 6th 2016.**
Cllr Wallis proposed and Cllr Hunt seconded that the minutes of the meeting of October 6th 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. **Matters arising from the Minutes of October 6th 2016.**
 - i) Report of crimes: Cllrs were not aware of any crimes being committed in the parish in the previous month. The Clerk would circulate the reports from Kent Police on Rural Crime. (Action FPi)
 - ii) Kent Highways: Parish Seminar. This matter to be dealt with under agenda Item 12.
 - iii) Gift of Land. This matter to be dealt with under agenda Item 11
 - iv) Removal of telephone boxes. The Clerk reported that BT had now stated its intention to remove the telephone box beside the Village Store as well as that in Padbrook Lane. It was agreed that the council would adopt the telephone box in Padbrook Lane but that it had no objection to the box in the Street being removed. (Action FPi)
 - v) Information on Road closures: the Clerk was asked to check whether the information was to be given to the council (FP).
 - vi) The Mobile Home on field behind Bishop Jenner Court. The Clerk was asked to check on the progress on this matter with the enforcement officer. Cllr Conolly asked that he be given the name of the person dealing with the matter. (Action FPi)
6. **Planning Applications and Parish Council response.**
 1. Planning Applications. DOV/16/01151 Variation of Condition DOV/16/01186 Conversion of Outbuilding to Granny Annexe. Mill House. Mill Lane. This application was being circulated.
 - ii) Decisions. Nil
 - iii) Enforcement issues. Mobile Home ref DDC/16/00128. Ongoing **161101**

iv) Appeals. Nil

7. Report from a District or County Councillor

Cllr Conolly reported:

1. Possible East Kent Councils Merger: Consultants are currently working on a viability study and an initial draft should be available to Leaders and Chief Executives before Christmas. At the moment we are working on the basis of no transfer of responsibilities from KCC. However at a recent meeting between Leaders and all the East Kent MPs there was support for going directly to Unitary status.
2. Dover Leisure Centre: The site of the replacement centre will be at Whitfield. Facilities will include a 25 metre eight lane pool with spectator seating, a teaching pool with moveable floor, a clip and climb wall, a spin studio, two all-weather floodlit outdoor five a side football pitches and enhanced gym facilities. Cost is estimated at £26 million.
3. St James Centre: Following a disagreement on costs between Legal & General and the nominated builders, Keir, a new contractor is being sought.
4. There is a controversial planning application for 120 houses off Sandwich Road in Ash. Advice is currently being sought on when this is likely to come to Planning Committee.
5. Open Golf: The R & A have made it clear that bringing the Open back to Sandwich in 2020 will require a permanent or temporary extension of the platform at Sandwich station to accommodate 12-car trains.
6. Boundary Commission: The Commission has recommended that our ward, together with Sandwich, should move across to Dover and Deal constituency. The Commission welcomes comments on its website.

8. Reports from representatives.

- (i) The Village Hall Committee: This had not met however there had been a report of a leak in the roof.
- (ii) KALC: No report.
- (iii) Village Society: The Quiz had been postponed until January.
- (iv) Sandwich Neighbourhood Forum: No report.
- (vi) A257 Committee. No report.

9. To authorise payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Lawson and seconded by Cllr Wallis and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the following payment be made.

- i) Village Hall Committee: Grant of £500 for the Development committee.

10. Finance.

i) Adoption of Budget for Financial Year 2017/8.

The Clerk introduced a draft budget for the financial year 2017/8. This was approved by the council.

ii) Presentation of three-year financial projections.

The Clerk presented the three-year projections which was based on anticipated Sales figures at David Wilson Homes.

iii) Adoption of precept for financial year 2017/8. A decision on this was adjourned.

iv) Review of effectiveness of internal control matters.

The Clerk explained that the council had only adopted the new Financial Regulations in April of this year and that it was premature to consider their effectiveness. **161102**

11. Grove Road Update.

Cllr Matthews proposed and Cllr Wallis seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded because of the sensitivity of the matter under discussion.

12. Community Award Scheme.

The Council wished to nominate a member of the community for this award.

13. Review of Clerk's salary.

It was proposed by Cllr Mathews and seconded by Cllr Hunt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should be paid on point 15 of the Local Government Scale.

14. Report on meeting of Kent Highways with Parish representatives.

Cllr Pidgen reported back on this meeting. He had found it well organised and informative. His report had been sent to all Councillors and he highlighted key areas. These included: managing ongoing funding issues; money saved from mild winters; greater involvement of the community; issues arising from local housing developments; uncertainty of funding; examples of groups of parishes working together and taking on responsibilities; cuts in soft budgets; street lighting.

Kent Highways had produced a survey for each parish council to complete. Cllr Pidgen agreed to circulate copies, if possible, and to respond on behalf of the council. (Action APi)

Cllr Chapman thanked Cllr Pidgen for attending the meeting and the thoroughness of his report.

15. Correspondence.

- i) Emergency and Resilience Planning. Dec. 14th. Filed.
- ii) Rural Weekly Reports. Dealt with under Matters Arising.
- iii) Kent Highways: contact details: filed.

16. Any other information.

- i) Cllr Matthews requested information on reporting litter bins which had not been emptied. The Clerk reported that complaints could be made via the DDC website.
- ii) Cllr Matthews asked that the cost of providing a secure box for the defibrillator be on the next month's agenda. (Action FPi)

17. The date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next council meeting would be on **Wednesday December 7th 2016** in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.25 pm

Chairman

Date

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