

Preston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2016 in Preston Village Hall.

Present: Cllr O Chapman (Chairman)
Cllr J Matthews (Vice Chairman)
Cllr T Bradley
Cllr T Bartlett (DDC)
Mr F Pinnington (Clerk)

Issues to be raised by members of the public prior to the formal meeting.

Alwyn Pidgen raised his concern about activities happening on the land behind Bishop Jenner Court. A large mobile home had been driven down the pathway beside the shop and along the edge of the field about ten days previous to the council meeting; a section of adjoining hedge had been removed; and a fence/gate erected to allow access to the field behind the hedge; the mobile home had then been driven into this field. He asked whether a planning application was required; raised concerns about the use of the land where the mobile home had been parked by other individuals and the ownership of the land. Cllr Chapman explained the planning issues involved around this situation; at present no planning laws had been broken as far as the council was aware but a planning application should have been made and the land owner was required to make a formal application within 28 days of the mobile home being put on the site. The clerk stated that he would be contacting the enforcement team at DDC after the 28 day period. Alwyn asked a further question surrounding the funding of the proposed new community hall. The chairman verified that should the lottery bid be successful the parish would have access to the £250,000 allocated for a new hall as part of the recent S106 agreement with Quinn Developers.

2. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Lawson had sent her apologies as she was on holiday; and Cllrs Hunt and Wallis had sent their apologies as their house moving had prevented them from attending. It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr Matthews and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the apologies be accepted.
3. **Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and changes of interests**
Nil .
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of May 4th 2016.**
Cllr Matthews proposed and Cllr Bradley seconded that the minutes of the meeting of May 4th 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 May 4th 2016.**
 - (i) Report of crimes: Two issues were reported: i) Cllr Ralph had reported the fire in bushes behind the school. This was on KKC land. ii) Cllr Matthews reported that children were climbing on the roof of the village hall and was advised of measures available to prevent this happening.
 - ii) Pre-school. It was reported that the pre-school had made a decision **16061**

to close at their recent extra-ordinary general meeting. It was likely the parish would be able to retain the play equipment. It appeared that the pre-school needed to be able to provide a full day care to be successful; something not possible with the present hall.

iii) Kent Highways: The Clerk explained that he had still been unable to get a response from Kent Highways about arranging a meeting.

He had recently been able to contact Stephanie Wadham who was based at DDC.

Cllr Bradley raised the issue of the state of the verges in the parish. Although road junctions had been cleared the state of the verges gave concern; particularly now that the cutting was limited to once a year.

iv) Signs for Village Green and Elmstone. Cllr Chapman explained the proposal to put welcoming signs at Robinson Meadow and the land at Elmstone: now to be called 'Church Field'. The Clerk presented suggested wording and various signs. It was proposed that both signs should ask that all dogs be kept on leads. The Clerk agreed to circulate the designs and wording for comment. (Action FPi). The Clerk explained the costing for each sign. It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr Matthews and **RESOLVED** unanimously that a maximum of £312 be spent on each sign.(Action FPi)

v) Meeting with David Wilson Homes. Cllr Chapman reported that councillors had visited the show house; had been given the schedule of the building programme; and had discussed having public access to the six acres to be gifted to the council in order to establish a footpath which would run partly through the development to join Stourmouth and Preston. The Clerk was asked to contact the council's solicitor to regarding the gift of six acres. (Action FPi)

vi) Pedestrian Improvements: Discussion was still taking place with Kent Highways on the pedestrian improvement scheme and it had not been possible to arrange a meeting.

vii) Sandwich Leisure Centre: no report.

5. **Planning Applications and Parish Council response.**

DOV/16/00471 St. Olaves. Extension of balcony. No comment. DOV/00488. Preston Butcher: first floor extension. No comment. DOV/00520.Appletree farm: conversion to holiday let. No comment. DOV/16/00571. Former Nursery. The Forstal. Alteration of condition 1.Clerk to circulate. (Action FPi)

ii) Decisions Nil. iii) Enforcement issues. Nil.

iv) Appeals. Nil.

6. **Report from a District or County Councillor**

Cllr Bartlett reported that:

i) At the recent council meeting Cllr Chandler retained her post as Chairman: Cllr Conolly the responsibility for Finance; and Cllr Bartlett the post of Public Access and Protection.

ii) Of the three major developments taking place: Dover town Hall was in the consultation phase; Kearsney Abbey was awaiting the outcome of a lottery bid: Dover Leisure Centre was down to two sites.

iii) Queens Birthday. The events taking place over the weekend of the 11/12 June were outlined.

v) A new WC was to be added at Walmer Paddling Pool.

Cllr Matthews raised the issue of joint action by local councils on such issues as Canterbury Barracks where houses were being allocated to Redbridge Council; as well as decisions being made about Manston Airport. The Clerk raised the issue of parking at the Downs. (Action TBa). **16062**

7. Reports from representatives.

(i) The Village Hall Committee: Cllr Matthews reported on the reduced rent for the pre-school group; the plant sale; the Village Hall Development Group – the present survey and the replacement of the windows.

(ii) KALC: No report.

(iii) Village Society: Cllr Chapman reported that the curry night had been successful and the society was organising other events.

(iv) Sandwich Neighbourhood Forum: No meeting.

(vi) A257 Committee. No report.

8. To authorise payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr Matthews and

RESOLVED unanimously that the following payments be made.

i) Village Hall: £560. ii) Village Society. £300.

It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Matthews and

RESOLVED unanimously that the cost of the benches (£1295) and the most recent application to the Transparency Fund (£922) be approved.

9. National Salary Awards.

It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr Matthews and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the 1.12 increase in the Clerk's salary from April 2016 be approved.

10. Approval of the Annual Counting Statement 2015-16 and gratuity ward to the Internal Auditor.

It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr Matthews and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Annual Accounting Statement 2015-6 and the gratuity payment of £30 to the Internal Auditor be approved. (Action FPi)

11. Co-option of councillor.

Cllr Chapman reported that the election date would pass on June 6th and it was likely the council would need to consider co-opting another councillor at its July meeting.

12. Correspondence.

i) Neighbourhood Planning Promotion. No action.

ii) Sandwich Review. No action.

iii) Active Travel. No action.

13. Any other information.

Nil.

14. The date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next council meeting would be on **Wednesday July 6th 2016** in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.35

Chairman

Date

16063

