

Preston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May in Preston Village Hall.

Present: Cllr O Chapman (Chairman)
Cllr J Matthews (Vice Chairman)
Cllr T Bradley
Cllr L Hunt
Cllr J Ralph
Cllr C Wallis.
Cllr S Chandler (DDC)
Mr F Pinnington (Clerk)

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

Aimee Bourner and Kerry Kebble were present and discussed the likely closure of the pre-school. They explained the financial background; that only seven pupils had enrolled for September 2016 and the viability issues surrounding this. They explained the amount of money required to keep the pre-school open for another year and the liabilities of the committee as well as the various strategies they had used to increase numbers. One basic issue was the inability to open all day which was a need of many parents. They felt that there was no viable alternative plan to closing given the amount required which was approximately £13,000. They discussed the possibility of running a toddler group and retaining the present equipment for the village. Councillors thanked them for their hard work and efforts to try and maintain the pre-school viability and the work they had been doing.

2. Election of Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Matthews proposed Cllr Chapman as Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Ralph. Cllr Chapman was unanimously elected as Chairman and accepted the office.

3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman

This was received from Cllr Chapman.

4. Apologies for absence. Nil.

5. Election of Vice- Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Bradley proposed Cllr Matthews as Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Wallis. Cllr Matthews was unanimously elected as Vice –Chairman.

6. Appointment of Representatives to outside bodies.

- i) Village Hall Committee: Cllr Matthews.
- ii) KALC Representative: Cllr Chapman,
- iii) Village Society: Cllr Chapman
- iv) Sandwich Neighbourhood Forum. Cllr Matthews.
- v) A257 Group: Cllr Matthews.

7. Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda and changes of interests

Nil . 16051

8. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of April 13th 2016.

Cllr Hunt proposed and Cllr Ralph seconded that the minutes of the meeting of April 13th 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.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes of April 13th.

(i) PACT. Nil. It was decided to remove this heading from future agendas.

ii) Triangle of Land at Elmstone. The Clerk reported that Tim Offord and Richard Kemp had installed a number of trees. The Clerk was asked to thank them for their work. (Action FPi). There were two differing sets of picnic tables available for the land that would take disabled people/push chairs. The Clerk agreed to send the information to Cllr Hunt. (LHu)

iii) Picnic Tables. The Clerk reported that Josie Leicester had made her choice on numbers and preference. (Action FPi)

iv) Kent Highways. The Clerk reported that he had not received any response from Steve Rivers at the Kent Highways Authority regarding his request for a meeting to discuss the Village Society proposals. Cllr Chapman reported that he had received no response from either Cllr Ridings or Steve Rivers on the issues he had raised with Cllr Ridings at the Annual Parish meeting evening. (Action OCh/FPi)

10. Matters Arising from the Annual Parish Meeting.

i) Talk on the Roman Road. The Clerk was asked to thank Martin Ferber for his interesting talk. (Action FPi)

ii) The pre-school. After discussion the council felt that it could see no alternative to the pre-school closing. The Clerk was asked to thank the staff for their hard work and efforts over the years, (Action FPi)

11. Planning Applications; Decisions; Enforcement Issues; Appeals.

i) Planning Applications and Parish Council response. DOV/16/00228 Salvatori Plot 4. Erection of detached house. The council would formally object to this application. The Clerk and Cllr Chapman to formulate a response. (Action OCh/FPi) DOV16/00367. The heathers. Erection of a replacement building. No objection

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

iv) Appeals. Nil.

12. Report from a District or County Councillor

Cllr Chandler reported on:

i) The objections raised by Sandwich Leisure Centre on the proposals by DDC to support a new Leisure Centre in Dover.

ii) Folkestone to Dover railway. £45million was to be spent on the repair work.

iii) Brownfield Sites. DDC was piloting a Brownfield site register.

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

v) Sandwich Traffic issues: the proposals being put forward were outlined.

13. Reports from representatives.

(i) The Village Hall Committee: Cllr Matthews reported that the AGM had been held. There was discussion over the closure of the pre-school; the rotting windows; Russian vine and storage issues. It had been decided to meet bi- monthly so that the development committee could also meet bi- monthly.

(ii) KALC: No report.

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- (iii) Village Society: Cllr Chapman reported that much was going on at the moment. The Society appeared to be vibrant at the moment.
- (iv) Sandwich Neighbourhood Forum: No meeting.
- (v) Family and Junior Club. Cllr Ralph reported that this had ceased owing to lack of support.
- (vi) A257 Committee. No report.

14. To authorise payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Ralph **RESOLVED** unanimously that the following payments be made. i) Came and Company. £739.17 ii) SLCC membership.£70. iii) Preston Primary School. £20.

15. Approval of the Annual Governance Statement.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Ralph and **RESOLVED** unanimously that this be approved.

Internal Auditor. The Clerk reported Richard Barton was moving; he would approach a finance officer from a local charity to replace him. (Action FPi)

16. Appointment of Monitoring Officer for the end-of-year financial regulations.

Cllr Hunt agreed to act as Monitoring Officer.

17. Resignation of Councillor.

Cllr Ralph had decided to resign as Councillor from the 5th May. The Clerk was asked to contact the Elections Officer at DDC. (Action FPi)

18. Grove Road update.

Cllr Chapman reported the council had received a copy of the terms for the Gift of Land from Salvatori's Solicitors. They were seeking an overcharge clause of 25% of the enhanced value to last for a period of 25 years. The land being gifted also seemed to be larger than originally envisaged. There was discussion over the lack of clarity regarding access and the Clerk was asked to contact the solicitor.(Action FPi) Cllr Chapman was also seeking to arrange a meeting at the Show House as soon as possible. (Action OCh)

19. Police Forum. This was on the 29th June and Cllr Matthews offered to attend.

Downs Parking. Cllr Ralph reported that residents had been asked to complete a survey and the matter would be discussed with Kent Highways.

Sandwich Leisure Survey: Cllr Wallis agreed to read this and report back to the council if possible. (Action CWa)

20. Any other information.

i) Dogs: it was agreed in principle to commission signs for both Robinson Meadow and the Elmstone Triangle asking that these spaces be respected and reporting that dogs were not allowed.

21. The date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next council meeting would be on **Wednesday June 1st 2016** in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chairman

Date

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