

## PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<b>Time:</b>	7:30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Preston Candover Village Hall, Preston Candover		
<b>Present:</b>	Robin Human	Chairman	
	Emma Dare Bryan		
	Luke Sherbrooke		
	Andrew Frome	Vice Chairman	
	Rebecca Kennelly		
	Paul Gaskell	Borough Councillor	
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
	Two members of the public		
<b>Apologise:</b>	Cllr Juliet Henderson	County Councillor	
	Tara Paul		

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 1492 Public Forum

##### Flooding

The Councillors were presented with data showing the current Ground Water levels in the valley and over the last 11 years. The level is currently 1m higher than last year at this time.

A Focus Group is being set up to include members from all the villages in the valley to ensure that any actions taken to do not adversely affect other properties further down the valley. Following the flooding in 2013/14 an action plan was created and most of the items were completed, there are a small number including removal of the culvert which crosses the river to the pedestrian gate into the churchyard in Preston Candover which were not completed and need to be revisited.

The Environment Agency are responsible for the river from the war memorial in Preston Candover as it is designated as "main river" from this point. The landowners are required to keep their part of the river clear as part of their riparian responsibility and some very good work is being done to maintain this ditch. One resident wrote to the Parish Council about the straw being deposited in the ditch when bales are being moved, this was noted by the Councillors.

The natural watercourse from Preston Candover to Chilton Candover needs to be reinstated to ensure the water moves through the valley, some of this work can be done with the landowners but Hampshire County Council will need to be involved to support with culverts under the road. There is funding available for this type of project as it supports the biodiversity within the waterway.

The Focus Group will be looking at the following actions:

- Update the list of residents who will need help if flooding occurs.
- List of people who can help
- Identify a supply of empty sandbags and sand
- Problem areas along the river including culverts

- Contact numbers for external support including Highways
- Pumps and hoses where needed
- Where homes can pump to

The Community Resilience Plan is a template which covers all these areas, and the Focus Group will use this as a model when developing the plan for the Candover Valley.

The Councillors agreed that an additional Parish Council meeting may be required for October when the plan is complete to review it and look at communicating to the residents.

The Vice Chair agreed to join the Focus Group to ensure that the Parish Council support is provided where needed.

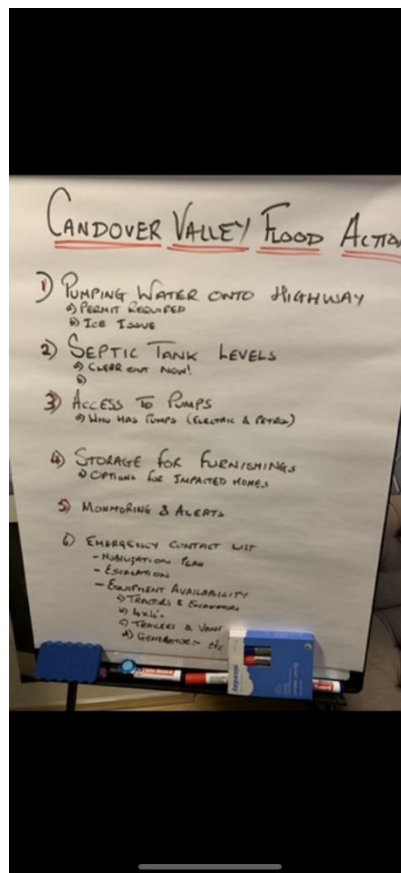
The Councillors agreed to get the ditches cleared once the leaves have fallen. Cllr Dare Bryan suggested that the ditches in Axford could be dug deeper to support larger volumes of water.

**Action:** The Vice Chairman to keep Council informed of progress.

**Action:** Potential community Meeting to be agreed

**Action:** Clerk to book contractor to visit to clear ditches in November.

**Action:** Cllr Dare Bryan to walk the Axford ditches with contractor and Focus Group.



This was the action plan from 2013.

Following the meeting the Clerk received the following email from Cllr Henderson:

*Dear Cllr Henderson*

*We are aware of the issues in Preston Candover, which suffers regularly from groundwater flooding. There is a winterbourne (seasonal watercourse) running through the village which falls primarily under the remit of the Environment Agency as a designated Main River, although the section to the north is considered an ordinary watercourse which falls to us as Lead Local Flood Authority. In places, this winterbourne lacks capacity but although we have looked at whether capacity could be improved, with*

*the space limitations (e.g. location of utilities) in these areas it has not been possible to provide any alterations.*

*The community also suffers with groundwater rising within their cellars and spring flows which need to be managed as well as possible. Given the location of the highway, much of the excess flows end up on the road so there are also issues with bow waves etc.*

*The LLFA have previously looked at this area to see if there are works that could be undertaken to better manage the flood risk. To date, we haven't been able to identify any viable options given the technical and spatial challenges. Unfortunately, apart from keeping the existing ditches running as clearly as possible, there is little the LLFA can do at present.*

*The LLFA is aware that there are a number of properties that have pump systems which activate when groundwater reaches a certain level to keep water levels from flooding the ground floor of their properties. This is a difficult situation where the extent of water being pumped onto the highway was causing a safety issue for highway users. Residents were contacted regarding this by the Highway Authority and also invited to speak to the Highway Authority about alternative options that could be considered. To date, I have not received an update on this from the Highway Authority, but they are aware that we are happy to provide additional support and advice to look at options in these difficult areas. On the back of this email, I have reiterated this position to the Highway Authority.*

*I've also been in touch with Jantiene (resident and leading their flood action group) who has a considerable amount of information about the flooding locations and mechanisms and who keeps us informed with the situation in the village and is likely to be at the meeting. Jantiene is looking at what may be possible using community led and landowner actions and is trying to develop an ambitious project for the area. This is in a very early phase, but we have said that we would provide support where resources allow for this. Whilst potentially beneficial, I believe it's unlikely this would resolve all the issues in this locality as so many of the issues are relating to the overall water table level which is extremely difficult to change.*

*I hope this provides sufficient background and I'm happy to discuss this in more detail if that would be helpful*

*Kind regards*

*Sarah Reghif*

*Flood and Water Management - Technical*

**1493 District Councillor Update**

Cllr Gaskell explained that as part of the opposition he was not able to influence the decision made in the same way as he has in the past.

The new hospital planned for Basingstoke has been cancelled but there are still plans for a warehousing hub.

**1494 Apologies for absence and welcome**

Clerk had received apologies from the Cllr Henderson and Cllr Gaskell.

**1495 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The Clerk to provide a copy of the minutes for the Chairman to sign after the meeting.

#### 1496 Matters arising

**Website page for support for 20mph zone and leaflet to encourage residents to support –** Cllr Sherbrooke confirmed that the page has been set up and is ready to be launched. Councillors agreed that the link should be circulated to the School, Tennis Club, Community Shop shareholders, Gardening Club, etc to ask them to login and offer support for the reduction in speed in Preston Candover. Cllr Paul is also going to create a leaflet which can be sent to all households in Preston Candover asking them to get involved.

**Action:** Cllr Sherbrooke to provide link to Clerk for distribution

**Action:** Cllr Paul to create leaflet.

**New Speed Indication Device & funding –** The Clerk informed the Councillors that the two new Speed Indication Devices have been delivered and one has been installed at the end of the layby opposite the school. The second device is to be installed on the hill in Axford, but this is a difficult post to access, so support has been requested for the installation.

The smile face device has two new batteries, one was purchased by the Parsh Council, and one was a replacement for the one purchased last year by Candovers Parish Council which no longer held a charge. This device is shared with Candovers Parish Council and needs to go back to them at the end of October.

The two faulty devices have been returned and the Clerk has stored them.

Cllr Henderson contributed £1,000 from her grant funding towards to new devices.

**Intelligent Rumble Strips –** The Vice Chair informed the Councillors that the rumble strips were used to measure the speed and volume of vehicles using a road and had cost £600 to have them in place for 2 weeks. Cllrs agreed that this was not an option.

**Visit from Cllr Bowerman and Cllr Henderson –** Cllr Henderson has chased for this date and will continue to do so.

**Recreation Ground –** The Clerk has contacted the current lease holder who has agreed to relinquish it to allow the new football club to take on looking after the ground. The landowner has been contacted and has approved the change but has asked for confirmed from the current tenant that they are happy to give up the lease. The Clerk has asked the current tenant to confirm this but believes this is still outstanding.

**Planning template for website –** Cllr Dare Bryan and the Clerk have this item as outstanding.

#### 1497 Financial Statement

The Clerk circulated the financial report prior to the meeting.

The payments due for approval are:

- Grass cutting (July) - £201.40
- Grass cutting (August) - £201.40
- Hedge cutting & play equipment clean at play area - £802.00
- New sign for play area - £45.60
- Cable ties for sign and to stop birds sitting on top of swing - £7.87
- Grips for side steps - £56.03
- Correction to cost of play area inspections - £53.04
- Two new speed indication devices - £5,014.78
- Jubilee clips for new SIDs - £38.10
- New battery for smile face SID - £100.80
- Assessment of two old SIDs (£54 each) - £108.00
- Data protection Insurance - £40.00
- PAYE (July to September) - £197.73

- Clerk's salary (July to September) - £790 92

All payments were approved.

The Clerk has set up internet banking for Cllr Kennelly, Cllr Paul and Cllr Sherbrooke. Once approved this should allow the Clerk to upload payment to the bank and for them to approve them. Two Councillors will need to approve every payment in the same way as is currently in place with the cheques.

The Clerk explained that the free "12 Pay" programme which the Parish Council has been using is no longer available. The company who provides the system have a version but will cost £35 per month. This cost can be shared by the other three Parish Councils the Clerk works for so would cost each Parish £8.75 each. Cllrs approved this expenditure.

**Action:** Clerk to set up new system to report to HMRC.

#### 1498 Lengthsman visits

The Clerk confirmed that dates for the Lengthsman visits has been agreed as follows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- 13<sup>th</sup> December
- 6<sup>th</sup> March

#### 1499 Rights of Way

Cllr Kennelly reported that she has walked most of the Rights of Way and notified Hampshire County Council about all broken signs.

#### 1500 Parish Council website

The Clerk reported that the website was up to date.

#### 1501 Planning

The Parish Council have had no applications since the last meeting.

#### 1502 Children's Play Area

The Clerk organised for the hedges to be cut back in September, once allowed following nesting period, and the Contractor was able to attend on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. All the play equipment was also washed, and the grass cut round the fence.

The following issues are on the inspection report:

Asset Name	Finding Title	Risk Level
agility multi-linked items	Item - Loose in Ground	Low
bin	Item - Not Secure	Low
picnic table	Item - Loose in Ground	Medium
fence wooden	Item - Broken	Low
frame & net	Timber - Decay	Low
frame & net	Item - Cap missing	Very Low
slide	Item - Parts Missing	Medium
slide	Item - Timber rotting	Low

The slide missing part is the grip strips which have been ordered and will be fitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk will also look to fix the table, but this is often moved by parents to allow them to sit in the sunshine.

The Clerk will assess the other items while visiting, the Clerk has also asked if there is any remaining paint so the slide can be painted.

**1503 Highways**

There has been work carried out on the roads and some of the most dangerous locations have been fixed including the junction of the Wield Road.

**1504 General Correspondence**

None.

**1505 Dates of next meeting**

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (7:30pm)

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.