PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 18th November 2026	**Time:** 7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall, Preston Candover	
Present:	Robin Human	Chairman
	Andrew Frome	Vice Chair
	Rebecca Kennelly	
	Luke Sherbrooke	
	Emma Dare Bryan	
	Cllr Alex Rowley	Borough Councillor
	Wendy Simson	Clerk
Apologises	Tara Paul	
	Cllr Juliet Henderson	County Councillor

1702 Public Forum

There were no members of the public attending the meeting.

1703 Borough Councillor updates

Cllr Rowley informed the Council that Basingstoke and Deane have asked for feedback on how the public would like to be consulted on the Local Plan update.

The budget has an increase in the funding given to Parishes for grass cutting of 3%, in 2026/27 Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council received £259.11 to support grass cutting in the parish.

It has been suggested that the cost of contested parish elections be passed to the parishes in 2028. Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council usually co-opt all Councillors but in some parishes these roles are contested. The Clerk informed Councillors that East Hampshire District Council have indicated that the cost would be £5,000-£6,000 per ward. Cllr Rowley informed the Councillors that some parishes would struggle to cover these additional costs.

Action: Clerk to write to B&D with concern about parishes having to meet this additional cost.

1704 County Councillor update

Cllr Henderson was not able to attend the meeting and sent her apologies. The Clerk circulated their November report to all Councillors.

1705 Apologies for absence and welcome

Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Paul and Cllr Henderson.

1706 Minutes of the last meeting

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 21st September 2026. The Clerk to provide a copy of the minutes for the Chairman to sign at the meeting.

1707 Matters arising

Update on the Community Fund from the Solar Farm at Preston Farms – The Clerk informed Councillors that the funds arrived with the Parish Council on 30th September.

Cllr Dare Bryan suggested it might be worthwhile to hold some of the funds with a view to potentially using them for expert reports on flood risk and drainage in the Parish - like the reports Ellisfield and Cliddesden had commissioned recently. The need or otherwise would depend on B&D's willingness to obtain its own expert advice about these issues in the Parish as part of the Local Plan update. Something that we cannot currently predict.

Update on the Decorating of the pump by the War Memorial – The work has been completed and the pump is looking very smart. Some bulbs are to be planted round the base of the fixture.

Cllr Kennelly suggested that the white posts around the war memorial would need some work.

1708 Financial Statement

The Clerk circulated the financial report prior to the meeting.

Payment to make at meeting:

- Grass cutting in September & October - £525.00.
- Backdated salary increase - £70.20

The Councillors approved all payments.

The Clerk was asked to monitor the number of hours a week they work, the Clerk informed Councillors that it was approximately 7 hours a week but there were time when this was higher, for example at year end. The Clerk is currently contracted for 5 hours a week at £16.89 per hour (£4,391.40), increasing the contract to 7 hours would add £1,756.56 to the staff costs. The Clerk suggested that these figures be added to the budget report and discussed at the January meeting.

Cllr Frome asked if the Parish Council were able to claim back to first £5,000 of NI contribution.

Action: Clerk to amend budget and add to papers for January meeting.

Action: Clerk to asked Payroll Specialist about claiming back NI contribution.

One of the street lights, by the layby in Preston Candover, isn't working. The Clerk suggested that they contact Enerveo for a quote to service all the units and get them all working. Cllr Sherbrooke asked about the electricity costs, the Clerk explained that it is an unmetered supply and there are few alternatives. Cllr Rowley confirmed that Oakley also use SSE. The Councillors asked if the street lights could be adopted by Hampshire Highways.

Action: Clerk to contact Enerveo and circulate quote for maintenance

Action: Clerk to contact Highways about adopting the lights

Cllr Dare Bryan informed Councillors that at a recent Resilience Event a Councillor from the Isle of Wight mentioned they had been recipients of a number of grants from SSE and that the grant window opens in Spring. She also mentioned that a parish councillor from Herriard had spoken about the solar panels and battery units at their "Community Hub" to ensure there was a safe place for residents in the case of an emergency. This might be the kind of thing we as a Parish could seek a grant from SSE for.

Action: Clerk to look at SSE website to identify grant opportunities.

Cllr Dare Bryan explained to the Council that the Resilience meeting had looked at what a community needs in a time of an emergency. The Councillors agreed that the vulnerable members of the parish would have a variety of needs including:

- Groceries
- Prescription collection
- Keeping warm
- Company

Cllr Rowley explained that Oakley have just updated their plan and agreed to share it.

Action: Clerk to circulate Oakley's plan with Councillors.

Action: Clerk to add a Resilience Plan to the next agenda

An application for a grant of £200 had been received from the Over 60s Lunch Club to support the Christmas dinner. Councillors approved this application.

1709 Flooding

The Clerk informed the Council that despite having tried to get hold of the contractor they have not spoken to them about clearing the ditches. The Councillors suggested that Preston Farms may have capacity to clear the ditches.

Action: Clerk to contact Preston Farm.

The water levels in the aquafer are very low.

Cllr Dare Bryan had emailed Sovereign to chase up about their plans to clear the ditch outside Kenward, but had not received a reply.

1710 Speeding

Cllr Sherbrooke reported that the number of additional responses following the double page in the middle of the Oxdrove has been limited. The data from the Speed Indicators has shown that the average speed through Preston Candover is 30mph and while there are a few drivers who speed the majority don't.

The team from Hampshire Highways who visited on 16th September are going to report back with a list of options and prices.

Action: Cllr Frome to chase Cllr Henderson for the report on the options open to the Parish Council.

1711 Rights Of Way

Cllr Kennelly informed the Council that any issues have been reported. One of the routes has been diverted with an electric fence to protect the sheep but the temporary route is easy to identify.

1712 Lengthsman

The Chairman agreed to ask the Lengthsman to clear grips through Axford and Preston Candover when they next visit. The next Lengthsman visits are booked for:

- 2nd December 2026
- 1st March 2027

1713 Parish Council website

The Clerk informed Councillors that the website is up to date.

1714 Planning

The Parish Council have had four applications since the last meeting, they are:

- **Meadow House (T/00462/26/TCA)** – Tree work to a Lime Tree, A Field Maple and Red Oak. No Objections.

- **Land on Church Lane, Preston Candover (26/02171/ADV)** – Installation of a site Information Board. No objection.

The planning permission for the additional parking at the Candover has been approved. The permission does not take into account the feedback the Parish Council gave about fencing to protect the Yew and stop headlights shining into homes in the area.

Cllr Kennelly reported that residents had thanked the Parish Council for supporting their concerns.

The application for the development on the Wield Road has not moved forward. Basingstoke and Deane now categories applications into schedule 1 or 2. Any schedule 1 applications are decided by the planning officer, whilst Schedule 2 applications have the potential to be heard by the Planning Committee. The Wield Road development is schedule 1 as it is fewer than 9 homes.

1715 Children's Play Area

The Chairman met with the Contractor who maintains the play area to discuss what could be done to reduce the risk level of the uneven surface at the play area. When they visited the play area the surface was not found to be very uneven but the contractor suggested that about 10 tonnes of top soil would be required to flatten out the whole area.

The Councillors suggested that a sign be installed to explain that the surface was grass and that children played at their parents own risk as this would include slipping on wet grass as well as trip due to an uneven surface.

Action: Clerk to investigate a sign.

1716 Highways

The Councillors commented on what a wonderful job the Highways Team have done with resurfacing Baerrydown Lane.

1717 General Correspondence

None

1718 Dates of next meeting

- Monday 18th January 2027 (7:30pm).

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Signed: …… (Robin Human, Chairman)

Dated: Monday 18th January 2027