

# PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Date:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 **Time:** 7:30pm

**Venue:** Preston Candover Village Hall, Preston Candover

<b>Present:</b>	Robin Human	Chairman
	Rebecca Kennelly	Vice Chairman
	Luke Sherbrooke	
	Tara Paul	
	Emma Dare Bryan	Prospective New Councillor.
	Andrew Frome	Prospective New Councillor.
	Wendy Simson	Clerk

<b>Apologise:</b>	Cllr Juliet Henderson	County Councillor
	Paul Gaskell	Borough Councillor

### **1396 Apologies for absence and welcome prospective new Councillors**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Henderson and Cllr Gaskell.

The two prospective new Councillors were introduced to the Council, it was agreed that they would observe the meeting with a view to being co-opted at the end of the meeting.

### **1397 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Clerk to provide a copy of the minutes for the Chairman to sign.

### **1398 Police Update**

The Chairman gave a update on the meeting with Sergeant Martyn Evans and PCSO Andrew Jones on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at Preston Candover Village Hall.

The main focus of the meeting was how to reduce speeds through villages. It was agreed that there was no easy answer to this but that if data was provided about when excessive speeds were tracked in villages that the Police could provide enforcement facilities. For any permanent solutions then a fatality needed to be recorded or a number of serious accidents. The Parish Council are due to received £40,000 when the solar farm is installed at Preston Farms and it is understood that if the community can pay for speed reduction, then Hampshire Highways can be employed to deliver these.

The 20mph limit for rural areas has been seen to reduce speeds, however Sergeant Evans informed the meeting that the police are not able to provide resource to patrol all the villages in would cover.

Cliddesden Parish Council are looking to sell their Community Speed Watch equipment as they have struggled to get teams of volunteers to deploy it. The Councillors agreed to make an offer of £20 for the equipment and advertise for

volunteers to use it. The Clerk agreed to speak to Sergeant Evans about training for volunteers.

**Action:** Clerk to speak to Cliddesden Parish Clerk about purchase of Speed Watch equipment.

**Action:** Clerk to place advert in the Oxdrove for volunteers.

**Action:** Clerk to book training with Hampshire Constabulary.

The Councillors also discussed reducing the width of the road to slow traffic, along with the option to install traffic lights which activate if a vehicle is travelling above the limit.

The Councillors agreed to hold a public consultation once the funds from the solar farm are secured, to allow the community to decide what they would like to do.

One of the residents asked for larger speed signs at the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September as the small roundels are difficult to see in wooded areas.

**Action:** Clerk to source larger speed signs and replace.

Hare Coursing remains an issue in rural areas, this activity destroys large areas of crops as vehicles follow the dogs.

Theft from outbuildings is also an issue.

### 1399 Matters arising

**Recreation Ground** – The Clerk gave the Councillors an overview of the current situation, the tenant has been in touch and intends for football to be played at the Recreation Ground this season.

**Potential New Auditor** – Following the retirement of John Murray, the Clerk has spoken to Paul Reynolds, who is known to the Clerk via another role about conducting the audit for 23/24. The Clerk explained that John had charged £160 a year and Paul would be £250, other local Auditors were quoting a similar price. Councillors agreed to the additional cost.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm appointment of Paul Reynolds as the Internal Auditor for the Parish Council.

**Broadband update** – The Chairman has contacted Openreach about the number of connections for fibre broadband in the villages. The Chair is also speaking to other suppliers who may be able to deliver.

### 1400 Financial Statement

The Clerk circulated the financial report prior to the meeting.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the remaining 50% of the precept (£5,250) has been received. The Council has also earned £15.69 interest in August & September

The payments due for approval are:

- Grass cutting (July) - £190.00
- Grass cutting (August) - £190.00
- Grass cutting (September) - £190.00
- Village Hall booking for 15<sup>th</sup> September - £30.00
- Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) course - £117.60
- Data Protection - £40.00
- Clerk's salary (July to Sept) - £661.96
- PAYE (July to Sept) - £165.49

All these payments had receipts and were approved.

The Clerk investigated the requirement for a tree survey, this was carried out in 2021 and is required every 3 years so needs to be added to the budget for 2024/25. Tow suppliers quoted, they were:

- Arbor-Call - £888.00

- Sapling Arboriculture (who did the last survey) - £604.00
- Councillors agreed to add to the discussion about budgets at the next meeting and for consideration to be made about funds for tree work required.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate last tree survey with minutes.

#### 1401 Lengthsman visits

The Chairman confirmed that work on the Children’s Play Area, allotment fence and area at the back of the layby had been the focus for the visit on 29<sup>th</sup> August. The grips would be cleared on the next appointment on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Future dates are:

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

This schedule lists the duties the Parish Lengthsman may undertake.

HAMPSHIRE C.C.	DISTRICT COUNCILS	PARISH COUNCILS
Examples of work areas covered by the Parish Lengthsman. (Mostly related to maintenance, but new work can be undertaken as appropriate).		
<p><b>Drainage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grips</li> <li>▪ Localised ditching</li> <li>▪ Cleaning channels</li> <li>▪ Rodding of pipes (off highway)</li> </ul> <p><b>Signs excluding street name plates (including reflector posts):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cleaning</li> <li>▪ Minor repairs</li> <li>▪ Speed Limit Reduction sign relocation</li> </ul> <p><b>Highway Minor Works:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal of soil/detritus</li> <li>▪ Cutting back vegetation overhanging the road or footway</li> <li>▪ Clearing footways of weeds/moss</li> <li>▪ Removing vegetation from parapets or fences.</li> <li>▪ Highway grass strimming around posts</li> <li>▪ Reporting defects</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environmental:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sweeping</li> <li>▪ Litter clearance</li> <li>▪ Removal of fly-posting</li> <li>▪ Land drainage (not highway)</li> <li>▪ Graffiti/unauthorised sign removal</li> <li>▪ Street name plates cleaning and repair</li> <li>▪ Repair of street furniture including litter bins, benches, bus stops</li> <li>▪ Reporting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain public open spaces</li> <li>▪ Maintain public rights of way</li> <li>▪ Maintain play areas</li> <li>▪ Maintain playing fields</li> <li>▪ Maintain associated fences, styles etc.</li> <li>▪ Acting as eyes and ears for the community having regard to vulnerable parishioners and anti social behaviour such as noise, car crime etc.</li> <li>▪ Reporting</li> </ul>

Due to the health and safety implications the Parish Lengthsman shall not undertake cleaning, repair or any work on:

- Street Lighting
- Illuminated signs and bollards (i.e. any street furniture with an electrical connection)
- The live road, and,
- Patching and structural repairs (no excavation due to possibility of underground apparatus)
- Emergency call-outs to highway incident

#### **1402 Flooding**

Current water levels are high (94.006) and very responsive to rain.

Following a cloudburst, a spike was recorded on September 21 with a rise of groundwater levels of 125mm (12.5cm) (!! ) in a single day.

Rain recorded at Breech Farm 66mm, or 6.6cm.

The Clerk confirmed that Paul Peskett, the contractor used for the last maintenance work, had been contacted about carrying out the work in Axford and Preston Candover in November. The Councillors discussed a ditch in Axford which is believed to have overgrown with a view to reinstating it to support getting water off the road during periods of flash flooding.

**Action:** Clerk to speak to Jantiene about if this was used in the past.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm dates for November visits.

#### **1403 Rights of Way**

Cllr Kennelly informed the Council that there had been no new issues to report and asked that if any Councillors walk any of the paths to give an update on the standards.

#### **1404 Parish Council website**

The Clerk reported that the website was up to date.

#### **1405 Planning**

There have been five new planning applications since the last meeting.

**The Old Post Office (T/00275/23/TPO)** – 1 Yew: reduce height by 3-4m and reduce spread by 1m to leave final height of aprox. 8m (H) X 5m (W) crown spread of approx. 2.5-3m.- no objections.

**1 Whitegates (23/01920/HSE)** – construction of a timber framed bike shed and log store and removal of the summerhouse in the rear garden – no objections.

**Yew Tree House (T/00371/23/TCA)** – T1 - Silver Birch - reduce the top crown in height by 2.5m, stem diameter no greater than 35mm; 2nd eastern, over extended lateral back to source (35mm stem diameter); 2nd northern over extended lateral overhanging the neighbouring roof to reduce by 2m back to fork. Side canopy to blend in by reducing by circa 1m; crown lift skirt secondary and tertiary foliage by 2m. T2 - Silver Birch to reduce in height by 2.5m and blend in the canopy so that T1 and T2 are as one tree. T3 - Prunus to reduce and shape by 20%. Cuts no greater than 25mm30mm. T4 - Himalayan Silver Birch to reduce by 20%. Crown lift 3m. Cuts no greater than 25mm-30mm. T5 - Silver Birch - Fell. to dismantle to lowest level. Signs of decline, soil erosion around the bank exposing the roots; if tree to fail could cause damage to the property, tree nearing later stage of life span age. Works in accordance with BS3998(2010), nearest best practice pruning – no objections.

**Dedication of bridleway rights in Preston Candover (PPO 5217)** - offer for a new Bridleway in Preston Candovers, and to divert part of BW 13 & 14 50 metres north of the original lines to record what is being used on the ground. – no objections.

**Axford House (23/02421/RET)** - Retrospective planning application to regularise the erection of a fence - TBC

#### **1406 Children's Play Area**

The inspections feedback is about the trees which Councillors have agreed will be a focus on the budget and 24/25 plans.

**1407 Highways**

Cllr Kennelly reminded Councillors that they could report any potholes using the Hampshire County Council app or website at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

It is suggested that a ball be placed in the hole to give perspective.

**1408 General correspondence**

Cllr Henderson reminded the Parish Council

“Last year I chaired a Rural Crime Roundtable with Police and Crime commissioner Donna Jones.

The issue of rural crime and policing has been raised by many of the Parishes I represent. Whilst policing is **not** a County Council responsibility as such, it is clear that many criminal activities affect our areas of responsibility.

I have therefore asked the Police and Crime Commissioner to visit my division again and address Residents’ Concerns.

**The Rural Crime Roundtable with Donna will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of October at 6.30pm in Cliddesden Village Hall.”**

**1409 Co-option of Prospective New Councillors**

Both prospective new Councillors agreed to stand for office, Cllr Kennelly proposed both and Cllr Paul seconded, all Councillors voted to elect them to the Parish Council.

Cllr Paul recommended the HALC course that she attended, details of all the courses on offer can be found at:

<https://www.hampshirealc.org.uk/development-all/>

The Clerk asked that Councillors make her aware of all training needs.

**1410 Dates of next meeting**

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (7:30pm)

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.