

## PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Date:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013. **Time:** 7:30pm  
**Venue:** Preston Candover Village Hall

**Present:** Keith Irons Chairman  
Charles Bradshaw Vice-Chairman  
Alan Owencroft  
Daphne Prosser  
Marion Philips  
Alex Taylor  
PC Andy Reid

**Apologies:** David Wilson  
Rob Marks  
Wendy Simson Clerk

#### 141 Apologies

The Chairman reported that Councillors Wilson and Marks were not able to attend the meeting and had sent their apologies. The Clerk was also not able to attend the meeting and so a recording of the event would be made to ensure minutes could be written.

#### 142 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and were signed by the Chairman.

#### 143 Matters Arising

**Lengths Man Role** – The Chairman explained that he had not been able to move this item forward since the last meeting. Councillor Taylor agreed to take on the project. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council needed to identify what contribution Hampshire County Council are prepared to make towards the project and also map out a job description.

The Vice-Chairman asked if this role crossed over with the work done by the Environment Agency to clear ditches etc. The Chairman said that the role would include work in areas such as the lay-by near the school and a general tidying up of the public areas in the villages. As some of this work would normally be done by the County Council it was possible that a contribution was available to cover costs. This would not interfere with the work of the Environment Agency which would still be required.

**Action:** Councillor Taylor to investigate a possible contribution from Hampshire County Council

**Action:** Councillor Taylor to investigate what Lengths Man at Upton Grey does to start mapping out job description.

**Additional Street Lamp** – The Chairman reported that he had asked HCC Highways if this light could be funded from the Section 106 funds held By HCC, or from other funds held by the County Council. But, he had been told that if the HCC funded this it would require all lights in the village to meet ‘county standards’ and this would mean that there would be a need for a streetlamp every 100 yards, as in Basingstoke. It was agreed that this was not what was wanted in the valley. The purchase of the light has been put on hold while the Highways Department complete their recommendations for Preston Candover.

**Village Hall meetings** – Councillor Owencroft said he attended the meeting of the Village Hall Committee about 8 weeks ago but could not attend the last one. The Village Hall Committee has asked the Parish Council for a grant of some funds towards the refurbishment and redecoration of the hall. The Chairman explained that as the work had already been completed he would need to seek advice on whether the Parish Council could still make a contribution. The Chairman had asked HALC if there were any rules for making grants which the parish council should follow. HALC had provided guidance notes and a draft policy which had been circulated. The Chairman explained that the parish council should adopt the recommended policy, as required, to ensure the Parish Council were seen to be acting in a responsible way and to give guidance to local organisations seeking funds.. The Parish Council agreed that the suggested policy was appropriate and the Council agreed to adopt it.

The Vice-Chairman expressed concern over the possibility that a grant could not be given to the Village Hall Committee as the policy states that grants cannot normally be given in retrospect.

**Action:** The Chairman will clarify the point about retrospective grants and, in the meantime will ask the Village Hall Committee to complete the forms now to avoid any further delay if a grant can be awarded.

Councillor Phillips suggested that the availability of parish council grants should be advertised, and said that the Village Hall Committee should not be penalised because a new policy had been put into place.

**War Memorial** – The Chairman reported that Councillor Davidson had obtained a quote from Blackwell and Moody for repairs to the War Memorial before she left the Council, and that his wife was prepared to take over this project and look into the availability of grants and other funding so that the repairs can be done in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the First World War in August 2014.

Councillor Philips asked who owned the War Memorial and The Chairman explained that it was owned by the Village and so was the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Chairman also suggested that as part of the commemoration the council should sow some poppy seeds in the area around the war memorial. The Vice-Chairman asked about grass cutting but the Chairman explained that the seeds could be sown in the area taken up by the daffodils in the spring, in the mid section of the village green, which was not mown until later

**Speeds Identification Device** – The Chairman explained that the Parish Council should be able to fund this purchase from the Section 106 moneys held by HCC Highways Dept. However, Hampshire Highways had asked for this to be put on hold while they completed

cost estimates for the work on the Wield/Alresford roads junction. He said that it was hoped to make the narrow, bottom section of the Wield road junction one way, with 'virtual' footpaths created to improve safety, and also ensure that if parents parked near the church and in the public house car park they would have footpaths to walk along to the school.

The Parish Council talked through the plans for changing the road system.

It was noted that Upton Grey Parish Council had made an informal request for Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council to join in a local speed watch initiative in which the two councils would jointly buy the camera, and operate it in each other's parish, to avoid the embarrassment of local people trapping their neighbours. The Council felt this was a good idea and should investigate further

**Village Store** – In the absence of Councillor Marks who was not at the meeting, the Chairman reported that there had been no significant developments since the meeting. He had been asked if the Parish Council would support plans to set up a village community by arranging for a survey to be sent to all households asking for views and support for the running of a community store. The Chairman explained that he and Councillor Wilson had drafted a survey, based on one provided by the Plunkett Foundation and that printing costs would be about £100 for 300 copies and there were people prepared to deliver it in Preston and neighbouring villages.

The Parish Council agreed that it was a good idea; although Councillor Phillips asked if this survey could be merged with the other survey discussed earlier in the year and it this was now not going to be completed. The Chairman explained that this was only about the shop as it needs to be done quickly as the shop may close at the end of the year. The Parish Council discussed if the two surveys could be merged.

**Action:** [The Chairman to speak to Councillor Wilson about changing the survey.](#)

#### **144 Police update**

PC Andy Reid explained that there had been a number of issues since the last meeting including:-

- 5/7 – An alarm activation in Axford
- 16/7 – Suspicious vehicle seen near Moundsmere Manor
- 21/7 – Report of youth having set a fire – all in order local youths with a smoke bomb.
- 22/7 – Speed enforcement and 4 warnings issued
- 23/8 - Burglary at a dwelling in Nutley
- 14/9 – Village Hall was found to be unsecured.

There were also the following crimes, in Preston Candover:-

- 1 non dwelling burglary
- 2 dwelling burglary
- 1 public order issue with a naked rambler
- 2 assault with dog bites
- Six other crimes of which 3 were detected.

In Nutley:-

- 1 dwelling burglary

None in Axford.

The Chairman pointed out that PC Reid had been involved with the parking issues at the school and the use of the tennis courts car park for additional parking. However, the owners of the property adjoining the road up to tennis club have said that while the tennis club members can use the road to the car park there is no general public right of way. The increased use of the tennis court car park has caused huge pot holes and the verges are regularly ploughed up.

#### **145 Financial statement**

The following payments have been agreed since the last meeting:-

- Hall hire for April, May, June & July - £108.00
- Brian Hills June invoice - £120.00
- Graham Prosser - £234.00 (for repairs to the bus shelter)
- Lapset for play area - £581.88 (for replacement of a play 'machine'.)
- Brian Hills July invoice - £120.00 (village green maintenance)

The following payment were discussed at the meeting and agreed:-

- £120.00 for grass maintenance
- £214.50 street lighting maintenance
- £235.60 PAYE
- £354.30 Clerk's salary

The Chairman explained that the following payments have been received since the last meeting:-

- £224.57 VAT refund
- £2.69 interest on bank account

#### **146 Planning Applications**

The Wind Farm plans at Woodmancott are still in the consultation period and a number of the Councillors have put in private objections along with the one composed by the Parish Council.

The piece of land at Preston Oak Hills was discussed and possible uses. The Parish Council agreed that they needed to get an accurate plan of the piece of land

#### **147 Council Property**

Nothing to report.

#### **148 Section 106 funds**

The Chairman explained that there is about £9,000 available for community use and he suggested that part of this money be used to tidy up the centre of the village. The plan included the area around the lay-by and the Councillors talked through all the plans. These included planting a laurel hedge at the back of the lay-by after clearing along this area.

The Chairman also mentioned that the telephone equipment had been removed from the telephone box in Preston Candover and he would investigate what the plans were for the box.

**Action:** [The Clerk to investigate the situation with the telephone box.](#)

- 149 Flooding**  
Nothing to report
- 150 Valley & Council Website**  
The website is set up but there are issues about getting the training done to allow people to upload information onto it. The Chairman explained that he plans to visit the designers of the website and get the required training so he can then brief Councillor Phillips and also the Candover Parish Council representative.
- 151 Play areas**  
New piece of equipment has arrived and been painted and installed. One of the fence posts as you enter the play area is now very loose. Councillor Owencroft suggested that a quote be sought for getting this replaced. The Chairman agreed to look at what was required. Councillor Prosser asked about the skate park as one of the surface planks has become unaligned. Councillor Owencroft agreed to go and investigate.
- 152 Highways**  
Councillor Prosser explained that there had been some filling of pot holes but it has been a little "hit or miss". The grass cutting has also been done but again there seem to be bit missed.
- 153 Rights of Way**  
The Parish Council discussed the rural walks and Councillor Philips explained that there was little interest in the walks. The Chairman suggested that the maps could be put onto the notice board. The Council also talked about having a notice which promoted the walks, and also the option of a grant for scalping to repair the Oxdrove.
- 154 General Correspondence**  
The Draft Local Plan had been received from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council but there was little in it which would affect the Preston Candover & Nutley Parish. The housing situation within the Borough was also discussed and it was felt that the affordable housing at Moundsmere Close and other properties in Stenbury Drive were sufficient to meet current and potential needs.
- 155 Any other business**  
Councillor Prosser asked if the contact list can be updated.  
**Action:** [Clerk to update the contact list](#)  
The Vice-Chairman explained that the mile stone is in poor repair and needs decorating. The Parish Council discussed who may be able to carry out the work. Suggest that it could be included within Lengths Man role.  
The Chairman asked the Parish Council to agree to buy a fax machine for Councillor Owencroft to help with communication as he was the only councillor without access to email. It was agreed to spend about £100.

**156 Date of next meeting**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 at 7:30pm at the Preston Candover Village Hall.