

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 17 th July 2023	Time:	7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall, Preston Candover		
Present:	Robin Human	Chairman	
	Rebecca Kennelly	Vice Chairman	
	Luke Sherbrooke		
	Cllr Juliet Henderson	County Councillor	
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
Apologise:	Tara Paul		
	Paul Gaskell	Borough Councillor	

1380 County Councillor update

Cllr Henderson gave an overview of the priorities for Hampshire County Council with the majority of their funding being spent on schools, support for the elderly and care for children. Additional funds have been granted to support our aging population but there are still pressures on this budget.

The new hospital planned for junction 7 of the M3 is due to go to consultation later this year and a budget of £800million has been allocated to the project. Cllr Sherbrooke asked if this was one of the 40 new hospitals promised by central Government and if so when was it likely to open? Cllr Henderson confirmed it was one of the 40 and more information should be available after the meeting on 18th July but 2030 was the current opening timeframe. Cllr Kennelly raised concern about the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and ensuring the Hospital did not remove rights of way through the countryside particularly for those living in Basingstoke. Cllr Henderson reassured the Council that plan for the building would have minimal impact on the rural landscape and pathways out of Basingstoke would ensure residents could easily visit.

Roads continues to be an issue with 40,000 potholes being filled this year at a cost of £25million and a further 40,000 to be filled. Hampshire Highways are looking to work smarter and repair all issues on a stretch of road as apposed to just doing the areas marked. The Highways Team are also working with contractors to reduce the frequency of road closures by all working in an area at the same time.

Cllr Henderson has suggested that Cabinet Meeting to discuss the 20mph project should be held in the Candover Valley to showcase an area where this initiative could have a huge impact. The Chairman agreed to provide support including hosting an event to ensure this happens. Cllr Henderson explained that communities would need to fund any initiatives through S106 funding, but the County would negotiate keen prices for purchases.

The Police and Crimes round table is booked on Tuesday 17th of October at 6.30pm in Cliddesden Village Hall, the Councillors agreed to send a representative and inform Community Store Committee about the date.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Henderson for the generous grant which supported the community Coronation celebrations in May.

1382 Apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Paul and Cllr Gaskell.

1383 Minutes of the last meeting

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 15th May. The Clerk to provide a copy of the minutes for the Chairman to sign.

1384 Matters arising

Recreation Ground – The Clerk updated the Council that the fencing had been removed so access was possible again. The tenant has also done some maintenance work but would require additional support.

Action: The Clerk agreed to email the tenant about what was required.

Marketing for new Councillors – The potential new Councillor in Axford has declined the offer. The Clerk agreed to pull together a list of new residents with a view to speaking to them about joining the Council. Cllr Sherbrooke suggested that a job description be created giving the key points of the role for use in the marketing.

Action: The Clerk to put an advert in the Oxdrove

1385 Police Update

Police Sergeant 25569 Martyn Evans, the Basingstoke Rural NPT Sergeant sent his apologies. He is new to the role since 3rd July but asked to continue to be invited to the meetings and would ensure he attended in the future.

1386 Financial Statement

The Clerk circulated the financial report prior to the meeting.

The bank mandate has been processed so Cllr Paul and Cllr Sherbrooke are both signatories on the account.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the £800 towards the Children’s play area from Cllr Gaskell had been claimed following the work being completed. The Council has also earned £21.78 interest.

The payments due for approval are:

- Grass cutting (May) - £285.00
- Grass cutting (June) - £190.00
- Weekly Inspection of play area (22/23) - £250.00
- Weekly Inspection of play area (23/24) - £257.50
- Varnish & brushes for play area - £40.50
- Clerk’s salary (April to June) - £661.96
- PAYE (April to June) - £165.49

All these payments had receipts and were approved.

The Clerk has also received notification that the Internal Auditor has retired and so a new Auditor is to be identified for 23/24.

Action: Clerk to contact Auditors listed on the Internal Audit Forum Website (www.internalauditforum.org.uk) for a new Auditor.

1387 Flooding

The Councillors agreed that the ditches needed to be cleared this year in Preston Candover and Axford. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor to request a price and availability in November, this is to include jetting the culverts.

Action: Clerk to email all Councillors with response from Contractor.

It was agreed that all residents with riparian responsibility be contacted and a contribution to the costs requested.

1388 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.

1389 Parish Council website

The Clerk reported that the website was up to date. There are communications through the website, about half are marketing, but it allows members of the public to get in touch easily.

1390 Planning

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

The Rectory – Tree work on driveway to allow vehicles in to replace roof (T/229/23/TCA) – the Councillors had no objections.

North Hall – variation to condition 1 of application 21/ 3855/LBC – the Councillors had no objections.

Land at Moundsmere Manor (23/01686/FUL) - erection of an outdoor equestrian arena and assorted change of use. – The Councillors asked if there was any lighting included in the application as this site could be viewed from several other properties.

1391 Lengthsman

The Lengthsman dates for 2023/24 have been agreed, they are:

- Tuesday 29th August
- Tuesday 28th November
- Tuesday 27th February

The Chairman has emailed the Lengthsman and has not had a response but has a short list for the August meeting including a fence post at the allotments along with a fence repair. The trees at the play area also need lower branches cut back.

Councillors agreed that the grips be the main focus for the November visit.

1392 Children's Play Area

All the outstanding actions have been completed.

1393 Highways

This was discussed as part of Cllr Henderson's update.

1394 General correspondence

Moundsmere Close

The Chairman has discussed the Agreement for selecting residents for the properties at Moundsmere Close with the Chairman of the Allotment Charity, Charles Bradshaw. The agreement ensures that any vacant property is offered to residents of the village first and then offered to surrounding villages next. GDPR requirements mean that the Housing Team at Basingstoke and Deane can't disclose who has applied for one of the properties, but the Parish Council agreed that anyone interested in having one of the homes should be encouraged to ensure they meet the criteria. It was agreed that the Parish Council were not able to influence the process further than this.

Tree Survey

The Clerk informed Councillors that the last tree survey took place 3 years ago and it was suggested that it should be completed again in October.

Action: Clerk to arrange for tree survey to be carried out.

Woodland at Preston Farm

The Councillors have been asked for their views on the project in general, including views and ideas for the community recreation areas - especially the area immediately above the Village Green. We have suggested community orchard, community herb garden, community flower picking garden, boules, meeting place for villagers (young and old).

The Parish Councillors asked for their thanks to be passed on for all the work so far completed with this project. It was suggested that the community recreation area should be as inclusive as possible so access to the site should allow wheelchairs and buggies to visit. It was also suggested that any planters be raised and the area to be safe for children to play in. Parking was flagged for the project.

The Councillors also commented that information boards about the estate and the wider valley would be informative to visitors.

Broadband

Cllr Sherbrooke asked if there was any update on the faster broadband for the whole of the village. The Chairman explained that one of the connection boxes had been connected to the fibre optic network and so properties close to this got the faster speed, but other properties did not get this.

Action: Chairman to ask for an update from Cllr Gaskell and a contact within BT.

1395 Dates of next meeting

- Monday 18th September 2023 (7:30pm)

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.