

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Monday 19th November 2012. **Time:** 7:30pm

Venue: Preston Candover Village Hall

Present: Keith Irons **Chairman**

Daphne Prosser

Alan Owencroft

Alison Davidson

Marion Philips

David Wilson

Wendy Simson **Clerk**

PC Andy Reid

Councillor Mark Ruffell (start of meeting only)

Apologise: Charles Bradshaw **Vice-Chairman**
Rob Marks

13 Apologise

The Chairman said that he had received apologies from Councillor Bradshaw but was not sure if Councillor Marks would be attending.

14 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.

15 Police Update

There have been no reported crimes in the Parish in the last month, however PC Reid attended the following:-

- Burglar alarm activation which was a false alarm
- A member of staff who went missing from a local public house
- Suspicious light seen at the back of Preston Grange

PC Reid gave an update on the proposals to reduce rural police office numbers from 11 to 9, which has now gone to the Chief Constable for approval.

PC Reid explained that there has been a spate of crime in the North Waltham and Popham area but that currently it was not affecting his beat area, although residents should be aware and more alert.

16 Question & Answers for Councillor Mark Ruffell

The Chairman asked if the Borough Council budgets had been affected by cost cuts? Councillor Ruffell explained that while budgets had been cut that the Borough Council were looking to make savings through efficiencies and not replacing staff that left as opposed to cutting services. Councillor Ruffell explained that staff numbers had decreased from about

600 to 540. Areas such as parking costs would increase but Councillor Ruffell explained that the Borough Council were aware that too higher an increase could impact retail and other businesses.

The Chairman asked how rural communities, such as The Candover Valley, were compensated for not having all the services paid for as in urban areas? Councillor Ruffell explained that the “Grant” given to all rural Parishes of £1,200 was to ensure that activities like grass cutting continued within rural communities where Council workers were not able to carry out this work.

The Chairman explained about the Community Web-Portal which will replace the website run by Basingstoke and Deane. Councillor Ruffell explained that he was aware of a number of places where this has been done including Upton Grey.

Councillor Ruffell spoke about the increases in recycling within the Borough with rates going from 23% last year to 26% this year. The work is being shared with the Reading area where recycling rates are more than 35%, and it is hoped that the Borough Council will achieve similar figures.

The Chairman asked about street lights and if the Borough could support this facility? Councillor Ruffell explained that as Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council’s lights did not meet the standard for Borough Council that this would remain the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Councillor Ruffell explained that he was able to support areas such as pathways and the Chairman asked about the lay-by opposite the Old Post Office. Councillor Ruffell said he was not aware of this being the Borough Council’s responsibility but suggested that the Parish Council write to all authorities to ask who maintains it.

Speeding traffic was flagged as still being an issue. Councillor Ruffell suggested asking for more visible markings on the road to make the road appear narrower particularly at the gates either ends of Preston Candover.

Councillor Ruffell explained that the change of use for the agricultural barns in Brown Candover for storage was being discussed at a meeting later this week and he would keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

17 **Matters Arising**

- **Questionnaire template** – Councillor Davidson had put together a short questionnaire with an explanation at the beginning. The Parish Council agreed it was what was required but that some examples of what type of things the Parish Council was responsible for would support the text. It was agreed that Council Wilson would put it on line and hard copies would be available in the shop. The Parish Councillors would also divide up the houses within the villages and deliver one to every home. It was agreed that this would be best done in the New Year.

Action – Councillor Davidson to make amendments

Action – Clerk to bring electoral role to next meeting to divide up delivery

- **Neighbourhood watch responsibilities** – the Councillor Phillips said she had spoken to Sabrina Gurling who was happy to continue with this role.
- **Updated contact list** – The Clerk had updated this list and circulated with agenda. A copy has also been put on the notice board.

- **Invite Highways representative to future meetings** – The Chairman explained that he was having difficulties contacting Keith Holdsworth and would contact Councillor Anna McNair Scott to get someone to attend a meeting in the near future. The Chairman asked all the Councillors to make a list of any highways issues and send to him in advance of the next meeting so that he can raise them with the highways team.

Action – Chairman to speak to Councillor Anna McNair Scott about poor service from the highways team

Action – All Councillors to send the Chairman a list of highways issues by 10th December.

- **Renovation of the bus shelter** – the Chairman had spoken to the contractor and the work should be completed in the next 2 weeks.
- **Seat for bus users at Village Hall** – the Chairman explained that he was still awaiting a response from Mr Paravacini's solicitor.

Action – Chairman to report back for next meeting

- **Play equipment options** – Councillor Owencroft explained that he had visited the play area at Herriard but that it was 5 times the size of the one in Preston Candover and had equipment for older children. Councillor Davidson explained that there should be a number of companies who have these types of items and she would look for some on line. The Clerk also said she would go through her records and pull out anything suitable.

Action – Councillor Davidson and Clerk to send Councillor Owencroft any literature.

- **War Memorial** – Councillor Davidson explained that she had met with Blackwell & Moody and their quote was £1,380 for cleaning, re-pointing and repair to the war memorial. The written quote did not show what was included in the price so Councillor Davidson explained that she would confirm that this was all included as the quote seemed very competitive. It appears that most of the damage has been caused by the grass mower and it was suggested that an area around the memorial could be paved over, flush to the grass level so the mower would not go right up to the memorial. Councillor Davidson also explained that the Royal British Legion would mark the plaques with "smart water" but this may not be a deterrent to theft, but the plaques had been photographed.

Action – Councillor Davidson to confirm quote.

- **Survey of affordable home** – the Vice Chairman was not available for the meeting but the Chairman confirmed that the Vice Chairman had sent off the survey.
- **Street Lights** – The Clerk circulated a list of the lamps and their numbers. Councillor Prosser explained that she believed all the lamps are currently working.
- **Advert for Oxdrove for affordable homes** – the Chairman explained that this was currently not required as all the properties were occupied.

18 Financial statement

Budget 2013/14 - The Parish Council discussed the items on which funds were being spent in 2012/13 and it was decided that most were to be taken into 2013/14. A line will be added for donations which can cover Scouts, New Year drinks, and other requests. The budget for the war memorial also needs to be increased to account for the work to be done in the

spring. The recreation ground was also discussed as the charity which was looking after it has been delisted by the Charity Commission and it was not known under what terms it was willed to the community. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should consider taking over the running of the Charity to ensure the recreation ground stays within the use of the community. The Chairman also agreed to speak again to the village hall committee about use of the room at the back by the Parish Council.

Action – Chairman to speak to Village Hall committee

Precept 2013/14 – it was agreed that the same level of precept for 2012/13 of £7,000 be requested again for 2013/14.

Payments agreed – two cheques were signed for maintenance of the play area and the green. It was agreed that grass cutting in the play area be stopped for the winter and that if required another cut be done on the green at some point before spring.

Festive drinks donation – the contribution of £100 was agreed for the festive drinks. The Parish Council asked if it was advertised in the Oxdrove and if they could have some feedback about how many people attended and if it was appreciated.

Action – Clerk to email organisers and agree contribution and ask for feedback for January meeting.

19 Planning Applications

An application has been received for Nutley Water Tower, to demolish it and erect a single dwelling house with alteration to the vehicular access (BDB/77124).

Councillor Davidson quoted from the Adopted Local Plan that new residential accommodation in the countryside should only be permitted where it is:-

“one for one replacement of an existing dwelling which has been continuously occupied and is not the result of a temporary or series of temporary permissions and the building is not derelict or no longer in existence”

“Results in the conversion of an existing building in a sustainable location and where employment, commercial or community use of the building has been considered first and proven to be inappropriate or unviable.”

It was agreed that given these criteria that the water tower could not meet either of these criteria and so the Council were to object to the application. Councillor Davidson agreed to formally write on behalf of the Parish Council to the planning officer.

Action – Councillor Davidson to write to Basingstoke and Deane planning officer

20 Council Property

Nothing to report

21 Section 106 funds

There was a total of £33,862 section 106 funding available from the Farriers' Field development which could be spent on various projects within the parish. This had been allocated by the County and District council's as follows:-

- £18,067 for highways [plans under consideration for improvements to Wield Road and B3046 junction, and other traffic calming measures]
- £2,604 for open spaces [not yet allocated]

- £6,080 for the community [all of this had been spent on the external decking at the village hall]
- £4,529 for play area equipment – [provisional of addition play equipment being reviewed]
- £2,402 for playing fields – [under consideration]

The Parish Council also discussed using some of the highways funds for the lay-by opposite the Old Post Office and some of the remaining money could be used for the recreation ground or a similar project.

22 Flooding

A resident in Preston Candover has reported that the water surface in his well is about 25' down below ground level and it will need to rise to about 10' to 8' from ground level before cellars etc in the village centre start to flood. The environment agency also has a monitor installed by the Village Hall to measure ground water levels and all these indicators are being monitored for potential problems.

23 Clerk's Contract of employment

The Clerk and Chairman signed the contract having got the Council's agreement.

24 Valley & Council Website

Councillor Wilson explained that he had presented the plan to the Chairman of the Candovers Parish Council along with other key members of the community including the Vicar and PC Reid. It was agreed that the Web Portal was an excellent idea and has been signed off by both Parish Councils.

Action – Councillor Wilson to contact provider to progress project

25 Play area inspections

The Clerk showed the Parish Council a weekly inspection report which Basingstoke and Deane carry out on the play area. There are a number of small items to be corrected and the Chairman agreed to investigate getting these done.

Action – Chairman to get quote for getting faults corrected

26 Highways/ Rights of Way

Councillor Phillips explained that she had spoken to Councillor Marriott from Candovers Parish Council and now had a good understanding of the Footpaths and Rights of Way in the valley. In order to assess the condition of these pathways Councillor Phillips has decided to walk 1 per month and report back. The first one completed was in a poor state and Councillor Phillips has flagged that budget will be required to correct these issues. A grant scheme is available where funding is matched up to £10,000.

27 General Correspondence

Internal audit quote – the Clerk has received a quote for carrying out the internal audit for the Council of £105. The previous Clerk has used a couple of people including John Murray who had charged just £50-70. It was therefore agreed to continue using him.

Woolpack pub relaunch – the previous Clerk passed on an invitation for a free dinner at the Woolpack pub. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to offer it back to Ron Darley as a thank you gift.

28 Any other business

The Chairman explained that he had been informed that all homes in the Parish were to be fitted with water meters. This was not a matter of great concern and could result in lower water bills for many people.

29 Date of next meeting

Monday 17th December 2012 at 7:30pm at the Preston Candover Village Hall