

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 21 st November 2022	Time: 7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall, Preston Candover	
Present:	Paul Sadler Daphne Prosser Tish Owencroft Rebecca Kennelly Paul Gaskell Wendy Simson	Chairman Borough Councillor Clerk
Apologise:	Cllr Juliet Henderson Paul Gaskell Robin Human Luke Sherbrooke	County Councillor Borough Councillor

1306 Apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Henderson and Cllr Gaskell.
Cllr Human was not able to attend the meeting.

1307 Co-option of new Councillor

Luke was not able to attend the meeting but agreed to the Parish Council electing him to the Parish Council in his absence. Cllr Kennelly proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded the co-option, all Cllrs agreed. Cllr Sherbrooke was officially welcomed onto the Parish Council.

1308 Minutes of the last meeting

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2022. The Clerk to provide a copy of the minutes for the Chairman to sign.

1309 Matters arising

Solar Farm proposed community Funding – The Clerk circulated the agreement with the confirmed contribution of £40,000 to Councillors prior to the meeting. BSR Energy have asked for the Appendix to be completed with details of what the grant is going to be spent on, the Councillors agreed that it would be recorded as “projects to benefit the community”.

Action: Clerk to complete form and get signed by Cllr Human as Vice Chair.

Grass cutting – The Clerk spoke to Joe Noades about the grass cutting, he has had equipment issues along with some holiday but was able to cut the grass for the bonfire on 5th November and at the War Memorial for Remembrance on 11th November.

Hedge cutting at War Memorial – Cllr Kennelly spoke to the homeowners who explained that the first few years they lived at the property a local farm had cut the hedge, so they believed it wasn't their responsibility. It is thought that this was an arrangement with the previous owner, but they have now cut back as required.

1310 Financial Statement

The Clerk informed Councillors that the £4,961.70 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been received and needs to be spent by 21st October 2027.

The following payments were due to be approved:

- Charging of SIDs (June to November @ £5 per month) - £30
- Website domain name - £41.18

Councillors approved all payments.

Cllr Owencroft asked if a grant application could be made for £150 towards the over 60s Christmas Lunch, the Clerk explained that an application form would need to be completed and agreed to provide a copy for Cllr Owencroft.

1311 Budgets for 2023/24

The Clerk prepared an overview of payments due before the end of the financial year and basic line items for 2023/24.

Current account balance for 15/11/22 £16,348.73

Possible payment to make before 31/3/23

• Clerk's salary (Oct-Dec)	£661.96
• PAYE (Oct-Dec)	£165.49
• Clerk's salary (Jan-Mar)	£661.96
• PAYE (Jan-Mar)	£165.49
• Website costs	£150.00
• Charging for SID	£50.00
• Grass cutting/leaf clearing (Sept & Oct) - estimate	£400.00
• Total	£2,254.90

Possible income to be received before 31/3/23

• Interest (Dec-Mar)	£2.50
• Total	£2.50

Predicted closing balance £14,096.33

Estimated Income for 2023/24

Precept (2022/23 figure)	£10,271.00
Basingstoke & Deane Grants	£300.00
Bank Interest	£10.00
VAT Refund	£750.00
Total	£11,331.00

Estimated basic expenditure for 2023/24

Meeting room hire	£250.00
Electricity for Street Lamps	£1,000.00
Internal Audit	£150.00
Insurance	£750.00
PAYE	£661.96
Clerk's salary	£2,647.84

Grass cutting	£2,000.00
Flooding	£2,000.00
HALC subscription	£300.00
Data Protection	£40.00
Defib pads and battery	£200.00
Coronation Celebrations	£1,500.00
Total	£11,499.80

Predicted closing balance for 31/3/2024 **£13,927.53**

This does not include any Grants.

The Councillors discussed the line items and agreed that while the flood work was not going to be carried out for 22/23 that it would be completed every 24 months and so included in the 23/24 budget.

Councillors agreed to increase the precept by a small amount (2%/£205), it was agreed to round up the increase to £10,500 (or £239 increase). The Chairman along with Cllrs Prosser and Owencroft signed the precept request.

The Councillors discussed the Coronation Celebrations on 6th May 2023, the King has suggested that celebrations should be modest and so the Parish Council agreed to set aside £1,500 from section 137 for a Big Lunch type event on either Sunday 7th or the additional Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May.

1312 Rights of Way

Cllr Kennelly informed the Council that the faults that have been reported have not yet been fixed but that she would continue to monitor. The Clerk explained that 25% of the Lengthsman fund should be spent on Rights of Way so it would be possible to get the Lengthsman to complete some of the work.

1313 Parish Council website

The Clerk reported that the website was up to date.

1314 Planning

The Parish Council had two applications to review:

- **Ridgeway, Dummer Road, Axford (22/02971/HSE)** – Demolition of existing porch and garage with single storey side and rear extensions and associated alterations. The Clerk had received an email from a resident local to the property explaining that while the work would not affect most properties that it would have a substantial impact on their home. The Councillors reviewed both the application and the comments and agreed that as there was just one resident comment against the application, that they could not support either the application or the comments. The Councillors asked that the Clerk respond to say this.
- **Preston Farm (T/00494/22/TCA)** – The Chairman informed the Councillors that the application was to remove a Beech Tree which had fungus and was in danger of falling. The work would require that the B3046 be closed for a short period as the tree will need to be brought down across the road and into the field opposite. The Councillors approved the work.

The Councillors asked if the Parish Council could be made aware of when the work was due to be carried out so the village could be alerted.

1315 Lengthsman

The dates for the Lengthsman visits in 2023 are:

- 17th January 2023
- 1st March 2023

1316 Children's Play Area

Cllr Owencroft has met the representative (Jerry) of the new Play Equipment Company, Urban Recreation, and discussed the list of repairs which are required. It has been agreed that these items are all to be completed along with replacing the rocker toy and cleaning the ropes on the climbing unit. Once this work has been completed then Cllr Owencroft will arrange another visit to look at adding an additional piece/pieces of equipment.

Action: Cllr Owencroft to book for work to be completed and replace part to be ordered.

There is a list of issues which need attention, they are:

Asset Name	Finding Title	Risk Level
agility multi-linked items	Item - Bolt(s) loose	Very Low
agility multi-linked items	Item - Loose in Ground	Medium
agility multi-linked items	Item - Loose in Ground	Low
agility multi-linked items	Item - Cap missing	Low
bin	Item - Not Secure	Low
springy rabbit	Item - Cap missing	Very Low
springy rabbit	Hand Supports - Rotate	Low
springy rabbit	Falling Space - Obstacles	Low
frame & net	Item - Cap missing	Very Low
frame & net	Item - Requires cleaning	Very Low
frame & net	Fixtures - Loose or Missing	Low
grass surface	Grass - Requires Mowing/Cutting	Low
grass surface	Surface - Uneven	Low
gate	Gate - Violent Action	Low
slide	Other / Miscellaneous	Medium
slide	Fixtures - Loose or Missing	Medium
slide	Entrapment - Finger	Low

The Clerk asked if Cllr Owencroft could circulate the brochure so Councillors could see what piece of play equipment were available.

Action: Cllr Owencroft to drop the brochure to Cllr Kennelly

1317 Highways

Cllr Prosser has reported a sunken drain on the B3046 opposite Whitegates along with the very damaged road surface on the Bradley Road junction.

The Clerk has reported the blocked drain on the B3046 at the crossroads in Axford. During the recent rain this has created a puddle which filled the road from side to side and for about 50m with a depth of more than 30cm (1'). The Clerk has asked Cllr Gaskell and Cllr Henderson to get involved as this is a hazard to motorists and cyclists.

1318 Flooding

Jantiene has provided the following update:

Axford is quite flooded (both B3046 and lane to Dummer) also as drainage is impeded below the entrance to the farmhouse to the left of the bus stop - see photographs.



The drainage swales at Ellisfield (bottom of Furze Land and bottom of Green Lane) are quite overgrown and would benefit from attention.

Groundwater levels are rising fast (more than 1 meter since October 1) so it will be prudent to make sure the villages are in a state of readiness. It will be difficult to predict where water levels will end up this winter as much will depend on the amount of rain in the next 10 weeks. However, due to large amount of rain recently, we have already lost the advantage of the dry 2022 summer and are at the same level as in November 2019 (pumping was necessary that 2019/20 winter and was in the next 2020/21 winter too). If the remainder of the winter is normal to dry, we will be fine; if it continues to be wet, there may be a risk of flooding.

I will send out water level updates to the valley at the end of November.

The Councillors asked that thanks be given to Jantiene for the continued work on monitoring the water levels and support with ensuring risk of flooding is minimised.

1319 General correspondence

Map Board at Layby in Preston Candover – The clerk has received a message to say that the QR code on the map in the layby at Preston Candover which details the Freddie Osgood walks is no longer working. The Clerk asked if anyone knew anything about QR codes?

Action: Clerk to speak to Cllr Human about QR code and get a sticker made with the new code or have the map reprinted as it has become faded.

Visibility from Church Lane to turn right – The Clerk has been contacted to ask if a mirror could be installed to provide a better view when turning right out of Church Lane. The hedges are proud and block the line of sight but even without the hedge it is a difficult junction.

Action: The Councillors asked the Clerk to speak to the owner of the hedge about reducing the width.

Bench by layby – Cllr Prosser asked if the old Jubilee Bench was going to be returned, the Chairman explained that the bench was completely rotten and so have been destroyed and the plaque has been moved to the bench which has been put in its place.

The Chairman stepping down – prior to the meeting the Chairman informed Councillors that he was relocating for his work and would therefore be stepping down as both Chairman and a Councillor. The Clerk suggested that as 2023 was an election year that the Vice Chair, Cllr Human, chair the January and March meetings. Cllr Prosser and Cllr Owencroft also suggested that they were looking to step down from the Parish Council in May. Cllr Kennelly asked the Clerk how many Councillor roles were allocated to Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council, the Clerk explained that there were eight, but it had been a struggle to recruit more than six for some time but that six had allowed the Parish Council to function. It was suggested that the Parish Council needed to recruit three new members for May to replace the three members standing down.

Action: Cllr Kennelly and the Clerk to meet and identify marketing and people to target.

Cllr Kennelly asked that huge thanks be recorded to the Chairman for all the work he has done from the community and suggested that a drink should be arranged in the Purefoy before he leaves at the end of December.

Action: Chairman to provide suitable dates

1320 Dates of next meeting

- Monday 16th January 2023 (7:30pm)

The meeting closed at 8:55pm.