

## PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Date:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 **Time:** 7:30pm

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

<b>Present:</b>	Paul Sadler	Chairman
	Ruth Chattell	Vice Chair
	Tish Owencroft	
	Robin Human	
	Paul Gaskell	Borough Councillor
	Wendy Simson	Clerk

**Apologise:** Daphne Prosser

#### 1069 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including Robin who is looking to join the Parish Council and Paul Gaskell who is a Borough Councillor. The Chairman invited both to give the meeting a brief introduction.

Robin explained he lived in the centre of Preston Candover and was one of the properties pumping from a sump that surrounds their home. Robin works from home and so is in the village during the day and so is happy to help with supporting activity such as the Lengthsman visits.

Paul informed the Councillors that the boundaries are being changed for the Borough Council areas and Paul is looking to pick up the area which includes Preston Candover & Nutley. Paul sits on Newnham Parish Council as well as being a Borough Councillor and flooding is a huge issue there in a similar way to Preston Candover. Paul has also got good contacts for bins, buses and highways for potholes and agreed to support wherever possible.

#### 1070 Apologies for absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillor Prosser has sent apologies as she has broken a hip and so will be out of action for a while.

#### 1071 Minutes of the last meeting

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Chairman signed the minutes.

#### 1072 Flooding

Jantiene met with Paul along with the Chairman to give an update on the meeting held with the Environment Agency, National River Authority, Hampshire Highways and Hampshire County Council on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March in Preston Candover. Jantiene and Jonathan Moseley (Chairman of Candovers Parish Council) travelled the length of the river from Ellisfield through to Northington to map all the issues and look at possible solutions. Paul explained that some items would be easier to achieve than others and the Parish Council could employ contractors to carry out this work, while other items would require the relevant authority to manage.

The plan was also looking to create a new ditch system which would allow for water to be held between the villages and away from homes. Tree planting in these areas would ensure that water was taken out of the water table. The Woodland Trust would be part of these plans.

The Clerk suggested that some of the funds held for a Youth Project could be used to purchase the trees and encourage the children of the village to be involved in planting and tending to the trees. As most would be in wet areas these could include willow which can be planted as a crop and would give the next generation an income which they could reinvest in the valley.

**Action:** [Jantiene to report to the next meeting about progress with the plan](#)

A WhatsApp group has been set up to ensure any information or help required are quickly distributed across the community. Empty sandbags have been purchased and a cubic yard of sand can be purchased and delivered quickly from DIY merchants to fill them. The bags are created to breakdown over a few months once filled with sand and put in water. This ensures that they disappear, but it means that full sandbags can't be stored ready for flooding. The village hall has also offered storage space if anyone needs to leave their home quickly and will allow their items to be stored in the dry. The properties which were flooded in 2014/15 are known along with the residents and additional support is being given where needed.

The ditches were cleared week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March and most landowners have been very supportive of ensure work is carried out. There have been new residents in the village who were not present during the flooding in 2014/15 and advise and support has been given. All landowners have a responsibility to ensure the free movement of water through their property and this includes those who have land adjacent to the river. Costs of the ditch clearing will be passed to landowners where appropriate and any residents not clearing ditches will be required to do so by the Environment Agency.

#### **1073 Police Update**

PC Reid was not able to attend the meeting but sent the following report to Chairman Preston Candover with Nutley Parish Council Meeting:

Items since previous meeting

18.01 Non dwelling burglary to a garage and outbuilding at Moundsmere

30.01 Criminal damage to crops at Preston Farms – 4 men arrested; dogs seized

31.01 Theft of 3 Calor gas bottles from side of house in Preston Candover

01.02 Car stopped in Preston Candover – driver arrested for drug driving (not from village)

24.02 Theft of parcels from doorstep – house in village

04.03 Fail to stop damage road traffic accident Berrydown Lane, Axford

Obviously keeping an eye on flooding related matters in the Valley area.

Paul has been looking to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive of Hampshire Policing to discuss rural policing as PC Reid's patch is being stretched further up towards Tadley where there are increasing issues of antisocial behaviour. There seems to be a move towards replacing rural police officers with PCSO (Special Officers) but they have limited powers.

**Action:** [Clerk to report any updates at next meeting](#)

#### **1074 Matters arising**

**New Councillors** – Robin has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council as has Rebecca Jennings. Rebecca has advised that she will attend the May meeting and at this point both can be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**Timers for streetlamps** – The Chairman reported that 10 of the 11 street lamps are being fitted with timers, 7 will have a set time being on until midnight and then going off until 5am and 3 will have digital timers which will enable the on/off times to be varied. The streetlamp at the side of the village hall which lights to lay-by will remain on all night. The costs have been agreed at £800 plus labour at £300 plus VAT.

#### **1075 Financial Statement**

The Clerk explained the six payments to be made, they were:

- PAYE (Jan – Mar less credit of £234.90) - £41.20

- Clerk's salary (Jan – Mar) - £548.80
- New plaque for Jubilee tree - £50.80
- Grass cutting (Oct) - £114.00
- Electricity for streetlamps - £295.37
- Digger hire - £120.62

These payments were signed off.

The Clerk had prepared the budget sheet for 2020/21 which the Councillors discussed and agreed, £1,000 was included for flooding along with £3,000 for grants.

The Clerk is taking the accounts to the Internal Auditor on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April and will bring the feedback to the May meeting along with the paperwork to be signed off.

#### **1076 Planning**

There have been no planning applications since the last meeting.

#### **1077 Children's Play Area**

Councillor Owencroft visited the children's play area and the top of the climbing frame is flaking and could cause an injury with children grabbing at it.

Action: Councillor Owencroft to investigate further

The Chairman has put grip tape on the steps of the slide to provide more friction and stop children slipping. The Chairman also suggested that the bench needed some attention and suggested that part of the Youth funds could be used to repair the bench and table.

**Action:** Chairman to bring suggestion to next meeting

#### **1078 Highways**

The Vice Chair has reported the potholes along the B3046 between Preston Candover and Axford and of the six largest the Highways Team have been out and mended two. Paul suggested that if the photos including a tennis ball in the holes and why they are a danger was recorded on a word document and then made into a pdf, that this could then be uploaded to the site to report the pot holes.

**Action:** Vice Chair to follow up with Hampshire Highways

#### **1079 General correspondence**

The Clerk had forwarded the latest information and guidance about the Coronavirus and how to help with spreading the germs. The Councillors also discussed those who may need support if they were required to self-isolate. The community store is a great asset as it allows for any medication to be delivered locally and saves residents from having to go into larger towns.

A number of residents take it in turns to visit the store and pick up items for neighbours ensuring that everyone is well.

**Action:** Councillors to ensure they share any updates on local residents and ensure assistance is provided where necessary.

The Clerk has also had the dates for the Lengthsman visits in 2020/21, they are:

- 14<sup>th</sup> April
- 1<sup>st</sup> July
- 9<sup>th</sup> September
- 11<sup>th</sup> November
- 10<sup>th</sup> February

Robin has suggested that he would look after the Lengthsman duties and provide the main contact between the Parish Council and the Lengthsman.

**Action:** The Chairman and Robin to meet and look at work carried out

**1080 Any other business**

The Chairman presented costs from a local carpenter for two new noticeboards to replace the one in Nutley (by the old Churchyard) and Axford (by the telephone box on the staggered crossroads). For hardwood glazed units with a single door they would be £730 each. If the one at Nutley had not door then it would be £430. The Councillors suggested that further quotes should be obtained including metal notice boards like the one at the Village Hall.

**Action:** Clerk to collect quotes and bring to next meeting

The Vice Chair suggested that the email invite for the Annual Parish Meeting should be circulated with a plan for the meeting to take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Action:** Clerk to email village hall bookings to ensure the date was available

**Action:** Clerk and Vice Chair to look at email and mailing list from 2019.

**1081 Dates of next meeting**

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Annual Parish Meeting (7:30pm)
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (7:30pm) AGM
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (7:30pm)
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 (7:30pm)
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (7:30pm)