

## **PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Date:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Venue:** Preston Candover Village Hall

**Present:** Charles Bradshaw

Vice-Chairman

Alex Taylor

Daphne Prosser

Marion Philips

David Wilson

Rob Marks

PC Andy Reid

7 Members of the Community Store Committee

2 members of the public

**Apologies:** None

#### **387 Chairman's resignation**

The Vice Chairman explained that following the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November the Chairman resigned his position as Chairman and his place of the Parish Council.

#### **388 Process for election of a new Chairman**

The Clerk explained that a new Chairman would be required to be elected by the Council for the remaining period of the 2014/15 year, at which time elections are due to be held for all Parish Council roles.

The Vice Chairman nominated Councillor Taylor as the new Chairman, Councillor Taylor agreed to stand for the role and Councillor Wilson seconded his nomination. The Vice Chairman asked if anyone else wished to stand and there were no other members of the Council who wanted to contest the role. The Parish Council voted unanimously for Councillor Taylor to become Chairman.

The Vice Chairman handed over the Chairmanship of the meeting to the new Chairman.

**Action:** Clerk to inform Basingstoke & Deane of change of Chairman

#### **389 Apologies**

None

#### **390 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Council agreed the minutes as a true record of the last meeting and approved the Chairman to sign them off.

#### **391 Election of new Councillor**

Rob Marks, who was a Councillor until the AGM in May 2014, has agreed to re-join the Parish Council. The Chairman nominated Rob to be co-opted onto the Council and the Vice

Chairman seconded this co-option. The Parish Council voted unanimously for Mr Marks to become a member of the Parish Council.

**392 Matter arising from the previous meeting**

**New Councillors** – The Vice Chairman explained that Tish Owencroft and Arnout Van Der Veer had both expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council to fill the two vacancies. Both were unavailable to attend the December meeting but would be joining the January meeting.

**Quotes for stone work at war memorial** – The Council agreed that this would be put on hold until 2015 when quotes would be requested from Blackwell & Moody and Voke & Beck for having the Portland stone steps dressed to bring it back up to good condition. The plan to move the memorial onto a granite plinth was discussed as the Portland stone was a porous material but it was agreed to be too expensive. Given that the memorial had been in place for 96 years that dressing the existing stone would ensure the war memorial was in good shape for a number of years.

**Action:** Clerk to put provision into the budget plans for work in the 2015/16 financial year.

**Additional Street Lamp** – Councillor Philips explained that she had spoken to SSE about the position and payment for the new street lamp by the lay-by in Preston Candover. Two payments were required, 1 for the supply to be connected and 1 for the post and lamp, with a total cost of £954.64 excluding VAT. The key points from Councillor Philip's discussions with SSE are:-

1. *They propose that they provide a new lantern with photocell control free of charge in compensation for their previous mistake.*
2. *The proposed site of the lamp is the piece of grass adjacent to the phone box and opposite the school entrance. The quotes are based on this. (please consider this in relation to the proposed siting of the bench)*
3. *If we decide to go ahead, we need to send 2 cheques for the different elements of the work: one to SSE Contracting for the lighting column and one to SSE Contract Distribution for the civil and engineering works.*
4. *There will be a time lag between us sending the cheques and them carrying out the works. Once we have sent the cheques, we would need to contact SELM@SSE [Contracting.com](#) to find out when the works will be carried out. (but if we were to send off the cheques now, it is unlikely that the work would be completed this side of the new year).*
5. *Our reference number is 560271. C/E.*
6. *Gary Creasey is retiring at Christmas. His post will be filled by Oliver Coome and we should copy him in to emails from now on. ([oliver.coome@SSE Contracting.com](mailto:oliver.coome@SSE Contracting.com))*

The Vice Chairman agreed that when he spoke to John Sorrell at Basingstoke & Deane about the section 106 money held for highways work, that he would ask that the payment be made to SSE so work could continue. The only issue which needed to be agreed was the ownership of the lay-by, providing this is highways land then the additional street lamp will be fundable from this section 106 money.

**Action:** Vice Chairman to confirm ownership of lay-by and ensure Basingstoke and Deane contact SSE to set up payment of £954.64 direct to them.

It was agreed that if the lay-by is the Parish Council's property then the street lamp would be paid from the Parish Council's general funds and this payment would be made prior to the next meeting to ensure work was carried out as quickly as possible.

**Action:** Vice Chairman to request cheque from Clerk if required.

The Council also discussed the plans to put a path along the back of the lay-by. The quotes for this work were £4,000 and this would also be paid out of the section 106 money if the lay-by is owned by the highways. The Parish Council agreed that if this work could not be paid for out of this section 106 money held by Basingstoke & Deane then the Parish Council would fund the work via the section 106 money for open spaces and the general funds.

The Chairman suggested that an Oak tree for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee would be approximately £450 for an 18' specimen. The Council agreed to this cost as £446.04 had been paid back to the Council in July from the Jubilee funds for a memorial.

**Action:** Chairman and Councillor Prosser to choose and order a tree for planting once the old stump has been removed.

The bench which is to be sited by the telephone box in Preston Candover is to be purchased from the section 106 funds for open spaces. This bench is to have a plaque on it to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

**Action:** Chairman to get a quote for this bench from a local supplier.

The Council agreed that while the fence line at the field next to the village hall was not going to be changed, but as the materials had been purchased that the existing fence and gate be replaced. The Vice Chairman explained that the replacement fencing work should be fundable from the CHEF Grant which had been secured for the improvement work in the centre of the village but this would need to be confirmed by Paul Johnson at Basingstoke & Deane. It was also hoped that the picnic benches for the front of the field next to the village hall could also be paid from this grant.

**Action:** Vice Chairman to secure use of CHEF grant for fencing and benches.

Councillor Prosser presented the work she had done with BT around the exchange including repairing the fence and removing ivy. A small tree has self set very close the substation and Councillor Prosser has given permission for BT to remove this so they can clear the roof of the building.

There are a number of trees in the area by the lay-by and substation which may require a visit from Frank Wright at the tree department in Basingstoke & Deane. The Clerk explained that the tree team often visit the area and once a decision is made on what needs to be removed she can ask for how we proceed which will depend on the size of those to be removed and pruned.

The flower beds in the car park at the village hall are to be discussed with the Village Hall Committee.

The sign for the Tennis Club will need to be moved to the other side of the lane to make way for the new street lamp but this need to be agreed with the Tennis Club Committee.

**Action:** Chairman to speak to both Village Hall and Tennis Club Committee to agree these points.

Summary of which funds are to be used for the work detailed above:-

Payment	First choice for payment pot	Second choice for payment pot
Additional street lamp (£954.64)	Section 106 for highways	Parish Council's funds
Path at back of lay-by (£4,000)	Section 106 for highways	Section 106 for open spaces and Parish Council's funds
Jubilee Oak Tree (£450)	Parish Council's funds	

Bench and plaque by telephone box (£400)	Section 106 for open spaces	
Replacing fences at field next to village hall	CHEF Grant	Work not to be carried out
Picnic tables for field next to village hall	CHEF Grant	Purchase not to be made

**War Memorial at Axford** – The Parish Council agreed that Sovereign are now cutting the grass and keeping the area tidy so no further requirement to look to buy the area.

### 393 Public Forum

Seven members of the Community Store Committee (CSC) joined the meeting to present their plans. Michael Maxwell also joined the meeting as the representative for Lord and Lady Sainsbury. Councillor Marks declared an interest in this project and volunteered to step out of the meeting, the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were happy that Councillor Marks remained in the meeting.

Bob Wood, the Chairman of the CSC introduced his team and asked that the Parish Council had seen the business plan which was circulated prior to the November meeting.

Mr Woods explained that there are 300+ successful community stores across the country and that the CSC had visited 3 local such stores in Sussex to get an understanding of the model. The Plunkett Foundation provides support to this type of project and the CSC has secured finance from them and the County Council. The store would employ 1 or 2 permanent staff and then there are 40 volunteers who will man the store, make deliveries, etc. The plan would also include a coffee shop which would have wifi so home workers and local residents could meet and visit the cafe during the day.

The village survey which was sent out by the Parish Council had 130 responses which CSC explained showed support for a Community Store. There are a number of sites which the CSC is investigating but the Field next to the village hall is seen as being the best suited. As this land is owned by Lord Sainsbury the CSC also explained that they had met with Lord Sainsbury and had got initial approval for the plans. Mr Maxwell expressed concern as he was not aware of this approval having been given and that he had been asked to report back about the feasibility of the plans and the community support for the project.

The CSC explained that the survey had shown support but Mr Maxwell asked how specific the question was about the site and size of the store. Mr Maxwell also asked how many of those surveyed were in areas where they were likely to shop elsewhere such as Alresford, as this would impact the validity of the feedback. Councillor Philips suggested that the survey had not given a very positive message of support for the store and suggested that more work would need to be done to get a clear picture of what the communities thoughts were and then the Parish Council would work to support that view.

There has also been concern raised by members of the community and the Village Hall Committee about losing part of the field which is used for functions and events in the village such as the fete and bonfire party. The Vice Chairman has drawn a scale map of the area and marked the 1500 square foot building to demonstrate how much of the field would be lost. The CSC felt that the timber and glass building style being considered would enhance the field and add interest to the centre of the village.

The Parish Council asked about the other sites which had been considered, the CSC explained that as the preferred site that energy had been focused on this area.

The existing store was discussed and Councillor Marks explained that it was not used as much as it might be because of its size and that it couldn't provide all that the community needed.

Mr Edward Dawson from Manor Farm felt that there was a very interesting discussion and that a campaign should be launched to gain support in the community for the idea and ensure the consultation is carried out as widely as possible.

It was agreed that Michael Maxwell would take the business plan and the notes for the meeting back to Lord Sainsbury to discuss and get his view about using the field as the site for the project. The CSC would then be able to design a process for getting the community feedback so the Parish Council and Lord Sainsbury could be shown a clear indication of the support for the project and then it could be driven forward. The Vice Chairman suggested that canvassing the community should be carried out by an independent party to ensure a fair assessment of feeling was recorded.

The Chairman thanked the CSC for their presentation and for answering all the questions and looked forward to an update.

#### **394 Police Update**

PC Reid reported the following update:-

- A suspicious van seen at Herriard, PC Reid stopped the van in Preston Candover after the call.

#### **395 Financial statement**

The following payment were presented by the Clerk and agreed by the Parish Council:-

- £120.00 – Grass cutting at War Memorial
- £396.00 - Grass cutting at play area and field next to village hall
- £235.60 – PAYE
- £354.30 – Clerk's salary for October to December

The Clerk has received an invoice from Jim Kimber for work at the lay-by for £1,402.80 which the Vice Chairman suggested should be payable from the CHEF Grant so this cheque was not signed. Mr Keith Irons had also purchased 20 fence posts on behalf of the Parish Council for the fence work and had invoiced the Parish Council for £204.00 which again was hoped to be paid from the CHEF Grant. There was also a charge of £10.00 from Mr Irons for a consultation with his solicitor about getting affidavits for the right of way to the tennis club. This payment was held until the remainder of the invoice was agreed how it would be paid. The Parish Council agreed to spend the majority of the January meeting on budgets. In preparation for this the Clerk is to send out Grant applications to those organisations who usually receive a grant and also to ask Jim Kimber and Brian Hills to quote for the grass cutting work in the Parish.

**Action:** Clerk to send out grant letters

**Action:** Clerk to ask for quotes for grass cutting

The Chairman is not a signatory on the bank account and Mr Irons needs to be removed from the account.

**Action:** Clerk to change bank mandate

- 396 Planning**  
Tree work at the old Church in Preston Candover to pollard a Horse Chestnut
- 397 Council Property**  
Nothing further to add
- 398 Section 106 funds**  
The Parish Council felt the trial of the speed awareness device had gone well and would like to purchase the lease for £200 per year.  
**Action:** Clerk to investigate how to sign up and how long the device would be in place for this money.
- 399 Flooding**  
The Vice Chairman explained that all the drains had been cleared and that the Highways team were constructing a report of all the work to be completed which should be delivered to the Parish Council mid January. This report will detail all the major engineering works still to be completed in the valley.
- 400 Valley & Council Website**  
It was suggested that the website was not fit for purpose and that the Parish Council should look at a different option. Councillor Wilson suggested getting a student to set up and manage the site as part of a project. It was agreed that this would be decided in 2015.
- 401 Play areas**  
The Chairman reported that none of the areas had got any worse but that the 2 boards at the skate ramp would need to be fixed.  
**Action:** Chairman to get quote for cost of boards
- 402 Recreation Ground**  
The windows are being fitted for the changing rooms at the recreation ground, this is being paid for by a member of the community and has improved moral within the group who maintain the football pitch that things are moving forward.
- 403 Highways**  
The reflectors on the Wield Road still need to be replaced and Councillor Prosser has contacted highways about getting this completed.  
The road at the Wield Road junction is still in need of repair following the flooding last winter and the pavements from this junction to the school are now also breaking up, again Councillor Prosser has a job number logged with highways.  
The bin has arrived for the lay-by.  
All the road signs in the Parish need cleaning and Councillor Prosser is to report this back to Highways.  
**Action:** Councillor Prosser to log a job for getting signs cleaned.

**404 Rights of Way**

The grant has been allocated to the Parish Council for the map board; the bid will pay £412 and the Parish Council need to contribute £312 in cash and £100 in labour. The layout of the map requires 6 photographs along with the 7 walks marked onto the Ordnance Survey map. Councillor Philips agreed to start work on the map and Councillor Marks agreed to work with his daughter to take the photos required.

**Action:** Councillor Philips and Marks to report progress at next meeting.

**405 General Correspondence**

The Clerk had received a Christmas card from the Major of Basingstoke.

**406 Any other business**

The Vice Chairman asked if the bonfire had been cleared

It was agreed that it would be left and the remaining material would be burnt along with the Christmas trees in January.

**407 Date of next meeting**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, at Preston Candover Village Hall at 7:30pm.