

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 17 th November 2014.	Time:	7:30pm
Venue:	Preston Candover Village Hall		
Present:	Keith Irons Charles Bradshaw Alex Taylor Daphne Prosser Marion Philips PC Andy Reid Adam Alexander	Chairman Vice-Chairman Village Hall Committee	
Apologies:	Wendy Simson David Wilson		

368 Apologies

The Clerk passed on apologies from Councillor Wilson and the Clerk who had informed the Council that they would not be able to attend the meeting.

369 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.

370 Public Forum

The Chairman invited the Adam Alexander from the Village Hall Committee to speak and was asked if the Parish Council had applied to move the bridleway gate. The Chairman explained that they did not need to apply for permission and the gate would simply be moved to its new position. There was also a concern about the lower fence on the roadside as it may be a hazard for children and animals using the field and running out onto the main road. The Chairman explained that the plans for the field had been publicised for some months and the plans had been discussed and agreed. There have been no comments except for those raised by the Village Hall Committee which had been discussed when members of this group attended the Parish Council meetings. The fence plans were then looked at and discussed to ensure all the Parish Council and the member of the community were all under the same understanding. The post and rail fence was being moved back to inline with the current fence line where the bridle gate is. The short post and chain fence would then go along the roadside which would then create a seating area at the roadside. The members of the community expressed concern on behalf of a number of people and the Chairman agreed that once the work had been completed that if the community did not approve it then alterations could be made.

Councillor Prosser explained that she had been told by several people that they did not like or want the plans to go ahead. The field is used for the fete and losing this area at the front

of the field will reduce the amount of stalls on the field. The Chairman said that the area at the front of the field could still be used by the fete.

The work carried out to date was to remove all the rails from the fence which was not in the original plan and so the Chairman planned to speak to Michael Maxwell about getting this put back.

The member of the community expressed concern about the fact that the plans were not formally discussed and any points raised were not taken seriously. There were also a number of versions of the plans which had been changed without consultation. The Chairman explained that the plans had been amended after conversations with the Village Hall Committee including taking out the access route round the back of the village hall and ensuring that the access to the field remained along the roadside.

The Village Hall believes that the land around hall is the responsibility of the village hall and should not have been included on the lease which has been signed by the Parish Council. The Village Hall Committee have asked their solicitor to look at who all the paperwork in order that a full understanding can be reached.

Councillor Philips explained that her understanding was that there was concern from the Village Hall Committee about the access staying at the front of the field and the Tennis Club about the hedge round the tennis courts and both these concerns had been removed from the proposal.

The Vice Chairman asked the member of community to summarize his concern. The main concern was that the area at the front with the small fence was a hazard for small children and animals running out into the road.

The Chairman agreed that the views had been taken on board and would be debated by the Council.

371 Police Update

PC Reid reported the following updates:-

- A suspicious 4x4 at Preston Oakhill – this was found to be all in order
- Activated burglar alarm
- Theft of a battery and some fuel
- Suspicious car at Church Lane
- Complaint of hedge trimming being left on the road

The meeting about the changes to rural policing was discussed; PC Reid explained that Jonathan Moseley was planning further meetings with the authorities to find a way forward. The Chairman explained that he had heard that the East Hampshire has purchased 3 number plate recognition cameras. The Chairman asked why money was being spent on this type of equipment.

It was also raised about the Parish Council's contributing the cost of keeping a Police Officer in the valley, The Chairman explained that if each of the 10 Council's contributed £1,000 that this would only represent 20% of the cost of an officer. PC Reid explained that these discussions were being had by Jonathan Moseley.

The Vice Chairman explained that he was most concerned about PC Reid not having his police vehicle in the community and having to drive to Talley to collect it. The presence of the Police Car in the valley was worth having in the community. PC Reid explained that on his day off he often parked it at the village hall.

Councillor Prosser asked if the school had been informed that parents should not be allowed to park between the buses, PC Reid explained that he had raised it with Basingstoke & Deane and that he would be holding them responsible when an accident does happen as he has raised this on so many occasions. This is another concern about the moving of the fences at the field as it is a very dangerous corner. The Chairman has asked the school for data on the number of children at the school who are entitled to use the school buses and how many do, he is still waiting for this information, however anecdotal evidence seems to show that a high number of children are from outside the catchment area and are being brought to school.

The Vice Chairman asked PC Reid for his thoughts about the changes to area at the front of the field and it becoming a danger with the lower fence. PC Reid voiced a concern about drivers parking on the area. The Chairman restated the plans for the new fence, the seating area and opening up the centre of the village. Councillor Taylor explained that he too had received negative feedback about the plans and in particular not wanting a “twee” post and chain fence in this area.

The Vice Chairman suggested that the new fence be used to replace the current fence and for its position to remain as it currently stands. Given the concerns and from a public liability point of view as the legal officer for the Council, he suggested that he would back not changing the position of the fence but replacing it in its existing position.

Councillor Prosser suggested that she did not feel that her concerns raised at previous meetings had been heard and that she intended to stand down at the next AGM in May 2015 having served on the Council for 39 years.

Councillor Philips explained that she had met with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and that changes had been made to accommodate the concerns raised i.e. the access to the field via the rear of the hall. Councillor Philips explained that she was concerned that these new concerns raised this evening had not previously been discussed. However, given the issue with the risk of an accident that she would not be prepared to continue with this project and felt that the Parish Council should reconsider.

Councillor Taylor explained that The Chairman had been misunderstood, however that changing the fence line would cause bad feeling within the community.

The Chairman explained that the fence rails were being reused and that this wasn't very attractive. The Chairman explained that if the Council wished to change the plans in light of the public concern then this could be done. The Vice Chairman suggested a vote of the Council to decide the way forward, the proposal being that the fence not be moved but the money used to buy and install a new fence in the same position as the current fence.

Councillor Philips asked about the grant from Basingstoke and Deane and the Chairman confirmed that it would be lost as the whole scheme was not completed.

The Chairman suggested that if the Parish Council can't manage the field in the way that they wish to, then the lease should be given back to Lord Sainsbury.

Councillor Bradshaw proposed, and Councillor Prosser seconded, a resolution to abandon the Village Improvement Scheme and to restore the roadside fence to its original position. Those voting in favour were Councillors Bradshaw, Prosser, Phillips and Taylor. The Chairman opposed the resolution. The resolution was approved.

Parking and speeding issues – The Chairman has written to the school and is still waiting for a response.

New Councillor – No volunteers at the moment. Councillor Philips suggested that she would not stand at the AGM in May and so additional members of the Council were urgently required.

Road sign in Axford – Vice Chairman trying to get hold of Steve Goodall to talk about a number of matters.

War Memorial – Nothing would be done prior to 11th November but a larger project was required and a grant may be possible. It needs to be moved onto a granite slab which is a costly piece of work.

373 Financial statement

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

- £120.00 – Grass cutting at War Memorial
- £170.30 – Street light repair
- £100.00 – grant for New Years Drinks Party

The Chairman questioned about the precept received in April as the accounts are showing £3,000 where it should be £3,500.

374 Planning

None

375 Council Property

All Ok with the bus shelter

376 Section 106 funds

The trial on the speed indication device is for 1 month and is set at 33mph and the Council agreed that it was a great asset to the village. The Chairman explained that it was available on loan from Basingstoke and Deane and so they were not keen to sign off on section 106 money to be used to purchase the units. It is £120 per month to hire. It has a battery which if the Council purchase a unit then it would need to be recharged.

The Chairman has tried to speak to Andrew Kettleworth, of the Basingstoke Highways Department about the 40mph speed limit from Preston Candover to Axford but he has yet to have a response.

The Chairman raised the idea of the Community Speed Watch system and suggested the Parish Council may wish to relook at the project.

The £18,000 of section 106 money which is allocated to highways needs to be spent or may be swept up into the wider budget and the Parish Council could lose it. The Chairman offered the following suggestion to spend the money:-

- Another street light on the pole by the school flashing light sign as it is dark in that area.
- A pavement to extend from Stenbury Drive in front of the old garage area.
- Footpath along from the war memorial towards Chilton Candover. There were concerns about the width of the road and also the number of residents that end of the village to justify it.

- The Vice Chairman suggested that he still hoped that the money could be used for flood work. An example would be a ditch along the right hand side of the road going towards Chilton Candover.

377 Flooding

The Vice Chairman explained that the Candover Brook officially springs at the wooded area on the left hand side between Preston Candover and Chilton Candover. This is important because from this point down the valley it is legally considered to be a main river and so the Environment Agency will carry out work on the water course but upstream of this point it only a ditch and is treated very differently and requires riparian responsibility.

There is a meeting about what those riparian responsibilities are on 25th November with the Agency, where what is required for residents next to the ditch will need to do.

Preston Candover is in a natural bowl and there is a huge watershed which drains into the valley.

378 Valley & Council Website

The Chairman has put a number of pieces of information onto the site, he has also given the representative from Candovers Parish Council instruction on how to update the site so it is hoped that more information will be logged. It gets 30-40 hits a day.

A comment had come through from a group who buy oil on a group basis and get a discount and they asked if they could put something on the site.

379 Play areas

Everything has been pressure washed and is up to date.

The sign saying “no ball games” needs to be taken down as it has not been authorised by the Council and needs to be taken down.

Skate Park, the Chairman asked how many people used it. Councillor Taylor explained that this too had been power washed and the 2 new boards required were available at builder’s merchants so it would look at costs. The Chairman asked if anyone was using it and if not, ask Basingstoke and Deane to take it away and use the money for something else. Councillor Taylor suggested that as the facility was there that it didn’t cost much money that it be left for the community.

380 Recreation Ground

The Chairman suggested a wood cladding for the building including shutters for the windows to protect them. Councillor Prosser explained that the current people looking after the building were possibility looking to stand down and then the football wouldn’t continue.

There was also the option to increase the size of building but this would be out of the section 106 money for open spaces.

The Council asked about the public liability insurance and the Chairman confirmed that this covered the Field next to the Village Hall as well as the other areas in the village.

381 Highways

The Council discussed the salt bin and it was agreed that to move it would be difficult as it is now full of sand. If the highways department come to do any of the work on the culverts it was agreed that they may be able to move it.

Councillor Prosser asked for a road sweeper to clear the Wield Road.

The piece of road by the Wield Road junction has still not been repaired.

The road sign at end of Dummer Lane is still missing and has been for 2 years.

Councillor Prosser is going to contact the highways department about getting all the signs clean and repaired.

382 Rights of Way

No news on the map board sign grant.

Still waiting on news about Oak Hill being closed.

The Chairman quoted from the House of Commons Library which is given as advice to members of Parliament about how rights of way are established, the most of common way that rights of way come into being is by presumed dedication, there is a long established principle that long use by the public without challenge can constitute evidence that the landowner can evidence the right of way. The Council discussed the right of way to the tennis club and possible steps to ensure that this access is maintained for the community.

383 Shop Update

The Community Store Committee are attending the next meeting with an update.

384 General Correspondence

The Chairman mentioned the letter from the school about using the field next to the village hall for parking and the Parish Council's agreement to decline the application.

385 Any other business

The Chairman asked how long it should take for the rest of the bonfire to be removed from the field next to village hall as the area in Old Alresford has already been cleared the turf re-laid.

Action: Councillor Taylor to ask the Village Hall Committee about the timeframes for its removal.

Councillor Prosser asked about getting the seat placed on the path level by the telephone box, it was agreed that they would need to look into digging out the bank to put it into place.

Councillor Philips asked about if anyone knew about the play which was put on every year in Preston Candover called "Christmas Boys". It was to be recorded in the minutes that we have a copy for the records.

386 Date of next meeting

Monday 15th December 2014, at Preston Candover Village Hall at 6:30pm.