

PRESTON CANDOVER AND NUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Monday 20th July 2020 **Time:** 7:30pm

Venue: Via skype

Present: Paul Sadler Chairman
Ruth Chattell Vice Chair
Rebecca Kennelly
Tish Owencroft
Robin Human
Wendy Simson Clerk

Apologise: Daphne Prosser

1096 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Paul Gaskell contacted the Clerk to join the meeting, however, was not able to access via the link sent. Councillor Paul Gaskell is a Borough Councillor for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. He is also Chair of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee. Councillor Gaskell was particularly interested in the Farleigh Wallop development plans, flood mitigation plan, and any rural policing issues, it was agreed that the Clerk would forward on minutes.

1097 Apologies for absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillor Prosser as she was not able to access Skype. Councillor Prosser asked why the meeting was not being held face to face at the village hall, the Clerk explained that current guidance recommended that public meetings should continue to be held via virtual platforms as the risk assessment and supporting actions to protect the public and Councillors were not in place with third parties including the Village hall.

1098 Minutes of the last meeting

The Councillors confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting held on Monday 18th May 2020. The Clerk had provided a copy of the minutes for the Chairman to sign.

1099 Police Update

PC Reid was not able to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

Preston Candover

- 13.06 Abandoned 999 call on B3046 in Preston Candover – pocket dial
- 04.07 Youths congregating at Recreation Ground – suitable advice given
- 17.07 Reports of travellers with pony and traps racing on the B3046 around the Candovers

Crime for 2020 – 1 x Assault allegation

Nutley

No reports – no crime

Axford

- 27.05 Injury road traffic collision Dummer Road – motorcycle and trailer – Air Ambulance attended

Crime for 2020 – Nil reported

The Chairman passed on thanks to PC Reid for all his work in the community to protect.

1100 Matters arising

Covid19 update – The changes in Government guidance has meant the community has been moving about more but support is still being offered to those who require it.

Action: Councillors to ensure any issues are raised with the Chairman so action can be taken quickly to support.

The Councillors discussed setting up a community activity, it was agreed that something based around harvest would be fun.

Action: Chairman to collate ideas and report back to Council mid-August.

Annual Parish Meeting – the Clerk has provisionally booked the village hall for Wednesday 7th October; however, it will be dependent on Government guidance at that time as to if the meeting goes ahead.

New Noticeboards for Nutley & Axford – The Councillors have approved the quote for two new noticeboards from A D Boucher, a local carpenter at £250 each from 3 quotes supplies by local suppliers. The new boards will be treated softwood with heavy duty Perspex and are predicted to last at least 15 years. The Councillors discussed including the name of the Parish Council at the top of the boards, there are several options including:

- Brass letter - £131 per board
- Carved letters - £73.99 & £85.99 plus £6.99 delivery (the prices vary as both boards will be the same size, but one will be landscape and one will be portrait, so the lengths of the name plate is different)
- Painted letters - TBC

It was agreed that Councillor Owencroft would speak to the A D Boucher about adding in the name and costs.

Action: Councillor Owencroft to report back to Council with costs.

The new noticeboards should be completed by 1st August.

1101 Financial Statement

The Clerk informed the Councillors that payment for the information board in the old Churchyard in Nutley had been signed off via email. The new board had been installed, thanks was given to Councillor Owencroft for organising the refurbishment at a cost of £150.00.

There were several payments to be made at the meeting these were:

- Grass cutting (May & June) - £456.00
- Electric for streetlamps (Jan-Jun) - £377.08
- Clerk's salary (Apr – June) - £471.60
- PAYE (Apr – Jun) - £117.90
- Internal audit - £130.00

These were all approved by the Councillors.

The Council have received a Grant application from Victim Support for £50, the Councillors approved this.

Action: Clerk to write cheque and circulate for signature.

1102 Internal Audit

The Internal Auditor has inspected the paperwork and processes for 2019/20 and his letter was forwarded to the Councillors prior to the meeting, his three action points are as follows:

1. **Website** – Following on from my comments last year I understand that you have set up a new website using the provider GoDaddy. Unfortunately, when you Google Preston Candover Parish Council you only get the “old” site. You must use another search engine such as Yahoo to find the new website. As Google is probably the most popular search engine you need to get this rectified ASAP>
2. **Minutes** – Last Year I raised a question of your Annual Parish Council Meeting. My report was after that meeting in 2019 BUT the minutes remain unsigned. Please remember that they do not become “Minutes” until signed – they are just the Clerk’s notes of the Meeting up to that point. There were also several issues with the Minutes – July: the last page should have a full signature; 18th November and 9th March – the first page has not been initialled.
3. **Public Inspection Notice** – In order to test compliance with the Council’s requirement for the exercise of public rights, I have to check the Council’s calculation of its public rights period and the Council’s website to confirm that the required items have been published. The External Auditor has confirmed that, in order to pass this test, a Council must be able to demonstrate via its website audit trail that all the required information was uploaded the day before the public rights period commenced and that information remained on the website for the duration of the period. The Council’s website does not have this facility, have, therefore, assessed the test as “not covered”.

Councillor Owencroft asked if the “old” website could be turned off, this would then ensure the new site would be easier to find. The Clerk explained that the “old” site covers a variety of groups and activities and a local resident was planning to maintain the site for general purposes. A link would be inserted from the “old” site to the new Parish Council website to allow visitors to navigate to the correct pages.

The Clerk also explained that the Public Notice Inspection test is a new requirement for the 2019/20 audit and that going forward Parish and Town Councils were being asked to take a screen shot of the notice when it was uploaded and removed to fulfil this requirement in future audits.

The Council then answered the questions on page 5 of the AGAR form and the Chairman signed off the hard copy. The Clerk explained that this would now be uploaded to the website and External Audit team. A small sample (5%) of Council with income and expenditure of under £25,000 are picked for audit by the External Auditors but unless Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council’s accounts are chosen then the audit of the 2019/20 paperwork is completed.

1103 Flooding

Jantiene sent her apologies to the meeting and asked that her update be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Hampshire County Council have carried out extensive work in Ellisfield to clear the flood pits at Green Lane. This will mean that flash flooding as experienced in February will not cause a river running along the Ellisfield Road and into Axford where it has in the past flooded homes. At the next meeting in September, Jantiene will be able to give an update on progress on work in Preston Candover and the Parish Council can ensure any work required to clear ditches is booked.

Action: Clerk to ensure flooding is included on next agenda

1104 Planning

There has been an application for tree work at Sumner House, the Chairman has spoken to residents and they are comfortable with the work to be done.

1105 Children's Play Area

The play area has now been reopened following an inspection by the team from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The Freddie Osgood Memorial Bench still needs a clean, apart from this action the equipment is all in good order.

Action: Councillor Human to add to Lengthsman list for next visit.

1106 Lengthsman

The Lengthsman visited on 1st July and met with Councillor Human who provided them with a list of work to be carried out including the bus shelter by the Purefoy Arms, the grass by the bench at the village hall, the layby and the large branch in the ditch. All the work was carried out except the branch which he will look to remove.

The initially list for the next visit on 9th September is:

- Clean bench at play area
- Replacement posts at war memorial, the Councillors agreed to get quotes to replace 3 posts in each of the 3 corners of the green with larger (100x100mm) posts and then paint all.
- Litter picking
- Verges
- Ditches

Action: Councillor Human to speak to the Lengthsman in advance of next visit to understand additional costs of post work.

Action: Chairman to speak to local contractors about posts to collect 3 quotes before a decision is made about allocating the work.

1107 Highways

The Chairman apologised for not having reported the potholes at the Green Lane junction. The Dummer Road from Axford has been resurfaced, this road regularly floods in the winter areas.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways to ensure ditches next to resurfaced road have been dug out.

1108 Rights of Way

The finger post on the path above the vineyard has split and needs to be replaced. Councillor Kennelly asked how this was reported and who was responsible. The Clerk explained that 25% of the Lengthsman money should be spent on Rights of Way so it could be added to the next visit. The Clerk also sent a link to Councillor Kennelly which allows broken signs to be reported, the link is:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

Action: Councillors Kennelly and Human to lease about who will fix the post.

1109 General correspondence

The Chairman circulated information about a Garden Village at Farleigh Wallop including 2,500 new homes. The initial plans have been very well prepared, and the developer is looking to get it included in the Borough Council plan. There are concerns about the infrastructure

required to support these new properties and the impact on the surrounding villages including Preston Candover, Axford and Nutley.

There are several other development projects in the area including:

- M3 J6 Moto Service Station. B&DBC have received letters from prominent authorities which basically state any issues raised for this development can be mitigated against. Issues include increased traffic, increased surface water drainage into the River Loddon, Utilities access. It was also stressed the importance of an emergency access road which will effectively link J6 to Dickens Lane.
- M3 J7 Office and warehouse development
- M3 J7 New Hospital
- Potential Western Relief Road in Basingstoke

The Chairman suggested engaging with STAND - Stand up for North Hampshire Downs. General opinion is to try to build up 'a critical mass of objection'.

Councillor Gaskell is trying to engage with the Hook Action Group who successfully stopped the 850-house development between Hook and Newnham for advice and recommendations.

Action: Chairman to lease with Councillor Gaskell and report back to Parish Councillors

1110 Dates of next meeting

- Monday 21st September 2020 (7:30pm)
- Monday 16th November 2020 (7:30pm)

It was agreed that the Council would follow Government guidance about the safest format for the next meeting.