

Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: Sharon Anderson, Julie Buckland, Matt Burleigh, Jane Clark, Andy Hill, Ali Morecroft, Margaret Trinder (Chairman)

In Attendance: District Councillor Joe Graziano and Lisa Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

- 5.1) (Agenda 1) To receive and accept apologies for absence**
None
- 5.2) (Agenda 2) Chairman's Remarks**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Cllrs to declare any interests.
- 5.3) (Agenda 3) Declarations of Interest**
None
- 5.4) (Agenda 4) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting**
These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.
- 5.5) (Agenda 5) To consider matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda**
Bunyan's Dell: The Parish Council approached PFP to ask if Bunyan's Dell could be roped off only in the bluebell season. Their reply is that they prefer it to be roped off throughout the year as it provides a good guide to where the footpath is and what is private land. They point out that as landowners they are answerable to both Natural England and DEFRA in ensuring that the SSSI status of the wood, which includes Bunyan's Dell, is kept in good condition. Increased footfall in the last few years has contributed to a deterioration in the vegetation and this needs to be allowed time to recover.
- 5.6) (Agenda 6) Comments from the general public and press (15 mins)**
None.
- 5.7) (Agenda 7) County and District Update (15 mins)**
Cllr Graziano addressed the meeting:
1. FCC which was Urbaser will hand over the waste contract to Veolia next year. There will be a new bin for soft plastics.
 2. Due to the recent flooding there will be sandbags available for those who need them if it occurs again.
 3. Fly-tipping is still an issue – residents should always report any that they see.
 4. Bin rationalisation is being carried out by North Herts. Preston will lose bins due to the scheme.
 5. The masterplan for the East of Luton development will be presented to North Herts on the 9th December.
 6. If Preston wish to be included in a 20mph speed limit initiative then we are to inform Cllr Graziano and Cllr Barnard.
- 5.8) (Agenda 8) Planning**
7. To consider any new planning applications
24/01604/FP – Temple Dinsley, (formerly The Princess Helena College). Amended Information. Members **AGREED** the response to the changes made to the application with agreed changes to be finalised by email.

8. To note decisions and appeals:
None.
9. To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council:
None.

5.9) (Agenda 9) To review a contribution to the Church grass cutting for 2025-2026

1. Members **AGREED** to liaise with the Church Committee informing them of a lower grass cutting quote from R J Dawes.
2. Members **AGREED** to donate £350 towards grass cutting at the church next year.

Action: The Chair will liaise with the Church regarding the grass cutting.

5.10) Finance

3. Members noted and authorised the payments and bank reconciliation shown in Annex 1.
4. Members **NOTED** the 2024/2025 Budget.
5. Members considered and **AGREED** the draft budget for 2025/2026.
6. Members **AGREED** to defer the decision for the precept until the January meeting..

5.11) (Agenda 11) Information Boards

1. Members **AGREED** minor changes to the information board design and to go ahead to the next stage.
2. Cllr Clark will liaise with the designers and producers of the boards.

Action: Cllr Clark to take the construction of the Information Boards to the next stage.

5.12) (Agenda 12) Pond Maintenance

Max Boreham has carried out maintenance of the pond.

5.13) (Agenda 13) Church Meadow

None.

5.14) (Agenda 14) Community DriveSafe

There are 9 volunteers signed up to the scheme, including the 2 lead volunteers. The lead volunteers have to be trained before the project can start. They are waiting to receive a training date from the Police contact.

5.15) (Agenda 15) Trees

1. Damaged tree on the Green: members **AGREED** to monitor the damage to the tree after receiving advice from Louis Harrington-Smith.
2. Trees on the Recreation Ground: Louis Harrington-Smith will have a look at the trees and carry out any work necessary.

5.16) (Agenda 16) Village Hall Update

1. The Village Hall has been decorated, new heating installed and an internet connection provided with the password available to hirers.
2. The pre-school will operate from 9am to 5pm to make it more convenient for working parents.
3. The Village Hall Committee hopes to recruit a new member to be responsible for the technology aspects of running the hall.
4. Cllr Graziano will speak to Active Together asking them to contact the hall with a view to holding classes.

5.17) (Agenda 17) To review the Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting Consultation and agree a council response.

Members **AGREED** to respond in favour of Remote Attendance in emergency situations, and of proxy voting. The Chair and the clerk will liaise in regards to a response.

5.18) (Agenda 18) Clerk's Report (information only)

Our application for a Southern Rural grant for a defibrillator cabinet for the Pavilion has reached the second stage. Cllrs Buckland and Clark will attend the Southern Rural Meeting to present our grant request.

5.19) (Agenda 19) Hertfordshire Highways Update

1. Trees on Back Lane covered in ivy belong to Highways and will be contacted regarding making them safe.
2. The road at Crunnells Green that is sinking and has issues with large potholes has got worse. Cllr Graziano asked that photos be sent to him so that he can push for it to be fixed. The council will continue to report the issue.

5.20) (Agenda 20) Parish Paths Update

The posts for No Footway signs have been installed on Chequers Lane.

5.21) (Agenda 21) Pavilion and Recreation Ground

Cess pit CCTV investigation booked for the 8th January.

5.22) (Agenda 21) Correspondence received

None.

5.23) (Agenda 2) Matters for future consideration

The meeting closed at 9.57pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Thursday 16th January 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Parish of Preston

ANNEX 1

Preston Parish Council PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

2 December 2024 (2024-2025)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
51	Audit	18/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-051	Payment - External Audit	PKF Littlejohn	S	-315.00	-63.00	-378.00
52	Scribe Accounting	18/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-052	Payment - Scribe Accounting	Starboard Systems Ltd	S	-273.60	-54.72	-328.32
53	Grants Issued	18/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-053	Payment - Village Voices Grant	Preston Village Voices	Z	-430.00		-430.00
54	Electricity	22/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-054	Payment - Electricity	E.on	L	-100.14	-5.01	-105.15
55	HMRC	24/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-055	Payment - HMRC PAYE Nat Ins	HMRC	Z	-31.60		-31.60
57	Salary	25/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-057	Payment - Salary	Staff	Z	-589.81		-589.81
56	Work From Home Allowance	25/10/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-056	Payment - Work From Home Al	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
58	Refuse Collection	05/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-058	Payment - Refuse Collection	NHDC	Z	-146.12		-146.12
59	Recreation Ground Maintenanc	07/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-059	Payment - Manhole Cover and	Frank Gormill	Z	-36.02		-36.02
60	Recreation Ground Maintenanc	07/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-060	Payment - Manhole cover repai	Travis Perkins	S	-19.98	-4.00	-23.98
59	Tree Maintenance	07/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-059	Payment - Manhole Cover and	Frank Gormill	Z	-350.00		-350.00
61	Domain / emails	12/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-061	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-6.49	-1.30	-7.79
61	Domain / emails	12/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-061	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-11.99	-2.40	-14.39
61	Cybercheck	12/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-061	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-10.00	-2.00	-12.00
62	Electricity	21/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-062	Payment - Electricity	E.on	L	-111.28	-5.56	-116.84
63	Water	25/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-063	Payment - Water	Castle Water	Z	-115.04		-115.04
64	Salary	25/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-064	Payment - Salary	Staff	Z	-487.29		-487.29
65	Work From Home Allowance	25/11/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-065	Payment - Work From Home Al	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
19	Interest	02/12/2024		Barclays Business 1	R25-019	Receipt - Bank Interest	Barclays Bank	Z	39.61		39.61
20	Interest	02/12/2024		Barclays Business 2	R25-020	Receipt - Bank Interest	Barclays Bank	Z	329.14		329.14
Total									-2,717.61	-137.99	-2,855.60

Parish of Preston

2 December 2022

Preston Parish Council

Prepared by: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Date: _____

	Bank Reconciliation at 02/12/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		97,891.65
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 02/12/2024		19,305.12
			117,196.77
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 02/12/2024		10,319.23
A	Cash in Hand 02/12/2024 (per Cash Book)		106,877.54
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	02/12/2024	0.00
	Barclays Current Account	02/12/2024	7,907.70
	Barclays Business 1	02/12/2024	10,912.01
	Barclays Business 2	02/12/2024	88,057.83
			106,877.54
	Less unrepresented payments		
			106,877.54
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		106,877.54
	A = B Checks out OK		