

# Parish of Preston

## PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Sharon Anderson, Julie Buckland, Jane Clark, Ali Morecroft, Margaret Trinder (Chairman)

**In Attendance:** One member of public and Lisa Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

- 6.1) (Agenda 1) To receive and accept apologies for absence**  
Cllr Burleigh sent his apologies due to work commitments. Members **AGREED** to accept his apology.
- 6.2) (Agenda 2) Chairman's Remarks**  
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Cllrs to declare any interests.
- 6.3) (Agenda 3) Declarations of Interest**  
None
- 6.4) (Agenda 4) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting**  
These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.
- 6.5) (Agenda 5) To consider matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda**
1. The application to the Southern Rural committee for a defibrillator cabinet was successful. In addition County Councillor David Barnard agreed to pay the installation costs.
  2. Highways have been in contact with the resident who reported the trees on Back Lane to inform her that they are not Highways trees. The matter has been referred to the Parish Council. The Chairman has contacted PFP who are the owners.
  3. Preston Village Voices have purchased the portable keyboard and it has been used several times at Christmas events in the village.
- 6.6) (Agenda 6) Comments from the general public and press (15 mins)**  
None.
- 6.7) (Agenda 7) County and District Update (15 mins)**  
None.
- 6.8) (Agenda 8) Planning**
4. To consider any new planning applications  
24/02230/FPH - 2 Lodge Temple Dinsley, St Albans Highway, Preston, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7RU. Members **AGREED** to support this application, the clerk will make the submission.
  5. To note decisions and appeals:  
None.
  6. To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council:  
Temple Dinsley Application: The Chairman reported to the meeting:
    - The application will go to the Planning Committee on Thursday 30 January. Members **AGREED** to register to speak in support of the application.
    - Highways have been pushing for footpaths on School Lane and Hitchin Road for health and safety reasons which will be paid for by the developer and will meet

section 278 of Highways Act. Preliminary plans are being drawn up. Highways are taking into account PC suggestion for environmentally friendly materials

- Section 106 contributions will be concentrated on community sporting facilities at Temple Dinsley
- Sport England supports what will be delivered for the long term benefit of the community
- Contributions to the cricket club are separate from the Parish Council but there will be some funding towards the pavilion and the creation of the second pitch at Temple Dinsley. This means that there will be no funding towards a new pavilion at the Recreation Ground.
- The tennis courts will be renovated by the developer. The Parish Council will have a 75 year lease for a peppercorn rent.

Parish Council projects which have been agreed are:

- Village Hall Improvements: £7625
- Multiverse Activity Centre at RG: £10749
- Picnic area: £4400
- Swings at Recreation Ground: £4236

Total: £27010

Section 106 contributions towards a community shop are not part of this project. There is / was no formal organisation and a viable site isn't available.

**Action: The clerk will make the submission supporting the planning application discussed.**

**Action: The clerk will register the parish council to speak at the planning meeting**

#### **6.9) (Agenda 9) Finance**

1. Members noted and authorised the payments and bank reconciliation shown in Annex 1.
2. Members **AGREED** to pay £100 to SLCC as a third share of the overall payment, the other two shares to be met by Kings Walden Parish Council and St Paul's Walden Parish Council.
3. Members **NOTED** the 2024/2025 Budget.
4. Members **AGREED** to request a precept of £16758.87 for the 2025/26 Financial Year.

#### **6.10) (Agenda 10) Parish Council Vacancy - To take appropriate decisions following advice from NHDC**

1. The Clerk has been advised that the Parish Council can now proceed to co-opt.
2. Members **AGREED** to advertise to co-opt with a closing date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

#### **6.11) (Agenda 11) Information Boards**

1. Members **AGREED** to accept a quote of £4243.16 from Greenbarnes to have 3 encapsulated information boards to be produced.
2. Board will take 6-8 weeks to produce and deliver.

**Action: Cllr Clark to instruct Greenbarnes that the quote has been accepted.**

#### **6.12) (Agenda 12) Tree Survey – to agree organisation of the 5-yearly tree survey**

1. Members **AGREED** to ask Louis Harrington-Smith for a cost to carry out the tree survey.
2. Members **AGREED** to confirm the cost by email in order to move this work on quickly.

**Action: The Chair to liaise with Louis Harrington-Smith regarding the tree survey.**

**6.13) (Agenda 13) Church Meadow Update**  
None.

**6.14) (Agenda 14) To agree a 20mph speed limit public consultation**  
Members reviewed wording for a public consultation on a potential 20mph in Preston and **AGREED** to publish the consultation.

**Action: The clerk and chair will work together on publishing the consultation.**

**6.15) (Agenda 15) Village Hall Update**

1. Members **AGREED** to add IT and social media work for Preston Village Hall to the clerk's role.
2. Members **AGREED** to allow Preston Village Pre-School to put a banner on the pond for a limited period, to help increase numbers of children attending.
3. Members were updated on new exercise classes that are starting in the hall.

**6.16) (Agenda 16) Verge on School Lane – to agree action on re0instating the grass verge**  
Members **AGREED** that Cllr Clark should speak to the contractor responsible in the first instance to ask them to re-instate the verge.

**Action: Cllr Clark to liaise with the contractor responsible for the damage to the verge.**

**6.17) (Agenda 17) To review Playground Reports and agree any necessary actions to be taken**  
Members **AGREED** that no items required any attention at this time.

**6.18) (Agenda 18) To review and agree a ParishOnline subscription**  
Members **AGREED** to take on a ParishOnline subscription.

**Action: The clerk will set up a ParishOnline subscription**

**6.19) (Agenda 19) Clerk's Report (information only)**  
None.

**6.20) (Agenda 20) Hertfordshire Highways Update**  
Crunnells Green: some work has been carried out to fill in pot-holes but the subsistence has still not been addressed.

**6.21) (Agenda 21) Parish Paths Update**  
None.

**6.22) (Agenda 22) Pavilion and Recreation Ground**  
The CCTV investigation was carried out on the 8th January. Various items were found to causing a blockage including parts of a manhole cover and a plunger and all items were removed. Haze Cleansing Services asks that if any rodding of the drains is carried out in the future, if part of the rod comes loose please alert them immediately so that they can remove it and prevent a build-up occurring. The investigation and fix cost £564 which is being split 50:50 with the cricket club.

**6.23) (Agenda 23) Correspondence received**  
None.

**6.24) (Agenda 24) Matters for future consideration**  
Church Meadow plans and lease

The meeting closed at 9.53pm.

**Date and Time of next Meeting:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

# Parish of Preston

## ANNEX 1

### Preston Parish Council PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

14 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
66	Domain / emails	12/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-066	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-6.49	-1.30	-7.79
66	Cybercheck	12/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-066	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-10.00	-2.00	-12.00
68	Tree Maintenance	19/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-068	Payment - Tree work	Louis Harrington-Smith	Z	-280.00		-280.00
69	Salary	19/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-069	Payment - Salary	Staff	Z	-487.29		-487.29
67	Work From Home Allowance	19/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-067	Payment - Work From Home Al	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
70	Heating System	20/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-070	Payment - Village Hall Heating	McNeilly Electrical & Mainte	S	-2,825.20	-565.04	-3,390.24
71	Electricity	24/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	P25-071	Payment - Electricity	E.on	L	-132.77	-6.64	-139.41
73	Cess Pit Maintenanc	09/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-073	Payment - Cess Pit CCTV and M	Haze Cleansing Services Lt	S	-470.00	-94.00	-564.00
72	S106 Information Boards	09/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-072	Payment - Design Services - In	Aston Klein Print Managem	S	-400.00	-80.00	-480.00
74	Domain / emails	13/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-074	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-6.49	-1.30	-7.79
74	Cybercheck	13/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-074	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-10.00	-2.00	-12.00
<b>Total</b>									<b>-4,654.24</b>	<b>-752.28</b>	<b>-5,406.52</b>

# Parish of Preston

21 January 2025 (2024-2025)

## Preston Parish Council

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Bank Reconciliation at 14/01/2025</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		97,891.65
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2024 - 14/01/2025		19,305.12
			117,196.77
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2024 - 14/01/2025		15,813.37
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 14/01/2025</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>101,383.40</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	14/01/2025	0.00
	Barclays Current Account	14/01/2025	2,413.56
	Barclays Business 1	14/01/2025	10,912.01
	Barclays Business 2	14/01/2025	88,057.83
			<b>101,383.40</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		
			101,383.40
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>101,383.40</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		