

# Parish of Preston

## PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm.

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

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

**7.1) (Agenda 1) To receive and accept apologies for absence**  
None.

**7.2) (Agenda 2) Chairman's Remarks**  
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Cllrs to declare any interests.

**7.3) (Agenda 3) Declarations of Interest**  
None

**7.4) (Agenda 4) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting**  
These were adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

**7.5) (Agenda 5) To consider matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda**

1. Defibrillator Cabinet: The defibrillator cabinet is being installed on the outside wall of the pavilion on Friday 7 March. Pam Biggs will arrange for it to be linked to the ambulance service with the code to open it and put the defibrillator inside on Tuesday 11 March.
2. Back Lane Trees: The Chairman has had a reply from PFP regarding the trees on Back Lane which was reported by a resident. PFP's position is that there is no growth over hanging the road which is likely to cause damage to routine traffic using the road. The roadside trees are regularly inspected as part of their tree safety surveys. The Chairman has passed on these comments to the resident.
3. Verge on School Lane: Members discussed the state of the verge and agreed something needs to be done but no firm decision was made. As it is Wastes of the Manor the Chairman will look into any options which are available to us.

**7.6) (Agenda 6) To consider co-option applications**

1. Members reviewed two applications from residents to be co-opted on to the parish council.
2. Members voted and **AGREED** to co-opt Helen Page on to the council.
3. Helen Page signed her acceptance of office form and took her seat on the council.

**7.7) (Agenda 7) Comments from the general public and press (15 mins)**  
The Chairman has been contacted by a member of the public about 2 items:

1. The footpath between Butchers Lane and Chequers Lane: The Butchers Lane end of this path, about 8 feet of this is now a stony slope, made worse by recent rainfall and loosened pebbles. The clerk will report the state of the path on the Chiltern Society website.
2. Fence at Castlefield – the question was asked whether a new high solid wooden fence, at the rear of the new houses could be painted/ stained an appropriate shade of green. Members **AGREED** that the fence would weather in time and painting was not required.

**Action: The clerk will report the footpath between Butchers Lane and Chequers Lane**

**7.8) (Agenda 8) County and District Update (15 mins)**

District Cllr Graziano addressed the meeting:

1. The East of Luton Masterplan was presented to NHDC and was approved.
2. The decision on the Luton Airport expansion has been pushed back until the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
3. The Community Governance Review has moved on to the next stage, with a further community consultation.
4. A Property Resilience Survey has been produced, for any residents who have been affected by flooding in recent months.
5. An additional Officer has been appointed to deal with fly-tipping.
6. New blue lidded bins for paper and cardboard will be delivered to residents in May, they will come in to use from August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**7.9) (Agenda 9) Planning**

1. To consider any new planning applications
  - a. 25/00120/FPH - 2 Oakfields, Preston. Members agreed to support this application
2. To note decisions and appeals:

The Temple Dinsley application was granted consent by the Planning Committee on 30 January. It will be several months before the legal agreements are completed.
3. To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council:

None

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

**7.10) (Agenda 10) Finance**

1. Members noted and authorised the payments and bank reconciliation shown in Annex 1.
2. Members **NOTED** the 2024/2025 Budget.
3. Members **AGREED** to ask Nick Broughton to carry out the internal audit for this financial year.
4. The clerk informed the meeting that there was an updated Transparency Code which affects what parish council's legally have to publish online. The clerk will deal with any relevant changes.

**7.11) (Agenda 11) Tree Survey – to agree organisation of the 5-yearly tree survey**

Members **AGREED** to accept a quote of £550 from Louis Harrington-Smith to carry out a tree survey.

**Action: The Chairman will inform Louis Harrington-Smith of this decision and ask him to undertake the work as soon as possible.**

**7.12) (Agenda 12) Church Meadow Lease**

The draft lease has been received from NHDC and, following Parish Council agreement by email, it is now with Foreman Laws to review. This will take 6-8 weeks.

The Chairman reported that she had received the report and would check it for recommendations before returning it.

**7.13) (Agenda 13) Village Hall Update**

1. The Pre-school will be open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm after Easter.
2. The Clerk has taken over the online booking system and will have read-only access to the bank account to ensure hirers have paid in advance of their booking.

3. The Village Hall Committee will recruit a new member by word of mouth

**7.14) (Agenda 14) Section 106 Update**

1. The Parish Council was asked to submit a priority order for the section 106 projects which were agreed by email. This order was submitted to the Planning Officer:
  - £7,265 towards improvements to the existing village hall in Preston
  - £9,400 towards a new roundabout at the Millennium Playground in Preston Play Area
  - £4,400 towards a picnic area at the Millennium Playground in Preston
  - £10,750 and £4,236 towards a multiverse activity centre at the recreation ground in Preston and towards replacement swings at the recreation ground in Preston Recreation Ground
2. Members **AGREED** to wait until work on extending the pavilion had been carried before any further equipment was installed on the Recreation Ground.

**7.15) (Agenda 15) To consider a Neighbourhood Plan Review**

Members **AGREED** to find out more about changes with District and County Councils before making a decision.

**Action: The Chairman to investigate possible changes and the impact on Neighbourhood Plan Reviews.**

**7.16) (Agenda 16) To review and agree meeting dates for the next year**

1. Members **AGREED** dates suggested dates presented by the clerk.
2. The clerk will advertise the dates on the village website.

**Action: The clerk to advertise the dates on the village website.**

**7.17) (Agenda 17) Village Day**

Members **AGREED** that September was the preferred month for Village Day.

**Action: The Chairman will inform Preston Trust of the preferred month.**

**7.18) (Agenda 18) Information Boards Update**

1. The completed boards have been delivered to Cllr Clark.
2. The clerk will liaise with Pilkington Farms Partnership regarding the installation of the boards.

**Action: The clerk will liaise with Pilkington Farms regarding the installation of the boards.**

**7.19) (Agenda 19) Clerk's Report (information only)**

None.

**7.20) (Agenda 20) Hertfordshire Highways Update**

1. Members reviewed the outcome of the 20mph consultation, the results of which will also be shared with County Councillor Barnard, District Councillor Graziano and Alistair Strathern MP.
2. Community Drive Safe: The Lead Volunteers are having their training on 27 March.
3. Crunnells Green: The Chairman has been in contact with Highways about work on Crunnells Green and has been told that following 3 reports of potholes on 10 and 12 December a pothole was "made safe" on 19 December as there was too much water on the road to complete a permanent repair. A follow up works order has not been raised

yet, as these are not normally raised until weather conditions improve, and other priorities allow. Further enquiries which are duplicates of the first enquiry have been closed by the triage inspector.

**7.21) (Agenda 21) Parish Paths Update**

None.

**7.22) (Agenda 22) Pavilion and Recreation Ground**

1. The Smart Meter was replaced on the 6th February.
2. Shutter Service: The Chairman will book this for early April.
3. Cricket Club Lease: The 5 yearly review is due so the Chairman will liaise with the Co-Chairmen of the Cricket Club and bring any suggested amendments to the next meeting.
4. Pavilion: The Chairman will liaise with the Co-Chairmen of the Cricket Club on how to move an extension of the pavilion forward to meet ECB criteria and to facilitate greater use by the wider community.

**Action: The Chairman to organise the Shutter Service.**

**Action: The Chairman to liaise with the Cricket Club regarding the lease.**

**Action: The Chairman to liaise with the Cricket Club about an extension to the pavilion**

**7.23) (Agenda 23) Correspondence received**

None.

**7.24) (Agenda 24) Matters for future consideration**

Community Governance Consultation

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

**Date and Time of next Meeting:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

# Parish of Preston

## ANNEX 1

### Preston Parish Council PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

3 March 2025 (2024-2025)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
76	SLCC Membership	17/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-076	Payment - SLCC Subscription	SLCC	Z	-100.00		-100.00
77	Electricity	21/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-077	Payment - Electricity	E.on	L	-134.69	-6.73	-141.42
21	Southern Rural Grant	23/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R25-021	Receipt - Southern Rural Grant	NHDC	Z	594.00		594.00
78	HMRC	23/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-078	Payment - HMRC PAYE Nat Ins	HMRC	Z	-69.80		-69.80
79	Church Meadow Groundwork	27/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-079	Payment - Church Meadow Grc	R J Dawes	S	-750.00	-150.00	-900.00
81	Work From Home Allowance	27/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-081	Payment - Work From Home Al	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
80	Salary	27/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-080	Payment - Salary	Staff	Z	-487.29		-487.29
22	Locality Budget Grant	31/01/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R25-022	Receipt - Locality Budget Grant	Hertfordshire County Coun	Z	205.00		205.00
82	Defibrillator Cabinet	05/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-082	Payment - Defibrillator Cabinet	Clr Margaret Trinder	S	-495.00	-99.00	-594.00
83	Domain / emails	12/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-083	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-6.49	-1.30	-7.79
83	Cybercheck	12/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-083	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-10.00	-2.00	-12.00
23	Cricket Club Annual Payment	13/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R25-023	Receipt - Cricket Club Annual P	Preston Cricket Club	Z	1,766.24		1,766.24
84	Lease	19/02/2025		Barclays Business 2	P25-084	Payment - Solicitor Fees - Chur	HRJ Foreman Laws	S	-2,750.00	-550.00	-3,300.00
25	Printing Costs	21/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R25-025	Receipt - Admin	Preston Village Hall	Z	40.00		40.00
25	Hall Booking System	21/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R25-025	Receipt - Admin	Preston Village Hall	Z	120.00		120.00
24	Heating System	21/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	R25-024	Receipt - Village Hall Heating	Preston Village Hall	Z	2,825.20		2,825.20
85	Grounds maintenance	24/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-085	Payment - Chequers Lane Verg	Frank Gormill	Z	-250.00		-250.00
86	Salary	26/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-086	Payment - Salary	Staff	Z	-487.29		-487.29
87	Work From Home Allowance	26/02/2025		Barclays Current Acc	P25-087	Payment - Work From Home Al	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
88	S106 Information Boards	27/02/2025		Barclays Business 2	P25-088	Payment - Information Boards	Greenbarnes Ltd	S	-3,535.96	-707.20	-4,243.16
26	Interest	03/03/2025		Barclays Business 1	R25-026	Receipt - Bank Interest	Barclays Bank	Z	38.60		38.60
27	Interest	03/03/2025		Barclays Business 2	R25-027	Receipt - Bank Interest	Barclays Bank	Z	309.29		309.29
<b>Total</b>									<b>-3,230.19</b>	<b>-1,516.23</b>	<b>-4,746.42</b>

