

Preston Parish Council

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 9th July 2026 at 8.00pm
Village Hall, School Lane, Preston, SG4 7UE

To Cllrs: S Anderson, J Buckland, M Burleigh, J Clark, A Morecroft, H Page, M Trinder (Chair)

Councillors are respectively summoned to attend this meeting for the transaction of business in the agenda below. The meeting is open to members of the public and press.

Lisa Lathane, Clerk to Preston Parish Council – 2nd July 2026



AGENDA

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**
Cllrs Anderson and Page
2. **Chairman's Remarks**
3. **Declarations of interest**
4. **To adopt minutes of the previous meeting**
5. **To consider matters arising from the previous minutes not already on the agenda**

From Matters for future Consideration

Driving on Recreation Ground: This has been referred to Preston Cricket Club as vehicles can only drive on the Recreation Ground when the gate is open for a cricket match.

Vermin: As the Parish Council own the pavilion and the Recreation Ground, the Cricket Club has been asked to contact it if vermin are an issue so that it can be dealt with appropriately.

Pavilion Hire Advertising: This was on the recent Question and Answer paper which was circulated with the April newsletter. It is also on the village website in the Village Facilities for Hire section.

6. **To adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

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7. To consider matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting

From the Open Forum comments:

Russell Prince has agreed to have the overgrown hedge from the entrance to Temple Dinsley to St Albans Highway cut back in September after the bird nesting season.

The Clerk has contacted Cllr David Barnard about the concerns at Little Almshoe crossroads.

Fibre Broadband: The Parish Council was asked about Fibre Broadband. Residents can check the availability of broadband at their property by using the Openreach availability checker: [Fibre broadband availability checker | Openreach](#)

Using the checker with random postcodes indicates that full fibre broadband is available to order now for a few properties. For most properties the online message is: "We have no plans to build Full Fibre to this property yet" but indicates that Fibre to the Cabinet Broadband, which is a part fibre connection, is available.

8. To adopt the minutes of meeting 08 April 15 2026

9. Finance

- a. To authorise non-contractual payments and note payments to date
- b. To authorise the signing of the Bank Reconciliation
- c. To review the 2026/27 budget

Sent separately to Cllrs as 02 Financial Report

10. Planning

- a. To consider any new planning applications
- b. To note decisions and appeals

Blue Plaque at Spindle Cottage has been granted consent.

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c. To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council

11. Blue Plaque at Spindle Cottage – update

Planning consent has been granted.

The Parish Council to nominate a member to work with a representative of The Preston Trust Committee on the organisation of the plaque and an unveiling ceremony.

12. To review and adopt:

- a. Standing Orders**
- b. Financial Regulations**
- c. Safeguarding Policy**
- d. Document and Retention Policy**

Above sent separately to Cllrs.

13. Church Meadow Playground Update

The application to get agreement to use section 106 funding from Castlefield for this project has been submitted to NHDC. When money has been transferred into the current account the deposit will be paid. The contractor has no issues with the project being delayed as it will avoid the busy school holiday period for them. A second application to use the Temple Dinsley funding will be made when NHDC has received it.

14. Recreation Ground Land Registration update

This is underway. The original deeds haven't yet been located so the alternative is to apply for possessory title which can be upgraded in the future to absolute title.

15. Pavilion Working Party update

a. To note the Written Report from the Working Group

Sent separately to Cllrs.

- b. Resolution - To accept the quote for VAT advice from the Steve Parkinson Partnership, specialists in VAT advice for Parish Councils, to enable the Pavilion Working Group to make a recommendation on the pavilion. The quote is to provide advice on the VAT implications of the proposed pavilion extension or replacement, including options available**

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to maximise VAT recovery, for a fixed fee of £1,450 plus VAT. This amount will be a very small percentage of the overall cost of the project.

16. Pavilion and Recreation Ground

17. Hertfordshire Highways Update

The data below and the following information has been received from Hertfordshire Highways, obtained as part of the request to have a 20mph speed limit in the village.

PRESTON VILLAGE TRAFFIC SPEED DATA SUMMARY:

Hitchin Road	Northbound	Southbound	Combined
Average mean speed (24/7)	26.7 mph	27.6 mph	27.1 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	31.0 mph	31.7 mph	31.4 mph

Chequers Lane	Northbound	Southbound	Combined
Average mean speed (24/7)	16.6 mph	16.1 mph	16.3 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	19.5 mph	19.5 mph	19.5 mph

Butchers Lane	Northbound	Southbound	Combined

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Average mean speed (24/7)	18 mph	16.9 mph	17.5 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	21.7 mph	20.9 mph	21.3 mph

Church Lane	Eastbound	Westbound	Combined
Average mean speed (24/7)	25.3 mph	24.9 mph	25.1 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	29.6 mph	29.7 mph	29.7 mph

Back Lane	Northbound	Southbound	Combined
Average mean speed (24/7)	16.7 mph	18 mph	17.3 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	21.2 mph	23.3 mph	22.2 mph

Crunnells Green	Eastbound	Westbound	Combined
Average mean speed (24/7)	16.7 mph	17.3 mph	17 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	20.9 mph	21.7 mph	21.3 mph

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School Lane	Northbound	Southbound	Combined
Average mean speed (24/7)	24.1 mph	26.5 mph	25.3 mph
85th percentile speed (24/7)	30.1 mph	31.4 mph	30.7 mph

Under the existing Speed Management Strategy document, the criterion for existing speeds within the proposed zone, 20mph zones without physical measures will only be considered when the following applies:

- Where at least 90% of the total number of roads in the proposed zone have existing mean speeds of 25mph or below
- Where up to 10% of the total number of roads in the proposed zone have an existing mean speed above 25mph but below 27mph

Meaning if existing speeds do not meet this criterion, physical measures will be required.

From this '90% of roads' (so 7 roads included, 90% is 6 of roads) must have mean speeds of under 25mph. From the results 3 of sites are over 25mph (2 just over and 1 just over 27mph) so under the existing criteria some of the roads included would need physical measures. These would require major design input and push the costs up which are currently beyond the available funds to progress this year.

In addition, the speed management strategy document is currently under review to be updated, and this is still currently in progress, so the changes won't be available until it is finalised.

A 20mph speed limit for Preston will be kept on the list to be considered from a future year's allocation.

The Chairman has replied to say that, while appreciating that the rules have to be adhered to, a lot of Preston residents will find it difficult to understand that we can't have a 20mph limit when there is evidence of traffic travelling at higher speeds, especially on the roads in

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and out of the village. Most would be happy with the installation of 20mph signs on the roads, even though there is a cost to this, rather than having to wait until there is enough funding for a 20mph limit with physical measures at some point in the future.

- 18. Parish Paths Partnership**
- 19. Review of Annual Parish Council meeting**
- 20. Clerk's Report (information only)**
- 21. Correspondence received**
- 22. Matters for future consideration**
- 23. Date and time of next meeting: 3rd September 2026 at 8pm**