Parish of Preston

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 9th July 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Julie Buckland, Jane Clark, Ali Morecroft, Margaret Trinder (Chairman)
In Attendance: 1 member of public, District Cllr Graziano and Lisa Lathane (Clerk and RFO)

2.1) (Agenda 1) To receive and accept apologies for absence
Cllrs Anderson, Page and Burleigh sent their apologies which members **AGREED** to accept.

2.2) (Agenda 2) Chairman's Remarks
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded members to declare any items of pecuniary interest. The Chairman noted that 2 items had been inadvertently missed from the agenda: Comments from the Public and County and District Update. As no decisions were involved, it was agreed to include and minute them.

2.3) (Agenda 3) Declarations of Interest
None

2.4) (Agenda 4) To adopt minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** and the Chairman was duly authorised to sign the minutes.

2.5) (Agenda 5) To consider matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda
1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

2.6) (Agenda 6) To adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2025
The minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** and the Chairman was duly authorised to sign the minutes.

2.7) (Agenda 7) To consider matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting
From the Open Forum comments:
1. 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. Due to road safety this can be carried out immediately. The Chair will contact Russell Prince.
2. The Clerk has contacted Cllr David Barnard about the concerns at Little Almshoe crossroads.
3. 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.

2.8) (Agenda 8) To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the 15th April 2026

The minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** with changes agreed at the last meeting, and the Chairman was duly authorised to sign the minutes.

2.9) Comments from the general public and press (15 mins)

None

2.10) County and District Update (15 mins)

District Cllr Joe Graziano addressed the meeting:

1. Hertfordshire County Council is running a Green Spaces consultation – drop in session
2. Local government review – a decision is imminent.
3. Cllr Graziano will be attending a site visit for the East of Luton project to advocate for it to be carried out sensitively.
4. Cllr Graziano agreed to contact Shaun Greaves, Development and Conservation manager at NHDC, to ask if the £20,000 section 106 funding for the Church Meadow playground equipment could be released to the Parish Council upfront rather than the Parish Council having to pay this amount, then claim it back.

2.11) (Agenda 9) Finance

1. Members noted and authorised the payments shown in Annex 1.
2. Members authorised the signing of the bank reconciliation shown in Annex 2.
3. Members **NOTED** the 2026/2027 Budget.
4. A Unity Trust Current Account has been opened in order to transfer funds from the Unity Trust Instant Access account as and when required, without having to pay a fee.

2.12) (Agenda 10) Planning

1. **To receive and consider responses to planning applications**
   None.
2. **To note decisions and appeals**
   26/00941/LBC - Spindle Cottage Hitchin Road Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7TZ. Permission granted.
3. **To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council**
   None.

2.13) (Agenda 11) Blue Plaque at Spindle Cottage

Members **AGREED** that Cllr Clark would work with the Preston Trust on the organisation of the plaque and the unveiling ceremony.

2.14) (Agenda 12) To review and adopt:

1. **Standing Orders.**
   The Chair proposed to adopt the Standing Orders, Cllr Clark seconded the motion. Cllrs voted **unanimously** to adopt the Standing Orders.
2. **Financial Regulations.**
   Deferred to the next meeting.

3. **Safeguarding Policy.**
   The Chair proposed to adopt the Safeguarding Policy, Cllr Buckland seconded the motion. Cllrs voted **unanimously** to adopt the Safeguarding Policy.
4. **Document and Retention Policy**
   The Chair proposed to adopt the Document and Retention Policy, Cllr Clark seconded the motion. Cllr voted **unanimously** to adopt the Document and Retention Policy.

2.15) (Agenda 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.

2.16) (Agenda 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.

2.17) (Agenda 15) Pavilion Working Party

1. Members **NOTED** the report from the Pavilion Working Party.
2. Resolution 1 - 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.
   The Chair proposed the motion, Cllr Clark seconded the motion.
   Members voted:

For:	4
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

2.18) (Agenda 16) Pavilion and Recreation Ground

There is an issue with the new larger bin not being collected from the Recreation Ground. The Clerk is liaising with Waste at North Herts to sort out the issue.

2.19) (Agenda 17) Hertfordshire Highways

The speed management strategy document at Hertfordshire County Council 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. Members **AGREED** to ask for 20mph signs to be installed in the village.

2.20) (Agenda 18) Parish Paths Partnership

1. Verges on some paths have been cut by Highways.
2. Members **AGREED** to wait before repairing the pathway starting at Butchers Lane until the work in Church Meadow is completed and the full pathway can be completed.

2.21) (Agenda 19) Review of Annual Parish Council meeting

Members **AGREED** that the meeting went well and was well-attended. It was **AGREED** to carry it out in the same way next year.

2.22) (Agenda 20) Clerk's Report
None.

2.23) (Agenda 21) Correspondence received
None.

2.24) (Agenda 22) Matters for future consideration
Keyboard, Media and press policy, Grievance policy, GDPR Policies, Veolia's Sustainability Fund.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Parish of Preston

ANNEX 1

Preston Parish Council

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

07 July 2026 (2026-2027)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
6	Interest	19/05/2026		Redwood 95 Day	R27-006	Receipt - Bank Interest	Redwood Bank	Z	3,145.69		3,145.69
12	Pavilion Project	20/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-012	Payment - Pavilion Project - St	Pentangle Design Group	S	-5,548.15	-1,109.63	-6,657.78
13	Electricity	20/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-013	Payment - Electricity	E.on	L	-101.51	-5.08	-106.59
4	Pavilion Project	22/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-004	Receipt - Pavilion Project - Cric	Preston Cricket Club	Z	2,774.07		2,774.07
5	Pavilion Project	22/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-005	Receipt - Pavilion Project - Top	Preston Cricket Club	Z	575.00		575.00
14	Salary	26/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-014	Payment - Salary and work fro	Staff	Z	-517.78		-517.78
15	Tree Maintenance	26/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-015	Payment - Tree work	Louis Harrington-Smith	Z	-3,260.00		-3,260.00
14	Work From Home Allowance	26/05/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-014	Payment - Salary and work fro	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
7	Pavilion Project	02/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-007	Receipt - Pavilion Project - Pre	Preston Cricket Club	Z	849.58		849.58
8	Pavilion Project	02/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-008	Receipt - Pavilion Project - Sur	Preston Cricket Club	Z	250.00		250.00
16	Pavilion Project	02/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-016	Payment - Pavilion Project - Pr	NHDC	Z	-2,039.00		-2,039.00
9	VAT Reclaim	04/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-009	Receipt - VAT Reclaim	HMRC	Z	1,404.79		1,404.79
17	Pavilion Project	05/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-017	Payment - Pavilion Project - Pr	Pentangle Design Group	S	-500.00	-100.00	-600.00
18	Pension	11/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-018	Payment - Pension	NEST	Z	-79.65		-79.65
19	Domain and Cybercheck	12/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-019	Payment - Cybercheck and Dor	Zen Internet Ltd	S	-16.49	-3.30	-19.79
10	Newsletter Costs	16/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-010	Receipt - Newsletter Costs	St Martin's Church	Z	182.19		182.19
20	Electricity	16/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-020	Payment - Electricity	E.on	L	-210.33	-10.52	-220.85
22	Playground Inspections	16/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-022	Payment - Playground Inspecti	NHDC	S	-100.00	-20.00	-120.00
23	Land Sale Costs Wastes of the	16/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-023	Payment - Oath for Glebe Hous	Cllr Margaret Trinder	Z	-29.00		-29.00
24	Stationary	16/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-024	Payment - Clerk Expenses	Staff	Z	-86.46		-86.46
21	Litter Bin Maintenance	16/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-021	Payment - Dog Bins & Bin Mair	NHDC	S	-26.95	-5.39	-32.34
25	Fire Extinguisher Service	22/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-025	Payment - Fire Extinguisher Se	Fire Guard Services	S	-100.00	-20.00	-120.00
12	Pavilion Project	26/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	VOID	Receipt - Pavilion Project - Cric	Preston Cricket Club	Z			
27	Salary	26/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-027	Payment - Salary and work fro	Staff	Z	-517.58		-517.58
27	Work From Home Allowance	26/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-027	Payment - Salary and work fro	Staff	Z	-26.00		-26.00
26	Pavilion Project	26/06/2026		Barclays Current Acc	P27-026	Payment - Pavilion Project - Ini	Building Estimating and Su	S	-600.00	-120.00	-720.00
11	Bank charges	30/06/2026		Unity Instant Access	R27-011	Receipt - Bank Interest	Unity Trust Bank	Z	43.90		43.90
13	Pavilion Project	07/07/2026		Barclays Current Acc	R27-012	Receipt - Pavilion Project - Initi	Preston Cricket Club	Z	300.00		300.00
							Total		**-4,259.68**	**-1,393.92**	**-5,653.60**

Parish of Preston

ANNEX 2

7 July 2026 (2026-2027)

Preston Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 07/07/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026			89,264.53
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2026 - 07/07/2026			21,120.10
				110,384.63
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2026 - 07/07/2026			19,111.65
A	**Cash in Hand 07/07/2026** (per Cash Book)			**91,272.98**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	07/07/2026	0.00	
	Barclays Current Account	07/07/2026	2,107.91	
	Barclays Business 1	07/07/2026	0.00	
	Barclays Business 2	07/07/2026	0.00	
	Redwood 95 Day	07/07/2026	81,981.08	
	Unity Instant Access	07/07/2026	7,183.99	
	Unity Trust Current Account	07/07/2026	0.00	
				91,272.98
	Less unpresented payments			
				91,272.98
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**91,272.98**
	A = B Checks out OK			