Preston Parish Council

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 22nd October 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 – 15th October 2026

AGENDA

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Clark

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

6. Comments from the general public and press (15 mins)

7. County and District Update (15 mins)

8. 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 04 Financial Report and uploaded on the Parish Council website.

9. Planning

- **a. To consider any new planning applications**

Next scheduled meetings: Parish Council meeting: 3rd December 2026 8pm

b. **To note decisions and appeals**

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

10. North Herts Council Meeting update:

a. **To agree a response to the sites submitted for the parish of Preston in the Local Plan Consultation**

b. **To agree a newsletter entry to inform the public of the Local Plan Consultation**

c. **To discuss and agree holding drop in sessions for residents to complete the consultation**

d. **To discuss the suggestion that the Parish Council appoint a professional Planner to support residents with their representations to North Herts.**

e. **To discuss the Content and Evidence Consultation, and agree how to complete**

11. Blue Plaque at Spindle Cottage – update

Info from Cllr Clark:

We are just in the process of agreeing the border of the plaque and deciding between 2 companies. The images are AI generated from Majestic. We need to decide on the border design

Does anyone have a strong dislike to a particular one?



Majestic Metals:

Use Shopify as a sales platform so you don't get to ' speak to a person'

*The cost is £357.00 including VAT. Currently waiting a delivery cost

*Turn around is about a month.

Croft Castings:

*They are sending mock ups of all 3 designs

Real people called Philip and Andrea from Whitby

* The cost £315-00 + VAT including delivery.

* Turn around is 6 weeks

It has been suggested that the unveiling date could be 2nd May as this was the date that Widow Heath put forward her license application for Nonconformist worship in 1672. It just happens that 2nd May 2027 falls on a Sunday so would be perfect although it is bank holiday weekend. Alex Constandiniti has confirmed that she is available so; at the moment, we are proposing this date.

DO WE AGREE?

The plaque will be mounted to the left or right hand side of the front door. Philip Wrays preference was the left so we will see if this works once we have the plaque.

Regarding an unveiling mount and curtain on a listed building this could be tricky and wall space is limited so I have proposed a free standing arrangement which I will make.

12. To review and adopt:

a. Grievance Policy

b. Media and Press Policy

Sent separately to Cllrs.

13. Church Meadow

a. Update on play equipment

As soon as the ground is prepared, we will be able to agree a site inspection and installation dates. Arrangements for access have to be finally agreed, probably via Castlefield.

b. To review and agree a quote for clearance of land for new equipment and agree a plan for access

14. Pavilion Working Party update

a. To note the Written Report from the Working Group

Sent separately to Cllrs and posted on the Parish Council website.

b. **Resolution 1: To obtain pre-planning advice regarding the potential for relocation/change of access to the Pavilion and Recreation Ground.**

   Given the potential scale of investment, with costs now understood and estimated at circa £1 million, the Working Group believes that all reasonable options should be explored at this stage to ensure the investment delivers the greatest possible long-term operational, community and financial benefit and represents value for money.

   Obtaining pre-planning advice would provide the information needed to assess the option properly and enable the Working Group to make a robust and informed recommendation to the Council, and ultimately to the wider community.

c. **Resolution 2: If the outcome of resolution 1 is positive, to consider and accept a quote to obtain pre-application advice from Highways, using section 106 funding which is ring fenced for the pavilion. Preston Cricket Club will contribute to the costs on a 50:50 basis. The cost will be in the region of £4000.00, subject to the final costs of surveys, data collection and meetings. Hertfordshire County Council will not charge for providing their advice as this will be an application from the Parish Council and is classed as a public sector non-profit making proposal.**

15. Tennis Court Lease Update

The tennis court lease has now been signed.

The section 106 monies relating to the Temple Dinsley development have been paid to NHDC and HCC

16. To discuss a contribution to St Martin's Church

As the grass hasn't needed cutting this year, should the Parish Council make the same donation of £350 to the Church Committee for the cost of electricity and water and use of the toilet when the play equipment is being installed in Church Meadow?

17. To discuss and agree Decision Making Criteria for projects

18. Pavilion and Recreation Ground

19. Hertfordshire Highways Update

a. **To discuss work required on the verge on Chequers Lane and agree costs**

This is done annually in the Autumn. Frank Gormill has quoted £250 to do this again.

b. To discuss and agree Pedestrian signs and agree any costs

County Councillor David Barnard was asked if he would support a request for pedestrian signs using his Highways Locality Budget. The earliest any funding would be available is 2028. He suggests funding it ourselves.

In principle, Highways have agreed that School Lane would be a suitable location but a site visit is required to see if the criteria are met:

- The signs/posts must be able to be located within the publicly maintained highway boundary
- The signs must be visible so not obscured by other signs or street furniture and unlikely to become obscured by overhanging vegetation;
- The new signs must also not obscure any other signs
- That no underground services would prevent the excavation depth required for the foundations for the posts.

Our Highways contact has been asked to quote for the cost of a site visit and the cost of the signs.

These signs were suggested because people don't like to walk on the permissive path in Temple Dinsley when there are cows in the field. Russell Prince has informed the Parish Council that the paths are to be fenced off as part of the development but it is intended that the cows will be replaced with deer.

20. Parish Paths Partnership

21. Clerk's Report (information only)

22. Correspondence received

23. Matters for future consideration

24. Date and time of next meeting: 3rd December 2026 at 8pm