

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council held on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, The Street Preston St Mary

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting of the news of the sad death of the Chairman, Joy Lloyd Hughes and because the Vice Chairman was not present, Councillors would need to convene to appoint a Chairperson for the Meeting.

Councillor Kerrie McGrory accepted the nomination to chair the meeting.

A minutes silence was held in respect of Joy Lloyd Hughes

Members Present: Councillor K McGrory Chairperson, Councillors: R Bardzinski; P Bisson; A Luck;
Also Present: District Councillor Clive Arthey;
Four members of the public
Parish Clerk: Sylvia Watson

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies:

- (i) Apologies received from Vice Chairman, Councillor R Hutchinson because of work commitments
Apologies received for expected late arrival because of work commitments from Councillor M Shenton .
- (iii) Apologies received from District Councillor Jenny Antill because of council commitments.
- (iii) Council agreed to accept these apologies.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests:

- (i) There were no disclosures of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests on matters to be considered at the meeting.
- (ii) There were no requests for Dispensations to be considered.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings of 1st December 2015 were agreed by Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Forum:

- (i) District Councillor, Clive Arthey's Report.
to be inserted

(ii) County Councillor Jenny Antill's Report 26 January 2016

**I am sorry not to be able to come this evening,. Please let me know if you have any action items for me.
Consultation on the future of the Fire Service in Suffolk.**

Public meetings are being held in connection with this consultation which closes on 22nd February. The nearest to Preston is:

03 Feb 2016 – Sudbury – Town Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm

I understand that the Chief Fire Officer and the Cabinet Member will be attending.

Resdesign of Specialist Education Provision in Suffolk

The Cabinet in December agreed that a consultation should go ahead to look at redesigning the council's provision for children and young people with special educational needs. At present specialist primary units, which are usually attached to a mainstream school, are unevenly distributed across the county and a significant number of children affected have to be taken to establishments outside the county. This is not just inconvenient for families and difficult for the children involved, but it is also very expensive. No cost savings will be involved since the budget is a ring-fenced sum from Central Government but it is hoped to make the available resources go further. An information collecting process is currently underway with a full consultation being launched in the spring.

I am in contact with some parents in the Division who are affected and am happy to hear from any others who would like to get in touch.

Budget 2016/17

The Budget numbers have now been reviewed in the light of the December draft settlement from Government. This was rather worse than we had forecast and we estimate that the net impact of the new figures will make us worse off by a further £8m which means that we now have to save some £80m over the next two years. We have however received a windfall of some £6m in the current year as a result of a better council tax collection ratio than anticipated. This means that although some funding for the current year will have to be met from reserves the amount will be less than expected. It is anticipated that we will be imposing the Government's Social Care Precept of 2% (which is ring-fenced for Adult

Social Care) but that general council tax will be unchanged from last year. Issues related to the budget are very complicated, but I am happy to discuss these further with anyone who would like to know more.

Residents invited to have their say on council services

Residents of Suffolk are being invited to have their say on council services by taking part in Suffolk County Council's 2016 residents' survey.

More than 11,000 surveys will be posted out to households across the county this week to help the council make services better and more effective.

The county council has commissioned BMG Research, an independent company to undertake the survey and establish county-wide views and satisfaction rates on a wide range of issues and services, including employment, transport and social care.

The Residents' Survey will be used to measure what people think of the area in which they live, what they think about Suffolk County Council services, and the way the County Council works.

High Speed Broadband

Details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 have now been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com.

At present there is little or no coverage in Preston and according to the map no plans for work ahead of September 2016. We had hoped to be able to give further information with regard to the roll out beyond this date but have been unable to due to complex issues with regard to EU Procurement rules which is a nationwide issue.

In December, the council announced the public launch of a basic broadband service to fulfil the Government's commitment that everyone should have the option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015. The scheme, which provides broadband by satellite, has been trialed in Suffolk over the last few months ahead of the public launch. It is intended as an interim solution for businesses and homes that currently get less than 2Mbps, and which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. Information is available on the website.

Preston

All has been quiet from Preston since we last met.

I recently spoke to Steve Merry about grit bins in the village and hope that he is right in thinking that there are no problems this year.

Jenny Antill

(iii) There were no reports from members of the Parish Council.

5. To receive updates on Village matters:

(i) Telephone Box:

Sylvia reported that she has been contacted about a broken light bulb in the red telephone box. Mr and Mrs Martin, who have maintained it since it was purchased from BT, have made efforts to replace the bulb, but have not been successful because it requires a special key. They have contacted BT and the EON Energy without success. It was agreed Sylvia should contact neighbouring villages to enquire if they have a key that let us use to fix the problem.

(ii) Notice Board at the Village Hall

Sylvia reported that the varnish on the noticeboard is peeling and requires repair. It was agreed she should ask the editor of the village newsletter to place a notice in the next edition, asking for a volunteer handy person to do this work

Councillor Mat Shenton joined the meeting.

6. To receive the Chairman's Report:

There was no report.

7. To receive the Clerk's Report:

(i) Correspondence received:

(i) Community Speedwatch – Suggestion from Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood Team for all communities to consider setting up a group. Further information available at Suffolk Constabulary: Community Speedwatch. Mat said he would be interested in helping to set this up and we will discuss further at the next meeting.

(ii) A new Report 'Campaign for Rural England' - Housing Campaign for Rural England highlighting concerns on the impact of the Government's housing strategy; insufficient levels of affordable housing, problems integrating sizeable developments with sufficient infrastructure and sustainability of their community for future generations. Further information can be found <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning>.

(iii) Suffolk Constabulary's local policing model. Changes will be implemented on April 1 2016

(iv) Lavenham Parish Council has submitted a draft neighbourhood plan to Babergh District Council who are now consulting neighbouring parishes. Copies of the plan and supporting documents are available to view on Babergh's website. www.babergh.gov.uk/LavenhamNDP. Written comments only please.

(v) Queen's birthday celebrations – details of Preston St Mary Street party have been emailed to Kevin Archer who is co-ordinating information of all activities being arranged within Babergh.

(vi) Community Emergency Planning – it was agreed Sylvia will contact a neighbouring village for a model to base a plan for Preston St Mary. Further information: emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk.

(vii) **Leaflet from Babergh concerning Dog Fouling.** Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk are covered by the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. Sylvia to put leaflet on the notice board

For further information: www.babergh.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/

(viii)**Parish Website:** Sylvia has contacted Babergh's website coordinator for help with setting this up.

(ix)Transparency Fund grants – Sylvia will look into this to see if the parish is eligible for any funding.

(x) Sylvia will contact Babergh regarding a vacancy on the Parish Council following the death of Joy Lloyd Hughes

8. Finance:

(i) Council approved the following financial items

Cheque No. 100508 £87. 60- Chilton Office Supplies re Printing Village Newsletter

Cheque No. 100509 £184. 21-Community Action Suffolk Insurance (LGA 1972 s140)

Cheque No. 100510 £293. 43-Sylvia Watson Clerk's salary 1Oct.- 31 Dec.2015 £239.43 (Office costs £54.00 LGA 1972), HMRC £59.80(Income and Taxes Act),

(ii) Council approved and signed the Precept Forms. Sylvia will deliver to Babergh .

10. Planning issues:

To consider any planning applications coming forth:

(i) 3.12.15 B/15/D1619 Village Hall Extension

19.01.16 B/15/D1619 Application withdrawn - A representative from the Village Hall explained this decision was made upon the advice of Babergh Planning Department, in order that some changes could be made to the plans before resubmission.

There were no objections from the parish planning team on the submitted plans.

Details of Section 106 payments available to the parish were read to the meeting.

(i) To receive communications from Babergh District Council on planning matters raised

None received.

(iii) It was agreed a new draft Planning Policy will be put to the next meeting.

11. Questions for the Chair

Councillor Kerrie McGrory agreed to Chair the meeting until the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2016.

There were no further questions

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 29 March 2016 at 7.30 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA

**Meeting of the Preston St Mary Parish Council
on TUESDAY 29th March 2016
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall
The Street, Preston St. Mary**

- 1. Chairman's welcome:**
 - (i) Council to accept apologies
 - (ii) Council to consent to accept apologies

- 2. Declaration of Members' Interests:**
 - (i) To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests on matters to be considered at the meeting.
 - (ii) To consider requests for dispensations.

- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** to sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 26th January 2016 as a true and accurate record.

- 4. Public Forum:**
 - (i) To receive comments from the public.
 - (ii) To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

- 5. To receive updates on Village matters:**
 - (i) Telephone box update
 - (ii) Notice Board update
 - (iii) Parish Emergency Plan update

- 6. To receive the Chairman's Report:**

- 7. To receive the Clerk's Report:**
 - (i) Parish website update
 - (ii) Review draft Complaints Procedure

- 8. Finance:**

To receive and approve financial items awaiting authorization.

- 10. Planning issues:**
 - (i) To consider any planning applications coming forth
 - (ii) To receive communications from Babergh District Council on planning matters raised.
 - (iii) To consider draft Planning Committee Policy.

- 11. Questions for the Chair**

Sylvia Watson Parish Clerk
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