

Preston St Mary Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 28 March 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: - Councillors K. McGrory; P.Bisson; K. Hanlon; R. Bardzinski

Cllr R.Martin arrived later during the Meeting (at Item 8 of the Agenda).

County Councillor Jenny Antill; Nicola Smith-Parish Clerk; 3 Members of the Public

District Councillor Clive Arthey sent his apologies. He was at another Meeting and may not get to Preston St Mary before the end of the Meeting. The Clerk had the District Councillors' report to read out to the Meeting.

1. Apologies

- i. Cllr Luck had sent his apologies. He was unable to attend due to work commitments;
- ii. All Cllrs consented to accept Cllr Luck's apology.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

- i. No disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussions;
- ii. No gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. No requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests – not applicable for the Agenda under discussion.

- 3. Minutes of Meeting:** All Cllrs confirmed that they read through the draft Minutes of 24 January 2017 and agree them to be a true and accurate record. Chairman signed and dated the Minutes.

4. County Councillor, Mrs Jenny Antill's report:

The council is very quiet now as we are into the moratorium period ahead of the election on 4th May.

Budget 2017/18

This was passed by the Council on 9th February. The SCC component of the Council tax bill will rise by 3%, which represents the Government levy specifically to pay for Social Care. This is lower than the 5% increase being imposed by many councils in England, and the 4% national average.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Annual Public Health Report.

Suffolk’s Director of Public Health released his annual report on 26 January 2017 setting an ambition to improve mental health services in Suffolk over the next 10 years.

An estimated 1 in 100 people are affected by severe mental ill health in Suffolk.

The report, lists seven recommendations to promote good mental health and reduce demand in Suffolk over the next five to 10 years:

The report is divided into sections that correspond with different stages in people’s lives, from pre-birth children to older people’s mental health. It recognises that good mental health is a fundamental human right for everyone and that good mental health is essential for good physical health, and vice versa.

School Funding

At first sight Suffolk appeared to be one of the winners under new arrangements for school funding recently announced by the Government. Suffolk schools will receive 2% more than before. However this still means that the County’s schools will receive considerably less than schools in other parts of the country, and in real terms (taking inflation into account) there will actually be little change from the previous unacceptable situation. The Cabinet Member for Education Gordon Jones has written to complain about the settlement to the Secretary of State, as have head teachers in the County.

Preston St Mary

I know that the Clerk has been in touch with highways regarding the chevrons on Lavenham Road and I understand that this is now included in the forward schedule of works.

This will be my last meeting as your county councillor. I have very much enjoyed representing Preston, and have been very pleased to be able to find some projects in the village for locality money over the past four years. I would like to thank the Parish Council and the clerk for their kindness and support over the past four years and wish you and all the residents of Preston the very best for the future.

5. District Councillor, Mr Clive Arthey’s report:

This report is mainly providing updates. Please also see Town & Parish Council Newsletters.

New Chief Executive.

Message from Arthur Charvonia in January Newsletter.

Accommodation Review.

The move to the Suffolk County Council headquarters building, Endeavour House in

Signed.....

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Ipswich, has been confirmed for August. Unfortunately, there will only be two other 'public access points' for council services, in Stowmarket (MSDC) and Sudbury (BDC). I had been hopeful of a presence in Hadleigh where there are still no firm proposals for the future of the Corks Lane offices.

Waste and Recycling.

An increase in fly-tipping nationally has been in the news recently. Following last year's changes at HWRCs we have been monitoring the situation in Suffolk and there does not appear to be a significant change overall. However, there are some 'hotspots' where there is a problem, and in February we successfully prosecuted a fly-tipper who received fines and costs of over £2,000. Details are in the March Newsletter.

Devolution.

A deal for Suffolk alone has been put on hold.

District Electoral Review.

As I have mentioned at previous meetings, the first stage is to establish the number of councillors for the district. Babergh has asked for a reduction from 43 councillors down to 31. Following the Boundary Commission's confirmation of Council size, the second stage looking at ward boundaries will start in May. One of the factors taken into consideration when asking for a reduction in councillors was the change in governance arrangements to a 'cabinet' chosen by the leader, in place of the current committee system.

2017-18 Council Tax

Increase of +3.4% in Babergh's element, Suffolk Police +2%, SCC +3%. In Preston St. Mary there has been a 5.4% increase in Tax Base, and a 9.3% increase in precept, resulting in the parish element increasing by around 3.5%.

6. **Public Forum:**

Parishioner raised concern that Busted Mead had put in an application to put a driveway across the Village Green. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any details of such an application to date, but should that transpire then she would arrange an Additional Meeting of the Parish Council.

7. **Correspondence:** (General correspondence had circulated by email. At the time of the Meeting there were no matters arising from correspondence).

8. **Clerk's Report**

- i. to consider schedule of items approved and awaiting authorisation;

Receipts since 22.01.17

Cheques awaiting reconciliation/payment

100542	N Smith (reimbursement of expenses)	38.34
100543	N Smith (Clerk's Salary)	688.01

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100544	HMRC	178.40
100545	Newsletter Printing	96.96
100546	Hire of Village Hall	86.25
100547	Grant – Village Hall (2 nd instalment)	250.00
100548	Grant – PCC (2 nd instalment)	400.00
		1737.96

- ii. To receive a report on the Council's financial position;

Summary:

Community Account	5923.58
Business Saver Account	500.90
Receipts since 01.09.16	<u>0.00</u>
	6424.48
Deduct cheques awaiting reconciliation/payment	<u>1737.96</u>
	4686.52
(Total includes Transparency Funding of £1645)	<u>1645.00</u>
	3041.52

Discussion took place with regards the Transparency Funding. As the Clerk believed one of the items claimed for under the application may be a scanner, which she already has and it is in good order, Chair asked whether it would be possible to purchase a projector instead with those designated monies. Clerk will look into this and report back.

- iii. To receive an update on matters arising from Meeting on 24th January 2017.

Agenda Item	Matter Arising	Action Taken
1 i.	Cllr Mathew Shenton resigned. Clerk had contacted Babergh to advise of the resignation. Notice of Vacancy had been advertised. Mr Jack Tasker has expressed an interest in being co-opted.	Council to consider the co-option of Mr Jack Tasker.
8 i.	Cllr Hanlon requested PC expenditure to attend the SALC New Councillors course – approved.	Cllr Hanlon has now attended the course and reported back that she has found it very useful.
8iii.	Precept was approved and Clerk to submit to Babergh.	Precept was submitted and receipt acknowledged. First instalment will be due in April 2017.
10	The Emergency Plan Questionnaire was approved and has been delivered to households in the Village.	To date, the Clerk has received 6 responses. The deadline for returning the Questionnaire is 31 st March. Thereafter the Clerk will compile the information provided and start to draft a more detailed Emergency Plan than the current draft. The Clerk will aim to have that draft document with Cllrs for the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May for them to consider.

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11 i.	Caroline Gove is retiring from PPP.	No replacement had come forward as of yet. Small gift of appreciation to Caroline Gove had been organised on behalf of the Council, and for which Caroline had expressed her thanks.
11 ii.	Chevrons at Money Hole Corner.	Clerk has been emailing SCC Highways and County Cllr Jenny Antill. SCC had eventually agreed that this had been agreed and has not been carried out. Cllr Antill has set aside from her Local Highways Budget the sum of monies to have the work done. Waiting now for confirmation from Highways as to when the work will commence.
11 iii.	Parking on Preston Road, Lavenham, by The Halt housing development.	As agreed the Clerk had contacted Lavenham PC. They agree entirely with the concerns raised by Cllr Luck and had asked that the Clerk write to SCC Highways. Lavenham PC continue to pursue SCC Highways on this matter – but a letter from a neighbouring parish would help. Letter has been sent raising concerns.

Cllr Martin joined the Meeting at this stage and reported that he had been speaking with Mr Robyn Lloyd Hughes, regarding the PPP. Mr Lloyd Hughes was at the meeting and requested permission to speak. Chair granted permission. He was keen not to lose the PPP, but felt that he would not be able to run it on his own, so he would be speaking with Jack Tasker, and if the two of them could do the job then he hoped to be able to take over from Caroline Gove.

9. To consider and approve reviewed Standing Orders

Councillors confirmed that they had received ahead of the Meeting the draft revised Standing Orders. Cllr Bisson proposed that the revised Standing Orders be adopted by the Parish Council with immediate effect. Cllr Hanlon seconded. All Cllrs present agreed. Motion carried.

10. To appoint a Vice Chairman

Discussion took place as to why it would be beneficial to have a Vice Chairman in post. Cllr Bardzinski put himself forward for this post. Cllr Hanlon supported this proposal. Cllr Martin seconded it. All Cllrs present agreed. Cllr Bardzinski signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form as Vice Chairman.

11. Co-option

Cllr McGrory had been contacted by Mr Jack Tasker who expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mr Tasker had been away on holiday and

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unfortunately had not been able to get to this evenings Meeting. Co-option would be considered at the next Parish Council Meeting.

12. Parish Councillor's Reports

Cllr Bisson and Cllr Martin both raised the matter of the hedge being removed at Busted Mead. It had long been a hedge that birds nested in. Clerk advised Councillors that under section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird. However, there was no evidence to suggest that this had happened when the hedge at Busted Mead was removed. Legislation also sets out periods of time throughout the year that hedges cannot be removed as it is likely that birds will have started nesting in them. This time period was generally between 1st March – 31st July (but some specific species will breed throughout August and September). There was no evidence to indicate that the hedge had been removed after the 1st March and therefore no matter to pursue.

Cllrs also raised concern over the green strip of grass that had been cordoned off between the hedge that had been removed and the concrete footpath. Cllr Martin had contacted the previous owner and spoken with neighbours and they had confirmed that the small strip of green grass between where the hedge was and the concrete path belongs to the property. The boundary stops at the concrete path. This went back historically to when there was a ditch there.

Cllrs also had concerns about the post and plastic fencing that was in place at the moment. Clerk indicated that this was possibly better than someone falling over what are quite large stumps from where the hedge was removed. Cllrs agreed.

Cllr Bisson reported that Mr Desmond Gaye would like to replace the old bench by the phone box with a new bench with a dedication on it. Clerk asked if Mr Gaye could forward details to her and Clerk will then contact County Council on how to proceed.

Cllr Hanlon reported that she had noted a footpath sign that was down. She would check on her map which footpath it was and report it to SCC.

13. Planning Matters

- i. Application No: B/17/00220 – Ghost Pond Barn, Rookwood Lane, Preston St Mary. Application under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) to remove condition 3 attached to B/05/01242/FUL (Conversion and extension of agricultural building to form 1 No. unit of holiday accommodation).

All Cllrs agreed that they had no objections.

Next Meeting: 25th April 2017 (Annual Assembly)

Signed.....

Dated.....