PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council.**

**held on 18th May 2021 commencing at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr Tasker, Cllr Korwin, Cllr Hanlon, Robert Lindsay together with the Parish Clerk, Kay Shorter, 3 members of public present.

1. **Apologies:**
2. Richard Martin sent his apologies due to being in isolation
3. **To elect a Chairman for coming year**

Cllr Hanlon proposed Richard Martin remains as Chairman seconded by Cllr Tasker. Cllr Korwin agreed to chair this meeting in Richard’s absence

1. **To receive Members’ Declarations of Interest:**

Disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest for the Agenda under discussion – none;

Declaration of gifts of hospitality – none;

Requests for dispensation for pecuniary interest – not applicable.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Signed and approved by Cllr Korwin

1. **Robert Lindsay’s report**

As Cllr lindsay’s report was based an annual report rather than monthly it has been included in the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly.

There was however a discussion with regard to the Travellers who had moved on to the land opposite 2nd Pitts. They have erected a fence, which as the land belongs to them they are permitted to do. Babergh Council are waiting for the outcome of an appeal before they take matters further.

1. **Public Forum**

Three membersof the public joined the meeting but did not wish to speak at this time

1. **Correspondence**

Clerk reported that unfortunately Cllr Luck had resigned as a Councillor, due to still feeling he needed to protect vulnerable member of his family.

Babergh council has asked for the opinion of the council with regard to the grant that has been requested for a CIL payment to help with the costs of the Village Hall extension. Councillors agreed that they support this and want clerk to make this known to Babergh.

1. **Clerks Report**

Since the resignation of Cllr Luck, I have been on the Governments website and given feedback, regarding the fact that councillors should be given the option to attend meetings remotely.

Payments have been made for the Church and village Hall grants, also payments for the hire of the village Hall from 2019 to start of this financial year. These were outstanding from last year. This has taken a chunk from the monies that were carried over from last year, but now we are up to date with payments. Cllr Korwin is in the process of being signed up to authorise payments. It’s a slow process with Barclays Bank, but hopefully we will be there soon. I have reported to the council the fact that the handrail on the bridge on footpath number 14 is broken. Nothing back yet. I propose that now that from the beginning of June I will start to invoice advertisers for space in the PPP, most of them have been closed and severely affected by the pandemic, as the PPP was not printed some months last year payments have not been invoiced.

1. **Councilors reports**

Cllr Hanlon proposed that the area of village green in front of both Busted Mead and Busted House should be cultivated as a wild flower meadow; this was seconded by Cllr Tasker. She also has the offer from an initiative from Babergh Council to order hedgerow to be planted in areas that have disappeared over the years. Cllr Lindsay will try to obtain the survey that was carried out previously which identified the different species of hedges that formed the hedgerow in the past. It was agreed that planting may take place in the autumn, with a notice regarding this to be placed in August/September issue of the PPP asking for volunteers

Councilors agreed that to finance the defibrillator we should try to raise 1 third of the money from the residents, 1 third to come from funds from the Parish Council and an application to local council for the remainder. Cllr Halon proposed we enclose a leaflet with August edition of the PPP asking each household to contribute to the purchase of the machine. This was seconded by Cllr Tasker. Clerk to liaise with Bob Hutchinson regarding this.

1. **Planning** Councilors have looked at the plans no DC/21/02711, 2 single story dwellings to be built in land behind College Farm, Church Lane. Councilor Hanlon showed concern for the effect building may have on the Turtle Doves that reside on the land; these birds are on the red list for endangered species. Councilor Korwin said the council needs to consider that this would be deemed as building in the countryside rather than within the boundaries of the village, and that rules regarding this should be followed. This was put to a vote and 2 councilors opposed the application 1 upheld. All councilors felt 1 property on the area would have less impact all round. Cllr Korwin felt we should object to the proposal in principle and that the council needed to view the application in accordance with the criteria laid down in the planning rules followed by Babergh. His grounds for rejecting the proposal were that this was “development in the countryside “which should only be granted in exceptional circumstances AND must be subject to proven justifiable need. He felt that the development might have had more merit if it was for one dwelling only. As it is for two dwellings he felt that this was overdevelopment of the site. He stated that Babergh would need to look into whether this development satisfied the criteria of “local need” He felt the development was outside of the boundaries of the village and that Babergh should take this into consideration when making their decision.
2. **Next meeting**

June 29th at 7.30 pm in Village Hall

Meeting closed at 20.10 hrs