

Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council.

held on 29. June 2021 at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Tasker, Cllr Hanlon, Cllr Whymark together with the Parish Clerk, Kay Shorter. No members of public present.

1. Apologies:

- i. Chair Cllr Martin sent his apologies he was unable to attend due to being quarantined prior to hospital procedure.
- ii. Cllr Korwin sent apologies as in isolation following trip abroad
- iii. Robert Lindsay sent apologies due to prior engagement

Cllr Tasker proposed Cllr Hanlon chair this meeting, Cllr Whymark seconded. Cllr Hanlon accepted apologies

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest:

- i. Disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest for the Agenda under discussion – none;
- ii. Declaration of gifts of hospitality – none;
- iii. Requests for dispensation for pecuniary interest – not applicable.

3. Minutes of meeting

- i. minutes approved and signed from previous meeting

4. Robert Lindsay's report

New look County Council

I was re-elected last month along with eight other Green councillors across the county, making us the main opposition group to the ruling Conservatives and the only county in the UK that has Greens as opposition. Thanks to all those who supported me. We have decided to again join forces with the 4 LibDems and 2 independent councillors to make a 15-strong group. I am deputy leader of the group for the first year. While Greens increased from 3 to 9 the Conservatives increased from 50 to 55, so they are still overwhelmingly in control. Our larger group size means our political group will have a seat on every major committee. The first council meeting at the end of May took place at Wherstead Park outside Ipswich as apparently the only venue large enough. The next meeting in July has been cancelled and an extra meeting will instead be held in September in the hope that restrictions will have lifted and a venue can be found by then.

New cabinetThe cabinet has been reshuffled and new roles created. Matthew Hicks is still the leader; his deputy is now Richard Rout who is also member for finance and environment, combining the two roles to hopefully ensure one does not hinder the other. Highways and young people's roles have both been split into two. Rachel Hood is cabinet member for education, SEND and skills (schools and colleges). Becky Hopfenspurger is member for adult care; James Reeder is member for children and young people's services – services provided to kids outside schools Andrew Reid has been put in charge of public health and public protection, including the fire service and CABs Richard Smith is economic development, transport strategy – including road safety and speeding, and waste. Paul West is in charge of operational highways (including footpaths and pavements), flooding and Ipswich School travel and split villages. Having been approach by both Cockfield PC and a resident of Thorpe Morieux over the issue of their siblings having to go to different schools. I have written to Rachel Hood as the relevant new cabinet member about the issue of split villages, asking if the policy could be reviewed. She has said she will talk to the senior officer regarding this and get back to me. The other route is via the new

ct.

education and health scrutiny committee, at which our group will be pushing to have a review of this policy on the agenda. It is something that the administration was warned repeatedly about by members of our political group when they were considering introducing the new policy back in 2017. The cabinet member who introduced the policy, Gordon Jones, stood down from office in May. Special educational needs (SEND) Review Rachel Hood's first act as education and SEND cabinet member is to order an independent review into the way parents and carers are communicated with by Suffolk County Council. The review will not look at the actual provision of SEND services itself. A SEND team from Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed to do the job. They started week beginning June 21 and will take six weeks. The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County

4 Public Forum no members of the public were present

5 Correspondence

- i. Community grant Aid application form has been received and will be completed by clerk with assistance from Bob Hutchinson. (Defibrillator)
- ii. Email from Sue Groom requesting a donation towards SARS Clerk is going to see if any donations have been made to this charity in the past, also going to pass details of contact and charity to Cllr Tasker as may be worth looking at making a feature of this matter for an article in PPP
- iii. Email from Pauline Scott with regard to travelers site, cllrs have concerns as to whether or not this is in congress with the council

6 Clerk's Report:

- i. Clerk requested all cllrs to audit the previous year's quarterly accounts
- ii. Clerk reported that we are behind with payments at the present date as we are still waiting for Cllr Korwin to be able to authorise BACS payments with Barclay bank.
- iii. Certificate of exemption was considered and approved 2020/2021
- iv. Annual Internal Audit report was considered and approved 2020/2021
- v. Annual Governance Statement was considered and approved 2020/2021
- vi. Accounting Statement was considered and approved 2020/2021

7. Councilors reports

- i. Cllr Hanlon would like to thank Graham Pryke for mowing the grass on the main part of the green outside Busted Mead and Mead House, although this area is going to become a flower meadow to attract the bees it had become so high around the edges that it needed to be cut right back before it can be allowed to grow with the edges in the future being trimmed by new resident in Busted Mead. Cllrs would like to thank David for offering to do this.
- ii. Cllr Hanlon has had no response from various landowners with regard to being allowed to replace hedgerow that has been depleted on their land. Cllr Tasker has offered to try to take matter further with the main landowners. All Cllrs are aware they are very busy people but feel the matter is important and needs to be followed up.
- iii. Cllr Hanlon has reported to Babergh that the footpath sign has fallen down opposite No 2 The Street has fallen over and that the drain opposite Six Bells Cottage is completely blocked and causes flooding during any amount of rain. There is also a large hole in a sleeper type bridge on the footpath from Whelp Street to the fields towards Hill Farm.

8. Planning

- i. Councilors have looked at the plans no DC/21/03147, no objections, clerk to make comment regarding Babergh to ensure that the standalone property cannot be sold as a separate dwelling in the future.
- ii. Plans DC/21/03195 no objections but will light be effected to No 1 The Street from the 2 storey extension?

Next meeting 28th September

Meeting closed at 20.41 hrs

EH.

E. Hanlon 29/9/21