

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council.held on 25th January at the village Hall

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

1. **Election of new Chairman** Cllr Tasker proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that Cllr Korwin should take the position of Chairman. To which he agreed on the understanding it was only to be for a term of 1 year then this would be reviewed.
2. **Apologies:**
 - i. No apologies for this meeting
3. **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.

4. **Robert Lindsay's report** due to a commitment to attend another meeting later this evening it was agreed that Cllr Lindsay's report should be next on the agenda.

Preston St Mary PC 25.1.22 Report from District and County Councillor Robert Lindsay
Condolences

Just to say I was saddened to hear of the death of Richard Martin. My condolences to Janet and the family.

Babergh Planning – Joint Local Plan delay.

During the inspectors hearings into the new Joint Local Plan, the inspectors made clear that they felt that policies around where new housing should be prioritised and where sites were allocated were not robustly justified nor explained.

Inspectors also complained about a lack of clarity on open space policy and on gipsy site allocation (this last particularly applies to Mid Suffolk).

The inspectors have now asked the two councils to resubmit the Joint local plan with the key bits they didn't like removed.

That would create a "part 1" plan that could be approved faster. It would use the settlement boundaries and open space policies from the existing old local plan rather than the new proposed ones.

The more controversial aspects will have to be submitted later as a "part 2" of the plan, once Babergh have better explained their reasoning for housing allocations, spatial distribution, settlement hierarchy, open space and gipsy site policy. This will take much more than a year. This was agreed by the two councils with the inspectors at a hearing on December 16th which you can watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mz6ZDQzMFQ> What this means is that once part 1 is approved, there will be higher environmental and other standards for new developments but no additional control on how many or where they are built. It is only when part 2 is approved – which could be a couple of years away – that the numbers in each community will be decided. Villages doing a neighbourhood plan will no longer be certain about what numbers of houses to plan for.

The fact that we have more than a six year land supply (beating the five year's required) is a big protection however.

Babergh - parking and political row

Initialled.....

Date.....

Babergh's cabinet has been rejigged, with the member for environment leaving the Conservative group and joining the independents in a row over the car parking charges. She remains on the cabinet but two more Conservatives (who are for scrapping the plan to charge for parking) have been appointed to the cabinet. One of them, the new portfolio holder for Environment, announced to the press, without consulting cabinet, that the plan to introduce charges has been delayed indefinitely – at least until after the next Babergh election May 2023.

Babergh move to scrap cabinet system and reintroduce committee system

In February, Babergh council will be debating whether to change from a cabinet system – whereby 8 or 9 individuals appointed by the leader make all the decisions, with no voting by other councillors – to a committee system whereby seats on each committee are allocated on a basis proportionate to the size of each political group and major decisions are approved by all councillors at full council. I and our Green group favour the latter option.

Suffolk budget proposals – 4% council precept rise, below the 5% cap

Suffolk County Council is proposing a 4% rise in council tax for next year. This is made up of the maximum 2% they are allowed on general budget and 2% rise for social care precept (below the 3% cap they are allowed). They had a similar rise last year. They are having to dip into reserves to meet a forecast budget deficit for the year. Savings they were hoping to make by implementing new ways of working particularly with Special Educational Needs and adult social care – have not happened as soon as they would like.

Babergh budget

Babergh are proposing a 2% rise in their council tax precept, equivalent to a £3.79 increase on band D properties. The Government cap is the highest of 2% or £5 on band D.

Platinum Jubilee Road Closures

The county council are waiving road closure fees for jubilee events this year. Details of how to apply are now on their website.

5. Minutes of meeting

i. minutes approved and signed from previous meeting

6. Public Forum no members of the public were present

7. New Councillors all councillors agreed to try to approach prospective councillors, several names were suggested.

4. Clerk's Report:

- i. Clerk requested Cllr Whymark to audit the previous quarters accounts it has been agreed that in the future clerk will take quarterly account to Cllr Wymark to check prior to meeting
- ii. Clerk reported that still having problems with Barclays Bank, at the moment we are writing cheques again. Clerk will ask other clerks at next forum which bank they use and how difficult it might be to change banks
- iii. Clerk reported the grant for defib has been approved and will sign and return the letter of offer to council as soon as possible prices have not increased since last quote so will proceed with order. Will contact Robert Lindsay with regard to his offer to contribute to this.
- iv. Clerk requested to be able to purchase a lap top for sole use of Parish Council work which will be the property of the council all councilors agreed to this
- v. Clerk has asked for Precept to be agreed, signed by Cllr Hanlon

Initialled 

Date 22/03/2022

- vi.** Clerk has requested that a monthly payment of £10.00 is paid to cover the cost of home office and all office supplies. ie printing, envelopes and stamps. All councilors agreed this.
- vii.** Clerk is to look further into the current situation with local neighbourhood watch scheme.

7. Councilors reports

- i. Council agreed that the colour pages of the PPP will be a feature twice a year. It was proposed that as a 1 off there would be a full colour issue to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- ii. Council would like clerk to contact Babergh Council with regard to have a Preston St Mary sign as you approach the village from Brent Eleigh .
- iii. Council would like to join in with the Suffolk Spring Clean project and propose that we hold a litter pick through the village and approach roads on Sunday 3rd April to start at 10.00 and finish at the village hall with hot drink and cakes. Clerk to register our interest in the event.

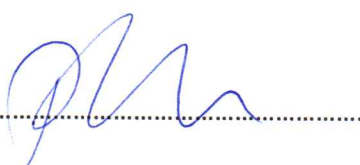
8. Planning matters

- i.** Planning application number DC/22/00168
Council had not objections to the plans proposed by Cllr Korwin seconded by Cllr Hanlon

Next meeting 29th March at the village hall

Meeting closed at 20.42

Signed.....



Dated.....

22/03/2022