

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 26th September 2023 at the village hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Korwin, Cllr Tasker, Cllr Whymark, Cllr Diable, Cllr Humphreys together with Cllr Deborah Saw, Cllr Robert Lindsay and the Parish Clerk, Kay Shorter. 8 members of public present.

1. Apologies:

- i. No apologies, all councillors present including Davis Humphreys who was welcomed by the chair

2. Declarations of Interest:

- i. No pecuniary interest, other registered interest or non-registerable interest for the Agenda under discussion;
- ii. no gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. no requests for dispensation for any interest for the Agenda under discussion

3. District Councillor, Deborah Saw's report

Joint Local Plan

The first phase of the Joint Local Plan has been approved by the government inspectors. Babergh now has an agreed, up to date planning policy framework to help guide planning decisions till 2037. This part of the plan will come to full Council for adoption in November. There are still site-specific allocations to finalise in Part Two of the plan, but these will all be open for consultation. The good news is that the inspectors did not think that housing targets needed to be raised, so consequently Babergh needs to deliver 416 houses a year for the rest of the plan period. However, the rise in mortgage rates means that planning applications have and are falling. You can find details of the Inspectors' comments and modifications using this link.

www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan

Capital Grants You can now apply again for a capital grant for any improvements you might want to make to the village hall or any recreational facilities. The window for applications opened on 31st July and will close on 1st October. We could also explore CIL funding which would allow you to bid for larger amounts.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This is a £75 million fund administered by the National Lottery for the Government. This funding is for organisations that "support people and communities in England under severe pressure because of the increased cost of living." You can apply for between £10,000 and £75,000. If you need £10,000 or less you could try the [National Lottery Awards for All fund](#). For example, if you wanted to run a warm space in the village hall that would be eligible for a grant. Last year there was funding from the County Council for this, but it looks unlikely that this will be repeated this year.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/community-organisations-cost-of-living-fund>

The Biodiversity Action Plan

Over the past two years, the Council's free trees, hedging and wildflowers scheme has helped plant nearly 400 large trees, over 10,000 small trees and hedgerow plants, and enough wildflower seed to cover over 12,000m². The new administration is continuing the scheme into 2024, to ensure we deliver on our Biodiversity Action Plan, support wildlife at a time when it is under great pressure and make the district a better place for all. We are open for applications that both help wildlife and have public access. Applications can be for:

Individual trees

- Tree planting schemes – street trees, a copse, an avenue
- Small community woods
- Hedgerows – both new and improving existing ones, especially where they help bridge gaps in the landscape.
- Community or scattered orchards – we are keen to help retain our local heritage varieties and provide a source of free fruit for the local community, as well as helping wildlife.

Signed.....

Date..... 21/11/23