

Prestbury Parish Council Minutes

Held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7pm held at the Pavilion, New Barn Close

Members Present: Cllrs: M Hansen (MH) Chair, K Bishop (KB), H Breach (HB), J Gardner (JG), S Hope (SH), C Hunt (CH), C Taylor (CT), and V Russell (VR).

In attendance: J Tetley Parish Clerk (JT), Stan Smith, Borough Councillor (SS). and 6 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 7pm.

Item no.	Item	Action
24/169	Welcome by Chairman. Apologies received and accepted from Sandra Attwood (SA), Nick Atty (NA) Vice Chairman, P Kennard (PK), P Whitton (PW), Stephan Fifield, County Councillor (SF) and Ian Bassett Smith, Borough Councillor (IBS).	
170	No Declarations of Interest.	
171	The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15 th January 2023 (previously circulated) were approved by the Council. CT proposed approval and CH seconded, the minutes were signed by MH as an accurate record.	
172	There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered in the agenda.	
173	<p>Adjournment to Allow for Questions from the Public</p> <p>Q) One member of the public stated she was at the meeting to gain a better understanding of how the council worked. It was noted that anyone could email the clerk with any questions at any time. Meanwhile she proposed that councillors list 3 bullet points about themselves on the website.</p> <p>A) MH stated it would be considered under agenda item 183.</p> <p>Q) One member of the public stated that she believed the PAB owed an apology not only to PPC but also to a former councillor as they had mis-quoted him in the PAB leaflet distributed to all Prestbury residents.</p> <p>A) MH stated her concerns would be covered under item 184 on the agenda.</p>	
174	<p>Borough and County Councillor Reports</p> <p>SS and IBS – Borough Councillors</p> <p>No report received from SS or IBS.</p> <p>SS stated that the petition to stop the sale of Idsall Car Park had over 1000 signatures and would be presented to the mayor at the full council meeting on Friday 23rd February at 2.30pm.</p>	

	<p>HB asked for an update on the collapsing wall on Prestbury High Street as people are ignoring the barriers placed on the pavement which presents a health and safety risk. SS stated that the owner of the wall had recently agreed to pay for the tree to come down that is causing the wall to collapse but he is still refusing to replace the wall.</p> <p>HB asked for clarification that the wall was safe. SS stated that he didn't know.</p> <p>CT asked if the tree officer had changed his mind as previously the officer had stated that if the tree came down the wall would collapse. SS stated he didn't know.</p> <p>HB asked if SS could report back at the next meeting and VR asked if he could include an update in his report on the PAB website.</p> <p>SF - County Councillor MH noted that SF's report contained 2 items on PPC's agenda. SF's report can be found here: https://stephanfield.com/blog/f/prestbury-parish-council-report-february-2024</p>	
175	<p>Committee Reports – F&GP (MH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accounts for the month of January 2024 (previously circulated) were APPROVED by the council with no questions. MH outlined the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 8th February 2024 which are available on the website. A new draft complaints policy circulated at C5 would not be adopted yet as there were concerns regarding including anonymous complaints. PPC to continue with their present complaints policy. 	
176	<p>Committee Reports – Allotments (KB presented an update in PK's absence)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tenancy Terms & Conditions will be updated following the last Allotment Committee meeting with new bonfire rules from April 2024, the start of the new tenancy agreements. The minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting 25 Jan 2024 have been published on the PPC website. Recent incidents of antisocial behaviour have been reported to the police. The committee will investigate ways to deter future trespass by upgrading the fence along the Blacksmith Lane and allotment border. A contractor has been engaged to fell the large "Christmas tree" on Plot 24A. As required under the Financial Regulations three estimates were obtained by Cllr Bishop and the tree will be felled soon. All tenants are reminded that only soft fruit trees or dwarf root stock are permitted to be planted on their plots, and not ornamental trees or shrubs and not nut trees or Christmas trees. There are currently 54 applicants on the waiting list: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25 are Prestbury parish residents. 34 live outside the parish, the list continues to be closed to new non-parishioners (since February 2023). Plots of Concern (PloCs) – the Committee continues to monitor plots which are not cultivated to the required standard (Terms & Conditions) and tenants are being contacted on an individual basis to ask if they wish to continue their tenancy. The committee continues to work to ensure that plots are used to cultivate fruit and vegetables and not as gardens. 	

177	<p>Committee Reports - Facman (JG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JG outlined the FacMan minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2024 which are available on the website. VR gave an update on the car park working group (CPWG). It was noted that the CPWG are investigating solutions for the car park here at the playing fields. It has been agreed to open the car park and charge race goers during the racing festival. JG will coordinate a rota of volunteers. <p>Q) Is the car park fit for purpose to charge race goers to park? A) It is assumed that if the car park can cope with the normal Saturday traffic at football games it could cope with race week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JG outlined the new wildflower beds to be located in Barley Road Field and the terms agreed with Modica (the gardening company installing the beds.). It was emphasised that these beds would be installed at no cost to PPC. <p>Q) Why has weedkiller been applied to the area where the beds are to be located? A) JG to ask Modica.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>JG</p>
178	<p>Committee Reports – Planning (HB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 applications –no objections. PPC’s application is one of the applications. PPC have been asked to comment on the removal of the hedgerow to build the new cycle path on the A435. CT outlined his meeting with SF and David Gray, GCC cabinet member responsible. It was noted that at the railway bridge the pedestrians and cyclists would merge into one lane as there was no way to widen the path over the bridge. CT added that if anyone had any questions, he could phone the project manager, Ricard Lane, for clarification. SS added that objections had been raised by the planning officer on the application to construct five new dwellings on Cleavelands Drive and it has been referred back to the builder for reassessment. Issues include drainage, the loss of trees and parking. 	
179	<p>Pavilion Development Working Group (PDWG)</p> <p>NA gave the following update via email:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Architect has completed work and PPC now have complete plans. 2) Planning application is submitted and has attracted some interest. Letters were sent to all immediate neighbours informing them. One comment so far, no objections. 3) Preparing for installation of new building if permission is granted: site visit by contractors later this week. 4) All on financial track; somewhere behind on timing but hopefully manageable to meet original timetable. 	
180	<p>Strategic and Local Plan (S&LP)</p> <p>CT circulated, prior to the meeting, draft answers to a recent questionnaire on the S&LP and clarified what the plan was about and who was involved. More information can be found on the website: strategiclocalplan.org.</p> <p>CT proposed entering the answers circulated onto the website as a response from PPC. CH seconded the proposal and all members approved it.</p> <p>It was noted that individuals can also respond to the questions on the website.</p>	
181	<p>Approval of Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety – all members approved the H&S Policy. 	

	CT asked if there would be anymore policies and the clerk stated that many recent policies were a requirement of the Lawn Tennis Association and the H&S policy was required by legislation.	
182	Consultation on Gloucestershire Pension Fund Draft Response to Investment Policy MH outlined the background to the Investment Policy as discussed at F&GP and the recommendation that PPC are broadly supportive of the policy and would welcome reviews of the investments annually. All members accepted this recommendation.	
183	Councillor Information on PPC Website A discussion took place regarding councillor information on the website and whether councillor's individual councillor emails should be made available. MH reiterated the need for all emails to initially come through the clerk. It was agreed that councillors could provide 3 lines about themselves to the clerk which would be uploaded onto the website if they wished but there was no obligation to do so.	
184	<p>Correction to and Apology for PAB website and Newsletter Items Regarding Idsall Car Park</p> <p>MH reiterated that PPC objects to the wording of the PAB website and newsletter items about Idsall because it has been perceived by many people, not just PPC councillors, as blaming PPC for the loss of the car park. Its disposal, however, was a CBC decision, and PPC understand the reasons even if PPC do not agree with them. PPC believe the site should remain as a car park and SF's successful petition to stop the sale, which will be presented to the mayor on Friday, will result in a new debate on the sale by CBC at their March Council meeting. MH added that all councillors should work together for the best outcome for the residents of Prestbury rather than seeking to blame any one party for the loss of the car park.</p> <p>MH added that PPC do not agree with the claim of "considerable" or "supreme" PAB effort in bringing CBC and PPC together, getting CBC to offer the car park again to PPC at the original price, or trying to persuade PPC to buy the car park. Furthermore, former PAB councillor John Payne did not support the PAB view that PPC should buy the car park, a view based on consultation with Prestbury village residents but not with those further afield in the parish (e.g. Starvehall Farm, Wyman's Brook).</p> <p>The sale of Idsall Car park has been discussed at 3 separate meetings by PPC. Cllr Bassett—Smith was invited to attend the 18 September PPC monthly meeting but stated he was not available. The minutes of that PPC meeting are here: https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/20230918-PPCMinutes-draft-2.pdf</p> <p>At the CBC Cabinet meeting, at which the decision was taken to dispose of the car park, CBC (Rowena Hay) asked Cllr Jeffries, Director Finance Assets, to engage again with PPC about the site. This was in response to concern from many quarters: the public, councillors and prospective council candidates at parish, borough and county levels etc. Cllr Jeffries said he was also prepared to talk to "any community group" about potential solutions - but none ever stepped forward.</p> <p>MH spoke to Cllr Jeffries by telephone on 20 September and in person on 9th October. Cllr Bassett-Smith suggested that CBC might be amenable to reducing the sale price and overage conditions. This proved not to be the case. The asking price was reconfirmed at our 9 October meeting; the overage clause was reconfirmed by email on 17 October.</p>	

	<p>MH added that the above reasons clarify why PPC are unhappy with the PAB leaflet and website. An apology and correction are required to facilitate a good working relationship going forward.</p> <p>In the heated debate that followed, MH reminded Cllr Smith that former Cllr Payne had stated that he did not give permission for the statement he was alleged to have made, and in fact gave unreserved support for the PPC position at the November PPC meeting attended by both Cllr Smith and Cllr Bassett-Smith. Cllr Smith apologised for the misrepresentation.</p> <p>MH concluded that an impasse had been reached regarding the intention and perception of what had been written in the PAB leaflet. VR added that he hoped the PAB could focus on fighting to save the car park rather than trying to see if there was deal for PPC to buy the car park. HB reiterated that the former and present PAB councillors had voted for a financial package that included the sale of Idsall so he did not accept that the PAB had done everything as a political party to save the car park.</p> <p>MH closed the discussion and thanked everyone for their input and SS for coming along representing the PAB and saying his piece.</p>	
185	Parish Reports -only by exception and only if a critical issue needs to be raised. None.	
186	Matters for Future Consideration (not for discussion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
	The meeting closed at 20.16pm	
	Date of next meeting: Full Council Meeting 7pm 18th March 2024 at the Pavilion	