
MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of the Prestbury Parish Council held on Monday 15th September at 19:00 at Pavilion, New Barn Close.

Members present:, J Gardner, S Hope, C Hunt, L Langrish, J Roden, B Stark, C Taylor, V Russell

Also present: Parish Clerk, 2 members of Gloucestershire Constabulary (in part), 2 members of the public. County Councillor Ian Cameron (in part)

PPC25/075	Welcome to the meeting. The Councillors decided with no objections that Cllr Russell to chair the meeting as both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were absent. Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs: M Hansen Chairman, Nick Atty Vice Chairman, K Bishop, H Breach, P Kennard
076	Declarations of interest None
077	Approval of the minutes from the PPC meeting of 18 th August 2025 These were approved unanimously and signed by both Cllr Russell and Cllr Langrish.
078	Matters arising not on the agenda None.
079	Anti-social behaviour and police Chief Superintendent James Glansfield and PCSO Richard Grainger James Glansfield attended and discussed the recent anti-social behaviour in the playing fields. Reporting incidents online is the easiest way to report - but do not be put off by all the questions. The resident that reported the anti-social behaviour was thanked. PCSO Grainger has been regularly patrolling in the CCTV van. PPC have asked for more hi-visibility patrolling at various times of the day and night around the Parish, including the playing fields and allotments. Residents were encouraged to sign up to Your Community Alerts https://www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk/ for alerts to incidents around their home postcode. PCSO Grainger recommended PPC review their CCTV, lighting and install motorbike bollards.
080	County and Borough Councillor Reports – Written updates from Cllr Foster and Cllr Smith are appended to the minutes. Cllr Cameron has funding for 4 grants for grassroots projects that support/promote health and wellbeing to be used for Prestbury Parish and Swindon Parish. Prestbury Parish Council to put together two proposals.
081	Committee Reports – Finance and General Purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of financial statements• List of payments in August• List of receipts in August• Budget vs Expenditure to end of August• August 2025 bank reconciliation All circulated on 11 th September 2025

PRESTBURY

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office - The Pavilion - New Barn Close – Prestbury – Cheltenham – GL52 3LP

	<p>No questions or comments arising.</p> <p>It has been agreed that the credit card limit be increased to £2,000. The clerk (Chloé Simpson) will have a limit of £750, Jude Marshall to have a limit of £750 and Martyn Hansen £500. 7 voted in favour, 1 abstained. This also confirms that Jane Tetley will be removed as business representative with Lloyds Credit Card.</p>
082	<p>Committee Reports – Allotments</p> <p>There has not been an allotment committee meeting since the last PPC meeting.</p>
083	<p>Committee Reports – Facilities Management</p> <p>The clerk has ordered and paid for a new noticeboard to be used for tennis. This will be sited on the tennis pavilion.</p> <p>As we have been unable to apply grass seed on the football pitches over the summer due to the weather, on Sunday, parts of the pitch as well as the old MUGA have been reseeded to ensure the pitch remains playable. Several councillors expressed concern that this was a waste of time given that the pitches would be used within one week.</p>
084	<p>Committee Reports – Planning</p> <p>Another quiet month with only a few non-controversial applications.</p>
085	<p>Group report – Business Improvement Group</p> <p>Cllr Taylor has identified a high interest saving account for the Clerk to look at further. Looking at car park management, including increasing security.</p>
086	<p>Discuss Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiative</p> <p>Cllr Taylor has submitted the feedback received from residents. Most support 20mph on residential roads with arterial roads staying at 30mph.</p>
087	<p>Public session to provide members of the public and/or press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. This session shall not exceed fifteen minutes and each member of the public shall not speak for more than three minutes.</p> <p>It was asked whether the grant applications that were discussed with Cllr Cameron would be taken to a full PPC meeting to be voted on. It was asked whether PPC would promote Your Community Alert. Both were answered in the affirmative.</p>
088	<p>Matters for future consideration (not for discussion)</p> <p>None</p>
089	<p>Consider any applications for co-option</p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting – Monday 20th October 7pm</p>

August - September Report

Cllr Jan Foster

NB I am taking leave for a few weeks from 17th September until 13th October. I don't want to put extra pressure on Cllr Smith at the moment, so Cllr Ashleigh Davies has kindly said she will answer any urgent emails.

Prestbury concerns

Judging from my mail-box and last surgery, Prestbury residents appear to be most concerned about speeding and the sale of assets

Sale of Assets

It is no secret that the council is disposing of some of its assets. On this subject, I finally received an answer to my supplementary question about how much it would have cost for the council to have drawn up plans for a dwelling or dwellings on the Idsall Drive car park site and obtained planning permission before selling the site. I quote from Cllr Jeffries reply: *"To the specific point you raised, it is a little tricky in that this is a notional figure, but for plans, planning documentation and supporting reports etc it would be in the region of £15 - £20K, along with significant additional officer time or private planning consultant fees that would easily be in the thousands alone, just to potentially secure an outline planning consent."*

Traffic

- Temporary traffic lights will be in place on each arm of the Bishop's Cleeve (GE Aviation) Roundabout overnight from 7pm to 6am from 8 to 26 September 2025.
- 20 is Plenty petition: Due to problems with people being able to access the petition, it has been extended until 1st October.

Websites

- **New Borough Council Website:** This will be launched in January. Questions to helen.mole@cheltenham.gov.uk
- **Battlefield Crosses Museum:** This now has its own website. <https://cheltenham-battlefield-crosses.org/>

Consultations

- **Council tax support scheme 2026-27 consultation** - closes 8 October
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-YeOie3om0SvpBNTRu0yS1uiOZrQKJNLmw5-ediYPwFUQ1VWMk9UNEtQOUxJTk5OQzRVVDVUUUYwTC4u&route=shorturl>
- **Market Activity in Cheltenham.** Below is the link I have been given. I am told that it will be added to the main consultation page on the website. [Market Activity in Cheltenham \(Page 1 of 3\)](#)

Decisions

- To commission Pennington's to support matters relating to property compliance. Info here: [Decision - To commission Pennington's to support matters relating to property compliance. - Modern Council](#)
- To amend the lease for EV charging points at St James Street Car Park: [Decision - To amend the lease for EV charging points at St James Street Car Park - Modern Council](#)
- Local Government reorganisation: [Decision - To enter into a Direct Award contract with Plexal for Local Government Reorganisation advice and support, and the submission of an interim Business Case - Modern Council](#)
- To set aside up to £20,000 from the council's Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) to enable supported housing providers in Cheltenham, like YMCA and P3, to move their tenants on from their low-supported housing provision into private rented accommodation, with the help of a deposit. More info here: [Decision - To set aside up to £20,000 from the council's Homelessness prevention Grant \(HPG\) to support the move-on initiative - Modern Council](#)
- [Decision - To set aside up to £20,000 from the council's Homelessness Prevention Grant \(HPG\) to prevent homelessness by supporting households who have fallen into financial hardship - Modern Council](#)

- To agree to the pooling of the base budgets for the Planning Policy Manager roles of Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council in order to secure two contractor posts, to manage the work of the three Planning Policy Teams and support the agreed work programme of the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (SLP). One of these will be the existing contractor employed by Cheltenham Borough Council, the second will be a new contractor employed by Tewkesbury Council. More info: [Decision - Planning Policy Manager roles - Modern Council](#)
- On 10 June 2025, Cabinet agreed to support the construction of the Petersfield community and sports hub by way of two separate leases with Petersfield Partnership CIO and Saracens FC and by entering into a grant agreement and a management agreement with Petersfield Partnership CIO. Further details in link below. <https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=3400&LLL=0>
- That the Council enters into a grant agreement with Gloucestershire Everyman Theatre Company Ltd for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The council pays an annual grant of £122,300 to the Gloucestershire Everyman Theatre Company Limited. Further info: [Decision - Grant agreement between Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire Everyman Theatre Company Ltd for the financial year 2025/26 - Modern Council](#)
- To enter into a Direct Award contract with Plexal for the purposes of delivering a viable pathway for the Golden Valley Development (GVD) to position itself for designated area status and develop a compelling proposition, aligned with Gloucestershire's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) submission at a cost of £52,631.58. The cost will be shared on a 50/50 basis with Gloucestershire County Council. [Decision - To enter into a Direct Award contract with Plexal - Modern Council](#)

PAB - Stan's Blog for September

Hello again to all our PAB members ,here we are back after a little break. I hope the summer wasn't too hot for you ? Town Council and more local matters , as ever , need attending too whatever the weather and here are just a few matters I have been involved with recently .

In the Borough Council we have a big few months coming up in that decisions will have to be made as to how local government will look for the future - this is being referred to as local devolution. We talked a little about this at our AGM in early summer. The public have now put forward ideas , Councillors have made suggestions and now the next steps are being considered.

As most of you will have experienced in the last few months the town seems to have been dominated by ongoing roadworks with (on our side of the town) the Evesham Road , passing the Racecourse , still a problem. The latest is that it will go on for an extended short period as the engineers working on the bridge first repaired the good part and then had to repair the part that was required to be fixed in the first place! Southbound is now due to open on the 22nd Sept and then on 31st October the whole road will be re-opened.

The builders are keeping me up to date on their plans and I will let you know if anything further changes.

There was extended traffic chaos in Prestbury in August when Glos. Highways put up traffic lights by the racecourse with a 4 way control, that was meant to be for three or four days and if that was not enough more temporary lights also turned up in New Barn Lane (close to the library) until after the bank holiday and then to cap it all more lights appeared in Southam Road on Tuesday the 26th of August.

I contacted Highways and I gather Local Parish Councillors became involved, both looking for immediate action to help sort the situation.

I was given a full and profuse apology. Highways accepted a big error on their part, cancelled the roadworks for now and sent a full apology on social media. Most of the work had actually been scheduled for after Evesham Rd re-opened - somebody had made a mistake

As to more regular local matters;

I have been contacted by residents about the state of footpaths around Prestbury as folks are having problems not only with walking thereon but with negotiating with their Mobility scooters , wheelchairs and prams.

On looking into it I find that it is not only Prestbury but the surrounding area that the footpaths are a problem, so I have asked for a meeting with the relevant department to discuss further.

As to the flooding potential in Glebe Road ,I was told by the County Councillor that work was going to start in six weeks, well here we are some ten weeks later and not a start in sight. Now I am told work will start in the autumn, maybe winter - fingers crossed for one of them and let's hope we don't get another flooding before then? I will keep pushing County with this long outstanding matter

A resident got in touch about a safety fence that was on the footpath running behind St Marys School. The fence has fallen down by the culvert so please take care walking along the path, till we can get it fixed.

I have been asked to look into a couple of bus stop related matters . Not sure how we will get on with enquiries but I have started the ball rolling by contacting County and the transport authorities

I see that the last big summer music event at the Racecourse had to be cancelled due to Licence problems . I gather though that the Tribute band spectacular will be back next year. More major events coming up in town though - Heritage Open days 12th - 21st Sept ; Run Cheltenham Half Marathon on 21st (watch out for those road closures !); Cheltenham Literature Festival 10th - 19th October . Busy times !!

How good to note that there will be a Tourist Information desk in Cheltenham again . I gather it is in the entrance to Cav House and largely staffed by volunteers

Very Best Wishes to you all - as ever please don't hesitate to contact me via the PAB website or through Cheltenham Borough Council phone/email

Stan (Councillor Stan Smith, PAB)