

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PRESTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015 AT 7.30PM

**Present:**        **Councillors:**    A Dicken (Chairman), L Burns, D Foden, T Jackson, M Leather, J Martin, K Miles, C Musgrove, L Saint

Item		Action
<b>95.</b>	<b>Motion without Notice</b>	
	<p>That, in absence of the Clerk on sick leave, Cllrs Musgrove and Burns should perform the role of acting joint clerks.                      Cllr Dicken proposed the motion                      Seconded by Cllr Miles                      All in favour</p>	<b>CM &amp; LB</b>
<b>96.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
	<p>K. Podmore                      Cllr. Dicken also noted that he had accepted the resignation of Cllr Bailey</p>	
<b>97.</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
	<p>Cllr Burns proposed that the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> June be approved                      Cllr Musgrove seconded the proposal                      All in favour except for Cllr Jackson who abstained as she was absent from the last meeting  <i>Resolved: That the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 should be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.</i></p>	
<b>98.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	<p>Cllr. Dicken declared an interest in the agenda item on King's School (106 of these minutes)</p>	
<b>99.</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	
	<p>None</p>	
<b>100.</b>	<b>Clerk's Report</b>	
	<p>No comment</p>	
<b>101.</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b>	<b>APPENDIX A</b>
	<p>Cllr Dicken had received an apology from TWM, the company which supplied the SID, about their failed system. Cllr Leather explained that the invoice for the SID was in their system but they had not acted upon it.                      It was agreed that, in the absence of the Clerk, (whose sick note ran from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>), it would be necessary to ensure that her salary was paid. Also, the cleaner of the toilet block would have to be paid monthly. Cllr Leather commented upon the lack of work sheets and the need to clarify some claims. She was of the opinion that all invoices from all claimants and work sheets should be presented in future before payments were agreed. There was a discussion about the system that was currently in place but no agreement was reached about whether or how it should be changed.                      The Clerk had managed to produce a set of accounts and get them to the Parish Council Chairman and these showed that the sum of £3,500 was outstanding to Wicksteed for the provision of the new playground.                      Cllr Saint proposed approval of the monthly accounts for payment, subject to some clarification in respect of the toilet block by Cllr Leather. Cllr Miles seconded the accounts for payment.                      All were in favour  <i>Resolved: That the accounts for June/ July should be sanctioned for payment.</i></p>	<b>ML</b>

102.	<b>Planning Report for 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
	<p>The Planning Committee report of June 24<sup>th</sup> was noted. Cllr Jackson asked if anyone could represent the Council at the CEC North Area Planning Committee on the following day on the subject of Willowmead House. She explained that Cheshire East Council had consistently changed the order and notification had arrived late. No-one was available at less than a day's notice.</p> <p>The resignation letter from Tom Bailey would be considered in the Planning Committee meeting on the following morning.</p> <p>There was a discussion about Ford House. Trees and hedges on the site could not be demolished until the end of the nesting season and the site owner had yet to finalise a contract with the builder. There would be some minor works getting underway in the meantime but visible work would not now begin until late in 2015. It was agreed that Cllr Miles would liaise with the site owner in respect of plans for the Christmas street party which looked like it would be going ahead on December 13<sup>th</sup>.</p>	KM
103.	<b>Reports</b>	
	<p><b><i>i. Maintenance and Safety</i></b> Cllr Foden reported that Nigel Bates, the CEC tree officer, had viewed the trees alongside the Tennis Club building and had agreed with the Tennis Club that they needed to be removed. He had decreed that four trees should be taken down and replaced with mountain ash rowan trees or similar. The ones there at the moment, he said, were undermining the Tennis Club and the playing field. Cllr Dicken asked that quotes for the work be obtained. Cllr Foden agreed to deal with the matter and recommended that the job should be carried out next year.</p> <p><b><i>ii. Public Realm, Road and Pavement Maintenance and Road Safety</i></b> Cllr Leather noted that a bus stop pole and sign had suddenly appeared at the railway station. There was a bus stop in that position but there had been no marking of it for many years. She asked other Councillors to view it and feed back opinions about its siting at the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Musgrove had received complaints from a resident, Sue Cresswell, about the poor quality of the paved footway on the south side of Butley Lanes, close to the junction with New Road. The poor state of the pavement was compounded by overgrown verges. Such complaints had been reinforced by other residents. Cllr Musgrove also reported that the paved footway along Macclesfield Road was disappearing beneath overgrown grass verges. Cllr Leather mentioned that the grass on Alderley Road was 4' high in parts. For clarity, Cllr Leather explained that the highways department was responsible for verges that border the roads but the new arms-length company, ANSA, were responsible for verges away from the main road. Cllr Dicken suggested that Cllr Leather should write a letter to Paul Traynor, with a copy to Paul Findlow, asking for another meeting and/or site visit. Cllr Leather felt that, on this occasion, she would prefer to make a phone call. Cllr Dicken agreed. Cllr Burns pointed out that a request had been received from CEC and ANSA for suggestions for minor highways-related works to be tabled at the next meeting of the Poynton Local Area Highways Group on July 30<sup>th</sup>. She asked that suggestions be sent to Cllr Leather and copied to herself as Cllr Leather's deputy on that group before July 27<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Martin asked if the Council would request that double yellow lines be painted at the lower end of Macclesfield Road on the east side to the north of the junction with Broad Walk. Cllr Jackson requested that the area around the junction of London Road with Prestbury Lane be tidied up.</p> <p><b><i>iii. Police Report</i></b> Cllr Dicken reported that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been operational for a year. Recent recordings taken from the top of Macclesfield Road were indicating that the average speed there was over 40 mph and up to 50 mph. Cllr Miles asked for the SID to be trialed on the upper reaches of Chelford Road around the Prestbury border.</p> <p><b><i>iv. Environment Issues</i></b> Nothing to report</p> <p><b><i>v. Footpaths</i></b> Boxes of the new footpath map had been delivered to the Council Chamber and the Pharmacy.</p> <p><b><i>vi. Newsletter</i></b> Cllr Burns reported that a Summer edition of the newsletter had been written and was with the layout company. It was hoped it would be delivered at the beginning of the following week.</p> <p><b><i>vii. Community Pride</i></b> Cllr Jackson had brushed footpaths, tidied borders and applied weed killer.</p>	<p>DF</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>AD</p> <p>LB</p>

104.	<p><b>To receive reports concerning Cheshire East Council (CEC) issues including the Local Enterprise Partnership, Poynton Community Partnership, Local Service Delivery and Devolved Services</b></p>	
	<p>Cllr Burns drew attention to a notification which had been received from CEC’s highways department about a pending consultation and exhibitions relating to junction improvements on London Road through the Parish. These were connected to the Poynton Relief Road plans. There were no proposals forthcoming about the Prestbury Lane/ London Road junction despite strong representations made by the Parish Council to CEC about this due to the accident figures. Two drop-in sessions would be held at the Legh Arms, Adlington – on Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm to 8 pm and on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. Cllr Dicken commented that Butley Town residents would be attending the sessions.</p> <p>Cllr Burns also spoke of some of the headline figures from the modifications to the Local Plan which had been published on the CEC website on the previous evening. The volume of documentation was huge but it appeared there had not been any changes made by CEC to any of the key aspirations that had been discussed at the technical workshops which she and Cllr Musgrove had attended. CEC were going for very high growth figures. They included a recommendation that housing figures for the 13 Local Service Centres (of which Prestbury was one) should rise from 2,500 to 3,500. However, where the smaller site allocations would be was still an unknown factor. These may not come to light until the site allocations stage after the main Local Plan has been approved. The modifications would be going to the CEC cabinet for approval on July 21<sup>st</sup> and would then be sent to the Local Plan inspector. There had been a promise of a special event about the Local Plan being held for Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Musgrove had chased up about this but to no avail.</p>	
105.	<p><b>Development Project Progress</b></p>	
	<p>Cllr Dicken referred to the special projects working meeting that had been held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He had since circulated a summary of what was discussed. He invited Councillors to indicate which groups they wanted to participate in.</p> <p><b>External-facing tourism</b></p> <p>Cllr Burns had attended a recent meeting of the Cheshire Peak District Consortium and had learnt that the visitor economy in Cheshire was up by 9.4% in the last year. The Consortium itself was working on a tourism leaflet and also, for its website, it had asked members to notify them of commercial bed and breakfast places in their areas. Cllr Burns asked to be informed of any B &amp; Bs within Prestbury Parish. She had also evolved her thinking since the last Parish Council meeting in respect of a tourism leaflet for Prestbury, using a publication by another Local Service Centre as a template. She had obtained three quotes from printers for producing a similar leaflet. They were all in the region of £500 - £540 for 5,000. However, that did not include the cost of acquiring an OS map. (She was hopeful, via the Consortium, of receiving help on this from the main Cheshire tourism operation). Nor did the quotes include the cost of arranging for the distribution of the leaflets. She shared with the other Councillors some of her thoughts on the content and asked if she was to carry on working on the project. Everyone agreed she should and Cllr Dicken asked Cllr Burns to set down a written report.</p> <p><b>Internal tourism</b></p> <p>Cllr Musgrove read a synopsis of some ideas she had assembled. She was going to look for a small tourist information space within a local shop and she aimed to promote existing maps (such as the new footpath map), events, facilities, monuments, things to do and businesses within the village. There was a discussion about the former Ann Whittaker ‘You are here’ hoarding which was very popular but which was not replaced after it fell down. Cllr Musgrove agreed to e-mail a paper to all Councillors.</p> <p><b>Village Appearance</b></p> <p>Cllr Musgrove observed that Prestbury was in competition with other villages. She was keen to introduce a ‘wow’ factor to cause people passing through the village to stop. She wanted to introduce new planting, have the pavements cleaned and the weeds cleared and create a much more welcoming feel. She was keen that the Council should pursue ANSA and CEC to carry out their contractual obligations. She was intending to work with Cllr Leather to obtain quotes for additional maintenance and continue to recruit volunteers to help. She proposed that £150 be spent on giving those volunteers who have been engaged for 18 months a small ‘thank you’ lunch. Cllr Dicken seconded the proposal. All in favour.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>LB</p> <p>CM</p> <p>CM &amp; ML</p>

<p>Also, Cllrs. Musgrove and Miles were to meet with Cllr Saint and Mrs. Yvonne Hall and agree to integrate the ‘village regeneration’ initiative with ‘village appearance’. Cllr Miles agreed with Cllr Musgrove that what the village needed was a ‘pull factor’.</p> <p><b><i>Make best use of the toilet block site</i></b> Cllr Burns had circulated an e-mail to all Councillors prior to the meeting about the toilet block site. She and Cllr Podmore would be getting together to discuss ideas for the future of the site and impediments when he returned from holiday. In respect of the current use of the toilet block and whether or not it should remain open, the Chairman asked for the basic options to be reviewed in order to expedite the reduction of the financial drain of the current costs and a solution for the longer term.</p> <p><b><i>Access to &amp; use of Parrott’s Field</i></b> Cllr Martin had e-mailed to all Councillors an outline of his objectives – to remove kissing gates in favour of better access for the mobility impaired, to lift the canopy and to remove dead wood from some of the trees. Also, to fell four small trees which the CEC tree officer had given permission for the removal of, to introduce Cheshire railings and to work with the Gardening Club to maintain a planted area. Cllr Miles also pointed out that there was a central point where people could sit in a pretty place. Cllr Dicken commented that the work done during the Plan for Prestbury exercise had shown that there was a lot of support for opening up the field more. The estimated cost of the tree work, inc. stump removal, was £2,000. This work could be done about September/ October. A further £1,000 would be needed for topsoil and turf. The hedge could be removed for £500 and it would cost about £10,000 plus VAT to provide Cheshire railings around the site. There was the potential for some funding from CEC who own the site and also grants from other sources. Cllr Martin proposed that £15,000 be approved for work to go ahead, subject to planning approval. Cllr Miles seconded. All in favour.</p> <p><b><i>Working together</i></b> Cllr Saint wanted to improve relationships with village groups. In order to do so, she was of the opinion that the village needed an ‘identity’ and a special event. She was hoping to get something planned for October.</p> <p><b><i>Event Management</i></b> Cllr Miles reported that it was likely a Christmas street party would go ahead – on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> between 4 pm and 7 pm. The concept was to focus on an entertainment aspect and to bring in some additional interests such as micro breweries. Ideas were being bandied around. It was also likely that there would be an official opening of the playground, possibly on the last weekend in August, but this had not been confirmed. When it was, Cllr Martin would help with publicity.</p> <p><b><i>PR publicity &amp; social media</i></b> Cllr Martin had circulated a paper prior to the meeting. He had taken over looking after the Facebook account from the Clerk and he had established a Twitter account which was already catching on.</p> <p><b><i>Securing the future of the Priests House</i></b> Cllr Dicken had written several letters and e-mails and made various contacts and had been given reassurance by the NatWest Bank that they would care for the Priests House and ensure it was kept warm and dry until it was sold.</p> <p><b><i>Fill the gaps in the shops</i></b> It was understood that there were proposals for the Saffron Rooms to move to the Village Restaurant and for a new Italian restaurant to move into the current Saffron Rooms premises. Also, interest was still alive by a physiotherapist in the former Co-op premises.</p> <p><b><i>Devolution of Car Parks</i></b> Cllr Martin had had some discussions with CEC officers about the village car parks following receipt of a message indicating that CEC may wish to dispose of some car parks. There did not appear to be any costings available for running these facilities and CEC had made it quite clear that there would be no financial sweeteners accompanying any devolution. However, there had been hints that if the Parish Council did not express an interest, then charges might be imposed or the sites might even be considered for development opportunities. This issue would continue to be discussed by the Council.</p>	<p><b>CM &amp; KM</b></p> <p><b>LB &amp; KP</b></p> <p><b>JM &amp; KM</b></p> <p><b>LS</b></p> <p><b>KM CM &amp; ML KM JM</b></p> <p><b>JM</b></p> <p><b>CM KM</b></p>
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	<p><b>Improve Prestbury Station</b></p> <p>A full day car parking charge of £2 had now been imposed by Northern Rail at Prestbury Railway Station. Less vehicles were parked there as a result but there was a perception that more people were parking on Scott Road. Cllr Leather agreed to carry on leading on the station issue.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that Councillors leading special project groups should informally approach other Councillors or groups they wished to work with.</p>	<p><b>ML</b></p> <p><b>Project leaders</b></p>
<b>106.</b>	<b>King's School re-location to Prestbury</b>	
	<p>Cllr Dicken vacated the chair for this agenda item because of his conflict of interest and Cllr Musgrove took over the chairmanship for this item only. Cllr Burns had already circulated a draft of a proposed response to the consultation exercise being carried out by King's School on their proposals. This had been discussed by e-mail and, as a result, it was now on its third draft. The letter contained a number of criticisms of the way the consultation exercise had been carried out and of the lack of important information such as traffic modelling and sight lines. Cllr Burns circulated copies of the assessment of the proposed site that had appeared in new annexes just published by CEC following further work on the Green Belt Review for the Local Plan. The site had been given the highest rating, ie. it was considered to make a 'major contribution' to Green Belt purposes. Cllr Burns proposed that the most recent draft of the consultation response be approved. Cllr Musgrove seconded. All in favour.</p>	
<b>107.</b>	<b>To discuss the issue of a Tourism leaflet</b>	
	<p>Cllr Burns proposed. Cllr Saint seconded. All in favour.</p>	
<b>108.</b>	<b>Parish Council collective decision-making &amp; memorial tree for Jimmy Jackson</b>	
	<p>Cllr Musgrove presented her case for working closer together to achieve shared aims. She cited a holly oak sapling that had been planted on the toilet block site without the involvement or authorisation of the Parish Council. She pointed out that holly oaks can grow root systems that were 35 feet across. The Parish Council had given agreement in principle to the planting of a memorial tree to commemorate ex Parish Councillor Jimmy Jackson in July 2014 but no further permission had been sought. Cllr Jackson disagreed with this version events and said she had obtained permission from ANSA to plant the tree at a time when the site was owned by CEC. No conclusion was reached and it was decided to revisit the issue at the next meeting.</p>	
<b>109.</b>	<b>To approve the accounting statement</b>	
	<p>Cllr Dicken proposed a motion that the press and public should be excluded for this item as it involved several sensitive issues. The motion was seconded by Cllr Foden. All in favour.</p> <p>The Council agreed that as their financial officer – the Clerk – was off sick, Councillor Leather would become acting Financial Officer until the Clerk returned to work.</p> <p>Cllr Leather tabled the amended accounts. Cllr. Saint proposed that the accounts be approved and Cllr Miles seconded the proposal. All in favour. Councillors Dicken and Leather signed off the accounts.</p> <p>It was agreed that a Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee meeting would be called to discuss a number of outstanding issues once Cllr Podmore returned from holiday.</p>	<p><b>ML, KP &amp; AD</b></p>

**Chairman**