

# Preston Brook Parish Council

## MINUTES OF PRESTON BROOK ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8:30PM ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 2024 AT PRESTON BROOK VILLAGE HALL, SANDY LANE, PRESTON BROOK, CHESHIRE, WA7 3AW.

### **Members Present:**

A Price, J Walton, C Murray, K Dainty, M Marlow, L Sanders, P Bolton.

### **Also Present:**

Luke Trevaskis - Proper Officer, Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones, and 8 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

None.

### **2. Declarations**

None.

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

### **5. Police**

Members noted that there had not been a report received from the Police. The Chairman advised he had been in touch with the Police regarding moving the SID from Windmill Lane to Northwich Road.

### **6. Public Realm**

An update was received regarding the £3K that had been allocated for open space improvement works. The Council noted a contractor had been identified for Bridgewater Grange and agreed the scope of works. Members noted bamboo needed removing urgently.

Members received an update regarding the planters.

It was noted that no update had been received from Halton Borough Council regarding the Horse Chestnut Tree.

It was noted that no timeline had yet been provided by Halton Borough Council regarding the repair work to the sandstone wall on Windmill Lane.

It was noted that communication had been sent to Halton Borough Council regarding weed control in the parish, and the lack of application of weed control products. A response had not yet been received.

## 7. Finance

The Council approved the Q1 budget report and bank reconciliation for FY2425.

The Council approved the grant of £70.00 to the history group.

## 8. Planning

The Council considered the revisions to the Planning Application 22/00203/FUL and noted it had begun working with the barrister to draft the objection.

There were new documents that had recently been added to Halton Borough Council's planning portal, and it was advised that the Planning Authority had yet to issue a further consultation as they were still liaising with the applicant.

**9. Ward Councillor Report** - a report was received from the Ward Councillor concerning the Conservation Status, with members informed that Tim Gibbs (Operational Direction, Planning and Transport Department) had advised the matter was considered a low priority. This response was disappointing for both the council members and local residents, especially given the earlier guidance provided by Halton Borough Council. Their initial direction had been a catalyst for the parish council, which took proactive steps to begin much of the groundwork independently. The lack of prioritisation now undermines the momentum previously established, leading to frustration among stakeholders and residents who had hoped for more immediate progress.

## 10. Conservation Status / Neighbourhood Plan

The Council noted the report regarding the legal duty of Halton Borough Council to identify and designate Conservation Area, and agreed the recommendations to:

- a) engage a planning expert to write a cover letter to accompany the submission.
- b) Write to NALC outlining concerns regarding the challenges of establishing a Conservation Area in Halton.
- c) Promote community engagement - including conducting surveys, holding public meetings, and gathering input from various groups to ensure proposals reflect the community's needs and desires.

The Council considered the report regarding the key priorities for Preston Brook, long term aspirations, and agreed the recommendations to:

- a) Identify projects and secure funding.
- b) Conduct surveys and community consultations to ensure proposed projects align with local needs.

The Council agreed to set a date for its first Neighbourhood Plan Consultation at its next meeting.

## 11. Next Meetings

It was noted that the next meetings of the Council would be held on:

Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 8.30pm

Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 8.30pm

Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 8.30pm

## 12. Public Forum

### WEEDS AND DEBRIT

Several residents expressed concerns regarding the amount of debris and weed growth in the kerb lines, and growing across the pavements in the village, in some areas it was reported that they were blocking drains.

### CHESTER ROAD

A resident spoke of vegetation growing across the pavement. The resident was advised the property owner was responsible for the over growth, and the matter had been reported to Halton BC.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE

A number of residents reinforced need for ongoing maintenance of the Green.

Cllrs gave credit to all the residents who had previously maintained the area for so long.

Residents expressed concerns that the green bin was not readily accessible for community use, and they had not used it during this financial year.

Residents expressed alarm that there had been a proliferation of commercial vehicles parking on pedestrianised areas, blocking the pavements, and causing a 'loss of prestige' to the locale. Residents asked if the Parish Council could fund bollards.

It was noted parking for Cream Fields should be better managed.

### Signed as a true record

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**Chairperson**