

# Preston Brook Parish Council

**MINUTES OF PRESTON BROOK ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 8:30PM ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025 AT PRESTON BROOK VILLAGE HALL,  
SANDY LANE, PRESTON BROOK, CHESHIRE, WA7 3AW.**

## **Members Present:**

A Price, J Walton, C Murray, K Dainty, P Bolton, L Hewlett.

## **Also Present:**

Luke Trevaskis - Proper Officer, and 3 members of the public.

## **1. Apologies**

Cllr Lauren Sanders

## **2. Declarations**

Cllr Alan Price and Cllr Cathy Murray noted an interest in Preston Brook Village Hall.

Cllr Kerry Dainty and Cllr Liam Hewlett noted an interest in the proposal for future partnership working with Heatherfield Heritage on the 250th Anniversary of the Preston Brook Tunnel, and the Planning Application 22/00203/FUL.

## **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

## **5. Police**

Members noted that there had not been an update received from Cheshire Police.

## **6. Public Realm**

Members noted the maintenance works scheduled for Bridgewater Grange has commenced.

Members noted a location would need to be agreed with residents as to where the planters on Bridgewater Grange would be placed. The Council agreed a quote of £1,190.00 for installation.

Members received an update regarding the Horse Chestnut Tree, approving for a PICUS mapping report to be undertaken and agreed the quote of £800.00.

The Council resolved to consider various other projects that had been proposed throughout the Parish, namely to improve the appearance and heritage value of the amenity space, at it next meeting once the budget had been agreed.

## **7. Finance**

The Council approved Q3 budget report and bank reconciliation for FY2425.

The Council unanimously agreed to set its budget at £87,350.00 for FY2526.

The Council unanimously agreed to set its precept at £73,538.48 for FY2526.

## 8. Planning

The Council noted that liaison between Halton BC and the developer regarding Planning Application 22/00203/FUL had been ongoing since the last meeting.

The Council ratified the final objection submitted by the PO, in liaison with solicitors.

Members were thrilled to share with residents that Preston Brook Parish Council has successfully secured £131K in S106 contributions to remain within the community for the direct benefit of our residents.

This funding comes from the 136-home development planned for Chester Road. Initially, a portion of these funds was earmarked for improvements to Wigg Island. However, thanks to our strong representations - and the support of our community - we made the case that these funds should stay local. As a result, Halton Borough Council's Planning Development Committee has agreed that every penny will be invested in projects in the area of Preston Brook.

At the meeting with Halton Borough Council, members of the Parish Council, along with the Clerk, made sure the concerns of the Parish were fully addressed. One key issue we raised - the fair distribution of S106 funding - was given considerable attention, and we are delighted that the Committee unanimously backed this proposal. This decision means a significant investment in our village, ensuring improvements that will directly benefit our residents.

We strongly believed that since the development is happening in Preston Brook, the funding should support the people who actually live here. This money isn't just about today - it's about shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for our community. It will help strengthen infrastructure, enhance open spaces, and create a welcoming environment for families, young people, working professionals, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

A huge thank you was expressed to the Planning Development Committee of Halton Borough Council for recognising the importance of keeping these funds within our community. Special thanks also to the councillors who spoke so passionately in favour of this decision: Cllr Chris Loftus, Cllr Dave Thompson, Cllr Ged Philbin, Cllr Rob Polhill, and Cllr Bill Woolfall.

This is a massive win for everyone in Preston Brook and proof that when we work together, we can make a real difference.

Now, our focus shifts to making sure this money is spent wisely on projects that will genuinely enhance our village and improve residents' lives. A large portion of this funding is tied to key development milestones, so we will need to wait a little while before it reaches us. In the meantime, the community is invited to share how they feel the monies could benefit the parish, and which projects should be given priority.

**9. Ward Councillor Report** - Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones was in attendance. Members noted the pressure on adult social services and children services, noting one child in care is costing Halton BC approximately £500K per annum.

**10. Highways** - members noted a pot hole was reported on A56 (CAPITA) roundabout. Members also noted we were awaiting approval from Halton BC for the location of the proposed highway gateway signage.

11. **Village Hall** - members discussed the current position of the Village Hall and agreed no funding would be offered to the Village Hall in the future until progression had been made regarding its governance.

**12. Conservation Status / Neighbourhood Plan**

The Council noted the success of the first Neighbourhood Plan Consultation evening held in January and agreed to put together a timeline for the new financial year, in line with the agreed budget.

Members noted a request from Hale Bank Parish Council for support in securing CIL funds within the Halton BC boundary.

Members noted the recent communication with CWaC regarding the possibility of a community woodland.

**13. 250th Anniversary of the Preston Brook Tunnel**

The Council considered an update and agreed to pursue a course of action that could secure greater protection and heritage status for the tunnel in conjunction with the event.

**14. ChALC**

The Council noted it has not yet received a response from NALC in relation to the motions the authority submitted to be heard by member councils, which were deemed not acceptable as proper motions by the ChALC board.

Members agreed that Cllr Cathy Murray should raise the issue of S106 monies in Halton BC, and how their policies somewhat discord with retaining funding within a Parish that has no remaining publicly owned greenbelt land.

Members agreed to meet up with Daresbury to discuss issues of commonality.

**15. Next Meetings**

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

- Tuesday 25 February 2025
- Tuesday 25 March 2025

**16. Public Forum**

Residents reported concerns regarding the works due to take place on the swing bridge at Sutton Weaver and asked if any further clarity could be provided.

**Signed as a true record**

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**Chairperson**