

Preston Brook Parish Council

MINUTES OF PRESTON BROOK ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8:30PM ON TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT PRESTON BROOK VILLAGE HALL, SANDY LANE, PRESTON BROOK, CHESHIRE, WA7 3AW.

Members Present:

Cllrs L Sanders, M Hughes, C Murray, M Marlow, G Littler.

Also Present:

Luke Trevaskis - Proper Officer

Ward Councillor Martha Lloyd-Jones (Halton BC)

Two members of the public.

Meeting opened at 8.33pm

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was approved that Cllr Lauren Sanders would preside over the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Price, J Walton and P Bolton.

2. Declarations

Cllr Littler declared an interest in Preston Brook Village Hall.

3. Police

No police representative was present to provide an update to the meeting and members were informed that no newsletter had been received recently. Cllr Hughes also noted a lack of communication. It was agreed to undertake further investigations to confirm who the current beat manager is and invite them to provide an update to the Council (either by email, or by attendance at the next meeting).

4. Minutes

It was resolved that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record.

5. Village Hall

Members noted that there has been the appointment of a new manager for the hall. Cllr Gary Littler advised he would be resigning at the end of the meeting in order to focus his time on his new position.

It was noted that new proposals would be required to amend the trust deed, and the consultant had been asked to draw up proposed alterations.

6. Public Realm

It was noted that the knee rail fence on the boundary of the Village Green at Bridgewater Grange had rotted and complaints had been received from a neighbouring property.

Residents have enquired as to whether the Parish Council would be replacing the fence, and it was agreed that the PO source quotes for the work, to be considered at a future meeting.

The Council considered the quote received for the planters. It noted that there were limited suppliers who could manufacture customised cast iron planters as large as 1m x 1m to the required specification and members agreed that the quote provided by Broxap represented best value. The Council approved the cost for two planters at £4,302.00 each (including text/logo customisation and gold painted lettering), plus a sum of up to £400.00 for delivery. The Council was advised that it was difficult to source three quotes for this item due limited suppliers and it was agreed to proceed with Broxap.

It was noted that the Village Hall lights will be put up on 2 December, with the switch-on taking place on 3 December. The Council was asked whether it would donate selection boxes for the children.

Members noted that the damaged wall on Windmill Lane had not yet been repaired and asked Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones if it could be clarified when the work will be undertaken.

Members noted thanks to Halton BC for replacing the bollards on Windmill Lane quickly.

Members noted thanks to Halton BC for repainting the lines on Windmill Lane, and adding the 'SLOW' lettering.

Members also noted thanks to Halton BC for installing additional camera signage.

It was noted that no update had yet been provided by Halton BC regarding the S106 monies. Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones agreed to follow this up with the Proper Officer.

7. Finance

- The Council approved Quarter 1 finances for 2023-2024.
- The Council noted that a grant application was able to be submitted to Cheshire Police for a project to make Cheshire's roads safer, protect vulnerable and at-risk people, or prevent and tackle crime. The Council noted the maximum grant that could be applied for is £5,000.00 and the Council agreed to focus on projects that were designed to improve road safety. It was discussed that defined parish gateways may help to reduce road speeds and the Council asked the PO to cost up some options.

8. Planning

- Conservation Status - it was noted that an updated history appraisal document was expected to be received in the near future which will be circulated to members to provide feedback.
- Neighbourhood Plan - it was noted that 30 November was available at the Village Hall to potentially hold the first Steering Group meeting. Members were asked to check calendars and confirm if this was a suitable date. Alternatively, if this date is too close to Christmas, a meeting could be held in January.

9. **Ward Councillor Report** - Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones noted that Halton Borough Council were currently undertaking a transformation programme to save costs. The Council asked for further information regarding the Children Services, and an explanation of why the numbers of Halton children in care was substantially higher than the national and north west average, especially considering Halton Borough Council has been a unitary authority for over twenty-five years and responsible for delivering many of the services which contribute to such outcomes.

10. **Public Forum** - a new resident to Preston Brook introduced themselves and received a welcome from members.

11. Next Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 8.30pm.

Cllr Gary Littler resigned.

Signed as a true record

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Chairperson