

Preston Brook Parish Council

MINUTES OF PRESTON BROOK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD at 7:00PM ON FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 2022 AT PRESTON BROOK VILLAGE HALL, SANDY LANE, PRESTON BROOK, CHESHIRE, WA7 3AW.

Members Present

L. Sanders, M. Marlow, A. Price, J. Walton

Also Present:

Luke Trevaskis - Proper Officer

Four members of the public

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

1. **Apologies** – received from Cllrs P Bolton and G Littler.
2. **Declarations** – Cllrs A Price and J Walton noted a non-pecuniary interest in the Village Hall.
3. **Police** – the Council noted the recent report which highlighted the low crime levels at Creamfields Festival, and a number of thefts on Windmill Lane.
4. **Minutes** - RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record.
5. **Co-Option** - the Council noted no applications had been received for co-option.

6. Public Realm

- It was noted that HBC had raised an order with their contractor to install the bench at the top of Hill Top.
- It was noted that HBC had agreed to deliver six large sandstone boulders to Bridgewater Grant to help prevent HGVs from parking/reversing.
- The cost of additional cast iron planters were noted to be approximately £1,000 per unit. It was agreed that this cost could be explored when confirmation of S106 money was received.
- It was noted that there was currently a lack of clarity regarding the cutting of the hedge at the Village Hall and it could possible be that it is included within the SLA that the PC has with HBC.
- It was agreed that the Proper Officer would pursue HBC for the S106 money allocation.
- It was noted that a resident is putting a finial on the water pump.

7. Village Hall

- The Council confirmed there was not a requirement for members to become trustees.
- It was noted that some documentation had been located regarding the trust of the Village Hall, and the Committee were continuing to undertake investigations.
- It was noted that the VH Committee are prepared to coordinate their meetings with the PC and have availability on a Tuesday evening.

- Discussions took place regarding a new sign.

8. Highways

- The Council considered a request from a neighbouring parish council to co-fund a speed indicator device. The Council did not approve this request but agreed to engage more for future collaboration on issues that may affect all local parishes.
- The Council agreed to obtain a quote from a highways consultant to provide additional data that could support the authority's efforts in reducing speeds and controlling the flow of traffic.

9. Communication

- The Council agreed to circulate another newsletter before Christmas if possible - with future newsletters being known as 'edition 1', 'edition 2', 'edition 2' etc.
- The Council approved a request from the VH Committee/Trustees to access the Council's Facebook page to promote its facilities to the community.

10. Finance

- The Council received Q2 finance report.
- The Council noted the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, had provided an Interim Audit Report Notice.
- The Council requested that the termination clause for the photocopier be looked into.

11. Planning

- Planning Application 22/00493/OUT - the Council agreed to rework a prior objection to submit for this application.
- Conservation Status - the Council approved the fee estimate of £4,600+VAT to support the application for Conservation Area Status, and the subsequent fee for preparing the final document, including the Management Plan (£1,300+VAT), appointing Kathryn Sather & Associates Heritage Conservation Consultants to undertake the work.
- Neighbourhood Plan - the Council noted much work is required to understand exactly what the Council wants a Neighbourhood Plan to achieve for the area. Halton's Local Plan has 'safeguarded' considerable land to the east of the railway line for development at a later date, as well as allocating land for residential development adjacent to Preston-on-the-Hill and two smaller, though not insignificant, allocations in Preston Brook (plus land for employment purposes). There are a number of options open to the Council and consideration should be given to the development of design principles to help bring out and reinforce local character and identity. The scale of growth might also provide opportunities to identify projects and improvements the Council would like to see take place in the area. Given the cost implications, the Council agreed to meet with each potential contractors to discuss ideas further and decide at a later date which contractor presents the best fit to achieve the authority's aims.
- The Council agreed to host a Neighbourhood Plan Open Session - to introduce residents to the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan, whilst recruiting interested parties to become involved in a Steering Group.

12. Ward Councillor Report - none received.

13. Public forum - none.

14. Next Meeting

Members discussed potentially returned to the fourth Tuesday of the month next year.

The next meeting is to be held at 7pm on Friday 18 November 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed as a true record

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Chairperson