

PRESTON BROOK PARISH COUNCIL

To: **Members of Preston Brook Parish Council**

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a Ordinary Meeting of Preston Brook Parish Council to be held at 20.30 on the twenty-third day of June 2026 to transact business on the agenda.

The meeting will be held in Preston Brook Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 3AW.

Note to Councillors:

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Proper Officer of your apologies.

Note to Public:

Members of the public wishing to address the Council are advised to notify the Proper Officer before 10:00 on the day of the meeting outlining the representation they wish to make. Permission to speak at the meeting will be at the discretion of the Council. Public participation session at a meeting shall not require response or debate and should focus on matters relating to items on the agenda. All participants are restricted to a maximum of three minutes. Please note that the Council may not be able to answer any questions on a particular topic if the council has not considered or resolved the matter at a prior meeting. Should this be the case, the Council will advise correspondence with the Proper Officer to request the item be debated at a future meeting. If the question is considered outside the remit of Preston Brook Parish Council, residents will be referred to Halton Borough Council or another appropriate body.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Trevaskis
Proper Officer

TO CONTACT THE PROPER OFFICER, PLEASE EMAIL
clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** - to receive apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations** - to record declarations of members' interests of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary nature in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 (Sections 26-34 and Schedule 4) relating to the business of the meeting and note any dispensation requests received by the Proper Officer.
3. **Police** - to receive and note a report on local crime statistics.
4. **Minutes** - to receive and accept the minutes of the last meeting as a true and accurate record.
5. **Public Forum** - to consider representations from members of the public which have been submitted to the Proper Officer by 10:00 on the day of the meeting and to note each representation is restricted to three minutes.
6. **Public Realm** - to receive an update on public realm projects and agree actions.

- to note that the planters have been planted in the village.
- to note that ongoing works to Bridgewater Grange appear to be being well received.
- to note that the following ongoing projects will be attended to when priorities permit - finger post, railing planters/ painting, gateway signs.

7. **Planning**

- i) To note that the meeting of Halton Borough Council's Development Management Committee scheduled to take place on 7 July 2026 has been cancelled. The next meeting is currently listed as 10 August 2026.
- ii) to review the recent planning matters regarding Morris Homes (22/00203/FUL) development and consider actions:
 - 26/00195/COND - PBPC has filed an objection to the planning application regarding play areas, noting that the scheme proposed is extremely limited in its offer in comparison to the original Open Space Strategy which was submitted by the developer originally which included play equipment, gym equipment, and a trim trail.
 - 26/00151/NMA / 26/00160/NMA - PBPC has filed an objection to these planning applications that propose the removal of further trees from Chester Road.
 - PBPC has also raised a letter to formally bring to the attention of Halton BC the water discharging into the Canal, the removal of the hedgerow adjacent to the M56, and the removal of trees alongside the Canal. It has been requested that Halton BC take action regarding these matters.

8. Tree Protection Order Application - last year, PBPC applied for a TPO to protect the tree belt adjacent to the Canal. The application has been refused by Halton BC on ground that they do not feel the trees are at risk. There is no lawful obligation on a LPA to issue a TPO. However, PBPC may have mechanisms to support future tree canopy in the Parish through its Neighbourhood Plan.

9. **Neighbourhood Planning**

- i) To agree a first meeting date of 28 July 2026 for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- ii) To note that priorities and areas of focus may evolve as the project progresses, and that further engagement and evidence gathering will assist in identifying key opportunities, challenges and themes for consideration.
- iii) To note that delivery of this programme of work is likely to require a significant investment of officer time and resources, and to delegate authority to the Proper Officer, in consultation with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to progress the project within existing approved budgets, including the £15,000 Neighbourhood Plan budget, £15,000 Heritage budget, and up to £20,000 of underspend carried forward from the previous financial year.
- iv) to approve the progression of preparatory work, commissions and expenditure for consideration within the approved budget framework covering heritage (and the significance of the Preston Brook Tunnel in the industrial revolution), tree/hedgerow audit, and a review of all the commercial development that currently sits within (or services) the Parish.

10. **Judicial Review Risk** - given the potentially significant financial, legal and reputational implications of commencing judicial review proceedings, the Internal Auditor has recommended that members first receive a formal litigation assessment of risks from specialised local government counsel before any final decisions are made to pursue such a course of action. Such an assessment should consider counsel's advice on prospects of success, estimated costs, adverse costs exposure, alternative remedies, and the overall risk profile of the proposed action. This would ensure that members are able to make a fully informed decision and demonstrate prudent stewardship of public funds if/when the issue became live. To agree to delegate this to the Proper Officer to arrange.

11. **Finance** -
 - i) to receive and approve the end of year accounts.
 - ii) to receive and approve the end of year bank statement.
 - iii) to receive and approve the end of year asset register.
 - iv) to receive and approve Section 1 of the AGAR.
 - v) to receive and approve Section 2 of the AGAR.

12. **Borough Councillor Report** - to receive a report from ward councillors regarding issues affecting residents within the boundary of Preston Brook PC.

13. **Next Meetings** - to note the next meetings.