

# Preston Brook Parish Council

**MINUTES OF PRESTON BROOK ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 8:30PM ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 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, L Sanders.

## **Also Present:**

Luke Trevaskis - Proper Officer, and 1 member of the public. Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones and Cllr Peter Lloyd-Jones.

## **1. Apologies**

None.

## **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 had concluded and the contractor had been unable to take all the waste. PO to contact Halton BC to arrange waste collection.

Members noted a location would need to be agreed with residents as to where the planters on Bridgewater Grange would be placed. PO to create a map and advertise on social media so residents could indicate their preferred locations.

Members received an update regarding the Horse Chestnut Tree, noting the PICUS mapping report would be undertaken shortly when a date was agreed with the contractor (likely to be in April when the weather improves).

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 a future meeting once the precept had been received.

Members noted we were still awaiting approval from Halton BC regarding the gateway signage.

## **7. Finance**

The Council approved Month 10 budget summary and accounts, and bank reconciliation.

## **8. Borough Councillor Report**

Members noted a pot hole repair had been undertaken recently, as previously reported at the prior meeting.

Members noted that a request had been submitted to suggest that there was better alignment with PCSOs and current ward boundaries.

## **9. Highways**

Members noted requests had been submitted regarding the work on Chester Road. Ward Councillors agreed to look into this.

## **10. Village Hall -**

Members noted that they would still be keen to support the future of the Village Hall. However, it was agreed that before any partnership working commences, there needs to be steps taken by the Village Hall to conclude the outstanding Trust Deed issues.

## **11. Conservation Status / Neighbourhood Plan**

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

Members considered the report regarding the Preston Brook Tunnel and agreed to pursue consultants and historians who could support an application to Historic England to improve the grading of the structure, and help to see it officially recognised for its integral part in the industrial revolution.

Members noted that purdah would commence next month. Therefore, the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan should be following the elections in May.

## **12. 250th Anniversary of the Preston Brook Tunnel**

The Council noted the PO would be submitting an application for grant funding to the Lottery, and would work with members in the coming months to design and cost some interpretation boards for installation adjacent to the canal depicting its history.

Members also agreed to forward details regarding the European Heritage Framework.

## **13. Newsletter**

Members agreed the next newsletter should include content regarding the tunnel's heritage, Neighbourhood Plan, planters (once in situ), the precept, and the possible new mayoral arrangements.

#### **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 noted that devolution and local government reorganisation arrangements were on the horizon. Discussions centred around concerns regarding amalgamation and a loss of local identity, and a strong link to Cheshire. It was agreed that the Parish Council would work to ensure it retains the best outcomes for its residents, and PO agreed to write a letter to Cheshire West and Chester Council, and draft responses to the Government's current consultation, for consideration.

#### **15. Next Meetings**

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

Tuesday 25 March 2025

#### **16. Public Forum**

Residents reported concerns regarding debris left adjacent to the site of a car accident, near the railway bridge on Chester Road.

#### **Signed as a true record**

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**Chairperson**