

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING  
COMMITTEE held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at Elmstone Court**

**Present:**

David Theoff (Chairman)  
Louise Perryman (Secretary)  
Roger Ayling (Deputy Chairman)  
Alan Coller (Treasurer)  
Oliver Chapman  
Duncan Scott  
John Greig  
John Simpson  
Pat Simpson

**Apologies for absence** were received from Michael Fenney, Martin Ferber and Karen Wright.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 5th September 2007 were adopted as a true record.

**Matters arising**

All of the matters arising were dealt with by items on the agenda.

**Payment of accounts**

The following expenses were recorded for the two recent events – receipts will be submitted to the Treasurer shortly.

Wine - £59.81 (DS)  
Food - £12.12 (KW) and £49.99 (Julie)  
Printing/signage - £80 (RA)  
Photocopying costs – still to be calculated

**Young persons facilities**

Discussions were held on how to make some headway with this item from the action plan, which has not seen any progress to date. DT brought along details of shelters and other facilities supplied in May by Trevor Skelton on behalf of Helping communities in rural Kent and it was agreed that he would re-establish contact with Trevor for advice on moving forward.

It was pointed out that Community wardens were now operating in Ash and Wingham, which had helped those communities, but had led to more young people with motorbikes congregating in Preston.

JS explained that the village hall committee had already given this matter some thought and explained ideas for constructing a shelter in an area adjacent to the stage end of the hall. It was agreed that AC should be urgently asked to look at possible costs and solutions for a sturdy construction.

It was generally agreed that any shelter should have a dual use (e.g. shelter for parents collecting children), and that some kind of associated lighting would also have a dual benefit for those using the village hall.

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OC suggested a sub-committee be set up, probably involving Martin Knight, who for many years ran the youth club.

**Reports on Action Plan progress**

***The Village Hall Refurbishment***

JS reported that a few minor maintenance tasks had been carried out, and three fundraising events were planned. These would be on 16<sup>th</sup> November (Wine Tasting), 27<sup>th</sup> November (Quiz) and 1<sup>st</sup> December (Christmas Fair). A flyer would publicise these.

***Newsletter***

LP reported that the autumn issue was with the printers and due for delivery in the next day or so.

***Speed watch***

OC reported that KCC had prioritised work and expenditure in the villages and on current criteria there was no prospect of getting action on this point. However he was going to try, via the Parish council, to get more and better signage.

***Neighbourhood Watch***

OC reported that he had now located Sally Coleman, the NW liaison officer (Folkestone based) and was in the process of arranging dates to meet up and set up a local Neighbourhood watch.

***Community Facilities***

Nothing to report – KW not present

***Education***

Nothing new. RA and DT asked to be added to the list to attend the computer course.

***Tennis Courts***

Nothing to report – Mferber not present

***Helping Others***

DT reported that Tessa Woodward was organising for Alex Krutnik from the Canterbury Volunteer Bureau to come to the village. It was suggested that Tessa, DT, Mferber and one or two committee members would meet him to move things forward.

***Keep the village clean***

AC will be asked to set a date for a further 'clean-up' expedition.

***Footpaths and bridleways***

OC had spoken with the local KCC Rights of Way officer who explained that paths should be kept clear by the owners of land, but if they didn't, those that use it could clear it. OC has requested a map from KCC showing all the Footpaths and bridleways in the area.

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**The Village Design Statement**

Some discussion took place about attendance at the VDS forum, which at around 40, was less than had been indicated by the forms returned at the first event and did not reflect the huge amount of effort that had been put in by many and in particular DS. It was agreed that the categories most under represented were farmers and parents with younger children.

DS reported that he had written up the results of the VDS forum and requested that they be placed on the website. A one page review was just being completed, which would let everyone know about the existence of this information and would be circulated with the Newsletter

Given that the VDS, in order to be accepted, must demonstrate that the views of the community at large have been collected and represented, other methods were considered. It was agreed that another questionnaire was probably inevitable but should be left until towards the end of the exercise and should state what the findings were, and ask respondents to agree, disagree, comment, or request more information. Another popular suggestion was to have VDS committee members attend the various village groups – WI, bowls etc, and gather their views during these events.

**Any Other Business**

DS pointed out that another item on the Action list which had not yet been progressed was the Housing needs survey. He offered to take it up with Victoria Lawson.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the committee will be held at 8pm on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at Elmstone Court.