

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE held on 11th July, 2007 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars, Preston.

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Oliver Chapman
Duncan Scott
John Simpson
Pat Simpson
Lorna Listbrain
Martin Ferber
Alan Coller
John Greig
Karen Wright
Kris Saxby (guest)

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Rudolph, Mike Fenney, Roger Ayling and Louise Perryman

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 13th June 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

JG will be submitting an invoice for the Publisher software supplied to JS for the Newsletter production. DT has some expenditure to reclaim. DS warned that there will be some expenditure on the VDS

AC will settle the approved expenditure when the bills are supplied to him

Reports on Action Plan progress

The Village Hall Refurbishment

JS has been to view the prefabricated wooden village hall constructed at Wootton. It is a serious option for the redevelopment and the Village Hall committee are investigating further. The total build cost for the Wootton hall was approximately £150,000 last year, but that did include some voluntary labour.

The Village Hall committee are drawing up a business plan for the ongoing maintenance of the hall and associated areas, including the grass cutting responsibilities.

Early discussions have also taken place regarding the best position for all the recreation ground amenities.

There will be the annual 'Clear up' gathering on 20th July from 18.00 to 20.00. The aim is to tidy up around the Village Hall including trimming the shrubbery in the car park, sweeping up etc. **Volunteers needed** – just turn up at the Village Hall with a big broom / secateurs and energy!

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Newsletter

The Newsletter will be ready for production and distribution at the end of August. Content will include promoting the VDS workshop (see later in these minutes) and an article about the possibility of forming a Village Society to supersede this Preston Parish Plan Steering Committee.

The Wine tasting event, originally intended for July/August will have to be postponed until September or early October due to holiday dates of contributors. This event will also be promoted in the Newsletter.

JS mentioned the possibility of setting up a wine society, so this may also be floated in the Newsletter.

Speedwatch

MFenney, who could not make this meeting, sent a brief update on the subject.

He stated that he had raised the issue at the last Parish Council meeting and had expressed disappointment at the lack of progress on speed monitoring.

OC, at the Parish Council meeting, has suggested that the ultimate goals of the Speedwatch initiative need to be clarified and it is now on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT had been unable to contact the local co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch, but had succeeded in contacting and having a meeting with the representative for another region. This meeting was very helpful and DT discovered that our local co-ordinator has been on long term sick leave but is due back in action very soon and we are at the top of her list.

OC will supply information about a Neighbourhood Watch open meeting for the next Newsletter, assuming the local co-ordinator is available in time.

Community Facilities

There was no progress to report on this at the moment.

Education

JG has had three positive enquiries about the proposed computer training course. It requires more people to make running the course viable. The committee was requested to ask around the community for other takers., and JG will ask MFenney to display a supplied 'advert' in the village shop

LL, AC, DT and DS immediately expressed interest in attending the computer courses.

Tennis Courts

MFerber has drafted a letter to be sent to the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and local authority about the possibility of using a specific piece of land for this. He will ensure that the draft is finished and sent before the next meeting.

Helping Others

DT will ask Tessa for an update on this before the next meeting. MFerber noted that Age Concern in Sandwich is fund raising to extend their premises and services and that they may well cover Preston and Elmstone. DT will let Tessa know about this so she can contact Age Concern for more details

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Keep the village clean

Covered under the Village Hall section – Tidy up around the hall area 20th July from 18.00 to 20.00.

Footpaths and bridleways

LL has been very tied up with the Steam Rally so hasn't had any updates on this

The Village Design Statement

DS reported solid progress by the VDS committee. Several sections of the VDS are progressing in parallel.

OC agreed to do work on the sustainability section and the landscaping section of the VDS.

DS has two samples on running a VDS workshop which are helping form the basis of the workshop.

DS has spoken with Mike Ebbs and Tracy Watson at the council regarding access to, and reproduction of, O/S maps and Council help in producing the VDS. He is still progressing this but thinks the permission for the maps is sorted. OC will also try and obtain useful older maps for the historical context section of the VDS

A VDS workshop needs to be held in the Village Hall to get community input into the VDS. MFerber expressed concern about running the workshop without first giving detailed background about the VDS process and objectives to the community.

It was agreed that this should occur and that one or more speakers need to be arranged to present to a community meeting.

Proposed date for the presentation is 6th September 2007 and for the workshop 14th September 2007. The VDS subcommittee will arrange these two events and associated publicity.

The aim is for the VDS to be ready for editing around the end of October 2007.

Young Persons' Action Plan

DT will be attending the seminar on Action for Rural Kent tomorrow (12th July) and running a Q&A session there. He will provide an update on this at the next meeting

Village of the Year competition

The final two judges visited the village last Monday 2nd July, so now we wait to see if we have won. DT thinks that they also award 2nd, 3rd and 4th slots. (presumably for the other villages that follow us)

Any Other Business

There was no other business

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 8th August 2007.