

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING
COMMITTEE held on 12th December 2007 at Half Moon and 7 Stars**

Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Louise Perryman (Secretary), John Greig, Martin Ferber, Karen Wright, Lorna Listbrain.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 14th November 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 treasurer advised that the Village Hall account should be settled together with expenses for three members of the VDS sub-committee to attend a recent workshop.

Village Design Statement

DS had previously issued an emailed report of the Workshop attended by DS, RA and PS. RA expressed the opinion that from the information gathered from the Workshop our VDS sub-committee are proceeding along exactly the right lines.

DS reported that funding for the VDS to a value of £750.00. was available from ARCK, DS and OC would submit the necessary application. Trevor Bartlett had also encouraged us to apply.

RA reported that following evaluation of the VDS Forum data, it was identified that two critical sectors of the community were not represented – parents of young children and the farmers. (both for obvious reasons). The sub-committee had decided to address this problem by a two pronged attack – (a) writing a letter to each individual explain the VDS process and stressing how important their views would be and (b). appointing two members of the VDS sub-committee to visit the two groups to canvass opinion, this would be carried out by Karen Wright and Lorna Listbrain. RA read to the committee an example of the letter to be circulated.

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DS confirmed that Clive Alexander of DDC was currently very supportive of our VDS efforts and had arranged access to details of our local conservation area. RA also confirmed that by comparison to other villages, our attendance for the VDS events had been very good.

DS suggested that the members of the VDS sub-committee met over the Christmas – New Year break to start evaluating the text prepared so far.

It was agreed that DT and RA would complete the sub-committee 'Terms of Reference' within the next 7 days. It was also confirmed that Pip Hazleton is VDS sub-committee vice chair.

Reports on Action Plan progress

Young Persons Action Plan.

AC has been looking at designs for a 'Teen Shelter' and noted that most designs seem to originate from Thames Valley. It was agreed that we need to get a design agreed in order to apply for a grant, this application was expected to be successful.

AC made the point that it would be good to engage the young people of the village and get their opinion. As Martin Knight has a good rapport with the local youth, it was agreed that AC would liaise with MK with a view to arranging a meeting with the youngsters in the village hall. This as soon as possible.

Ps reported that Marylyn Howell – coordinator for Community Wardens – had been in touch to ask if we still had a requirement for a CW. PS had confirmed that we did and would contact Ms Howell to see if she has any influence regarding Teen Shelters.

A discussion was then held on the subject of youth clubs, the difficulties surrounding the running of youth clubs in the current climate were also discussed. AC suggested that a good option would be to organise youth activities on a 'trips out' basis – for example to an activity centre that included such things as rock climbing. AC will investigate. It was agreed that this subject could be aired at the proposed youth meeting in the village hall.

The Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported that the recent fund raising events had been a great success, Amounts raised as follows. Wine Tasting £250.00. Quiz night £250.00. Christmas Fair £350.00.

JS has approached the village organisations for comment in relation to the proposed redevelopment and will be canvassing for letters of support to assist that funding applications.

OC asked if the redevelopment included a committee room, JS confirmed that bit would. It was also confirmed that the new hall would be built in a different position to the existing and would involve the village school. It was also noted that the school had funds allocated

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for a new hall and it was hoped this could be combined with Village hall funding efforts. JS would attempt to establish likely value of school contribution. A suggestion was made to contact the government minister ED Balls regarding the funding.

Newsletter

Congratulations were made to JS and PS for the latest issue of the Newsletter – it just gets better and better. Feed back from villagers has been excellent. Prior to the next issue we agreed to consolidate delivery areas, compare delivery lists with the parish map to ensure all houses are covered. Next issue to include details of the Parish Council annual meeting plus an article on the proposed 'Village Society' to encourage response from the residents. DS raised the possibility of obtaining some funds for the Village Society from a previously defunct village organisation – DS will investigate. PS raised the question should we include Stourmouth on the Newsletter circulation, OC stated on behalf of the Parish Council that he did not see a problem. PS will investigate. We still need a logo for the Newsletter, DT suggested that Alan Marks (the professional illustrator) might assist. It was suggested that JG and LP might approach Alan as they are friends and neighbours. DT suggested that there should be a correspondence section. All were in agreement and would encourage villagers to write in.

Speed watch

OC reported he is still trying to arrange a meeting with KCC – DT will also attend. RA made the point that Satellite Navigation systems were directing lorries down unsuitable roads, It was agreed that we would attempt to locate the data base and see if we can get some lanes designated as unsuitable on the data base.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT has been registered as the Area Coordinator for the Parish and a letter from Sally Coleman the NW Liaison Officer for the region has been distributed with the Newsletter asking for interested parties to respond.

A new neighbourhood watch is already being set up in Elmstone. Frank Pinnington as Coordinator, John Simpson as deputy coordinator, we are still looking for an Elmstone Link Person.

Community Facilities

Nothing to report

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Education

The computer training course has been set up for the 2nd February in the Village Hall. There are still a small number of places available.
The Village Hall will be booked for three evenings in the spring for Roger Ayling's photography course.

Tennis Courts

Nothing to report

Helping Others

The information for the 'Helping Others' list of organisations was successfully passed to the Canterbury Volunteer Bureau by the dead line for printing, we hope to receive the finished article in the next few weeks. Our thanks to Tessa Woodward for organising the list and to those committee members who spent so much time on the phone to validate the information.

Keep the village clean

Next village clean up 19th January – a letter has been circulated with the Newsletter. AC will organise Hi Viz vests for the participants.

Footpaths and bridleways

Nothing to report.

Housing Needs Survey.

DS indicated that this should be a new subject for discussion as there is some progress via the Parish Council

Any Other Business

DT reported that neither the tree or the £100.00 prize for the Village of the Year competition had been received, he would chase these items.
Need list of attendees for VDS events from Martin Knight. DT - RA

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held at 8pm on 9th January 2008 at The Half Moon and Seven Stars.