

**Minutes of Preston and Elmstone Village Society held
12th November 2008 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars**

Present:

David Theoff (Chairman)
Alan Coller (Treasurer)
Louise Perryman (Secretary)
Ollie Chapman
Patricia Simpson
John Simpson
Duncan Scott
Jan Rudolph

1. Apologies for absence were received from Roger Burville, Roger Ayling, Karen Wright, Pip Hazelton

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 8th October 2008 were adopted as a true record

3. Matters arising

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

4. Payment of accounts

AC reported that he had received a grant for £1,250 on behalf of the Parish Council. This was towards the purchase of 5 new benches for use around the village. AC was about to pay printing costs to CCC of £10. DS would be submitting some photocopying and posting claims relating to the VDS. AC would be submitting claims for purchase of the litter picker and visi-vests.

5. Young Persons Action Plan

PS reported that her letter to Yvonne Holders boss Bryn Hill had not enabled progress to be made in setting up a meeting with the DDC. However a meeting has now been set up for 20th November with Sue Chandler KCC Youth Services Bill Butler, Brinley Hill, Pat Simpson and Frank Pinnington to discuss the joint project between local villages to run a youth club and other youth matters.

PS also reported that we have now lost our PCSO Katy Parker Brown, but had got a PC instead – PC Wayne Wright. OC suggested we write to ask if we could keep Katy's services as she has established a good rapport with the young people and it was not supposed to be an 'either/or' situation.

6. Reports on Action Plan Progress

Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported that a special meeting of the Village hall refurbishment sub-committee would be meeting on the 18th November to discuss this item and decide whether to go for a refurbishment or re-building.

OC reported that the Parish council had been invited to apply for DDC funding and had asked for a new Water fountain to go outside the village hall. This has been approved.

Newsletter

PS requested all contributions by 29th November. Several pieced were promised.

DT was to ask KW (Not present) to contact Chris Saxby to check that he was able to fund this next issue

OC reported that he was trying to get an extra allocation from the Parish council to print two copies next year if required.

Speed watch

OC reported that the KCC are getting a KCC highways traffic engineer to look at the various issues raised.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT reported that he had an additional two prospective volunteers that he would be meeting shortly.

Community Facilities

Nothing to report

Keep the Village Clean

AC reported that there were many helpers this time, and less general rubbish to be picked up. Good progress. OC wondered if there was a growing sense of pride in the village and not dropping litter. The next clean up would be organised in March 2009.

The committee expressed their thanks to Alan (AC) for his efforts in supporting the event, particularly in advertising with posters around the village.

Footpaths

Nothing to report

7. Village Design Statement

DS reported on his last discussions with Nick Kenton who was concerned that adopting our VDS would put the DDC in legal jeopardy according to GOSE (Government Office of the South East). DS is now working hard to resolve this apparent variance with the other government guidelines, which appears to be based on a mistaken assumption that assistance is needed and such a hard pressed council is not in a position to give it. He suggested a final meeting of the VDS sub-committee which could then pass its thoughts to the Parish council and try to get a better response from GOSE.

8. Village Society

The committee reviewed the flowchart which RA had sent along to the meeting, outlining the process for publicising and introducing the Village society. This had been drawn up following the meeting of the Village society sub-committee. The next step was for DT to revise the letter going out to the village organisations so that it would be suitable for leaving with these groups *after* making a personal visit to each one of them. DT was also going to complete the list of who would go along to talk to which organisation. Most would be visited by two members of the committee.

10. Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting: 10th December 2008. John and Pat kindly offered to host this December meeting at Elmstone Court.