

**Minutes Of A Meeting Of The Preston Parish Plan Steering Committee Held
On 13th August 2008 At The Half Moon And Seven Stars, Preston.**

Present: Roger Ayling (Vice Chairman)
Louise Perryman (Secretary)
Oliver Chapman
Duncan Scott
John Simpson
Pat Simpson
Pip Hazelton

1. Apologies for absence were received from Martin Ferber, Karen Wright, John Greig, Jan Rudolph, David Theoff, Alan Coller and Lorna Listbrain

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 9th July 2008 were adopted as a true record, but DS pointed out an omission whereby he had reminded the committee that when the Village Society becomes fully operational it would be necessary to put in place a child and vulnerable persons protection policy and obtain appropriate clearance for the youth club and some of the sports clubs.

3. Matters arising

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

4. Payment of accounts

AC not present. No matters raised.

5. Young Persons Action Plan

PS reported that the 3rd Youth forum would take place tomorrow 14th August. Katy PB would be following up matters regarding recent behaviour and also further discuss the youth shelter and the proposal to organise an evening for young people as a fundraiser. Local youth bands and other young people would be involved. Proceeds will help provide requested facilities for young people.

JS volunteered to draft a letter for the youths to use as a template to formally request football nets from PPC via OC. Once received they will be provided without delay

PS would ask the youths to contribute to the next Newsletter, perhaps with a letter of thanks

RA noted that DT has responded to a letter from Action with Communities in Rural Kent asking us to show how the £500.00 grant was spent, explaining that it is 'Work in Progress'. *Trevor Skelton responded and confirmed that providing we kept ACRK informed, we are at liberty to re-allocate the funds to another element of the youth project. (DT Note added post meeting for completeness)*

6. Reports on Action Plan progress

The Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported that following months of investigating the options for building on different plots by purchasing land, as this was proving so protracted, the

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agreement now was to investigate in more detail the options for rebuilding/refurbishing in the same location and being resigned to asking clubs etc. to use other facilities for a period of time. To keep this period as short as possible the options for which JS is asking two parties to prepare a proof of concept are firstly extensive refurbishment, and secondly a re-build using a method that pre-fabricates the building off site (e.g. Huf house style) and constructs it in a comparatively short period of time. Target is to receive these concept drawings in October.

Newsletter

It was confirmed Chris Geary, the accountant at Church Hill Farm has agreed to sponsor the next issue; JS and PS have the details. DT note for potential sponsors - the revised price for sponsorship is reduced to £380 as only 300 copies are required.

PS/JS would like all written contributions before end September. OC agreed to talk with PS regarding arranging interviews with long-term residents for the Memories article.

Speed watch

OC reported that the PPC was working with Katie PB to set-up speed cameras and should get feedback at the next scheduled meeting in September.

RA read a letter from Chief Superintendent Matthew Nix responding to DT's letter about the lack of our own PC. The letter only confirmed known facts. Meanwhile Preston has no PC and there have been more recent incidents of theft. Committee agreed all residents should be encouraged to report any incidents, and should pursue with DT at next meeting the best way of getting a PC allocated.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT note reported no further progress this month. He would take further action to get Preston fully established next month.

Community Facilities

KW not present. PH said she would further investigate the One Hundred Club proposal discussed briefly at the last meeting.

Keep the village clean

Nothing to report. Await AC availability.

Footpaths and bridleways

LL had sent an update to LP. A TROT meeting on 11th August had been very productive with 3 people working to get the new route approved. LL now felt very hopeful that this would be up and running in the next few weeks.

6. The Village Design Statement

RA underlined that the committee is still fighting to get proper recognition for VDSs from DDC. Three other villages including Wingham are working with us on this. He informed the committee that DT had emailed Kit Smith on 11th July and followed up on 6th August. Kit Smith had responded to DT and advised that Sue Chandler was arranging a meeting with Nick Kenton (cabinet member responsible for

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LDF/Planning etc) and planning officers. DT had replied that due to various holiday commitments September looked a better option. Proposed dates awaited.

DS took the committee through the various correspondences that had resulted from the negative reaction of the DDC to ever accepting the VDS as a material consideration. He had received a letter from DCLG confirming that the PPPSC reading of PPS12 was the correct one. National spokespersons from the three major political parties had also responded confirming their commitment to the role of VDSs. He reported that the local councillor Mike Connolly had been sent the dossier of letters.

It was agreed that we should now go ahead with the printing and DS would meet up with LP and JG in the next week to make the final small changes to the document.

Printing costs were submitted (DS) and approved subject to the numbers being confirmed by AC as Treasurer. Printing costs quoted for the VDS are £2,310 for 500 copies of the full colour book plus £243 for 100 B&W copies of the appendices. Grants have been approved for £2,000 (£1,000 from KCC Member Community grant, £500 from PPC and £500 from the PED environmental association).

OC suggested that PPC be approached to make up the shortfall of £553 as they had initially requested that we produce a VDS.

8. Village of the Year competition

RA reported that he and DT would attend the presentation of Prizes on the 4th September at Lenham. Only then will we know whether we have won.

9. Village Society

Following a protracted discussion it became clear that although there was clarity about what the Village Society role was, a little more work was needed regarding the best way of introducing this concept to the village residents, the clubs and other interested parties. It was agreed that a short term sub-committee comprising DT RA DS PS and JS would meet as soon as possible upon DTs return to agree a timetabled action plan. Meanwhile RA would circulate to the committee a draft letter that DT had already prepared for sending to the village organisations

AOB

None

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday 10th September 2008 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars.

RA declared the meeting closed at 10.16.30!