

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING
COMMITTEE held on 13th June, 2007 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars, Preston.**

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Roger Ayling (Vice-Chairman)
Oliver Chapman
Michael Fenney
Louise Perryman
Duncan Scott
John Simpson
Pat Simpson
Karen Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Coller, Jan Rudolph, Martin Ferber and John Greig

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 16th May 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

AC was not present

Reports on Action Plan progress.

The Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported that briefs had been sent to two architects and a response was awaited. Meanwhile they were also investigating the viability of a prefabricated Lithuanian wooden structure along the line of one erected at Wooten village Hall. A fundraising Quiz night was to be arranged for early July and a wine tasting for 21st July.

JS reported that larger grant funding did not seem to be currently available.

Newsletter

PS/JS reported that the Newsletter had been issued and distributed. This issue was in an unexpectedly small A5 format due to a mix-up with Salvatori and the printer. Feedback within the committee on this small format was varied but it was agreed that as it might limit readership we should revert to the larger format for the next issue. Feedback from the community was reported as positive, but no new contributors had yet come forward.

The Chaucer school has offered to print 1000 copies black and white for £80.

LP confirmed that Elmstone systems Ltd would sponsor the next issue and KW agreed to sponsor a future one, possible the Christmas edition.

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PS said that the next issue was due out at the end of August, so was again looking for contributions.

The Village Directory

Nothing to report

Speedwatch

A long discussion on the problems of speeding traffic was nevertheless unable to come up with many firm actions to move things forward. MFenney re-iterated that the PPC is awaiting action of their proposal for a 40 mph on the Wingham to Plucks Gutter stretch of road. He also said that there is the possibility of borrowing a speed camera is desired. OC reported that there was discussion of possible solution at the Sandwich Parish Forum and that a local police officer would be coming to the next parish meeting. It was resolved to leave this matter with the Parish Council who would report back next meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch

OC reported that he is trying to progress this and will write an article on this subject for the next Newsletter.

Community Facilities

KW reported no progress this month, but suggested drafting a letter to go out to all local businesses etc, which would mention the opportunity to sponsor the Newsletter in return for advertising their products or services. DT agreed to help drafting this.

Education

Nothing to report. Feedback awaited on the offer of running computer courses in the newsletter.

Tennis Courts

MF not present

Helping Others

RA suggested that the recently retired represent the group most likely to be able to lend a hand in this area. It was agreed that before taking any further action the committee would wait to see what feedback might be forthcoming from Tessa Woodward's article in the latest Newsletter.(This section will henceforth include any updates on proposals for providing a community minibus.)

Keep the village clean

Nothing major to report - AC not present. However JS stated that he might organise a small tidy-up in the vicinity of the village hall.

Footpaths and bridleways

The TROT initiative. LL reported that agreements had been reached for Eastry and Staple, but unfortunately not Preston, and she would pick up this issue again after the Steam Rally.

OC enquired whether anyone had been in touch about the review of Rights of Way which is currently ongoing with the KCC Highway authority. No-one had feedback on this.

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The Village Design Statement

DS provided a detailed update on his efforts over the last month.. He reported that new legislation is expected to confirm that a Sustainability Appraisal will no longer be mandatory – it can be subsumed into the main document.

He went through the outline VDS structure which had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting, and included initial content in some sections.

There was some discussion about the proposed delivery time scales which DT felt were a little optimistic. It was agreed that in order to meet DDC completion deadline of March 2008 a draft VDS would need to be circulated by early December. DDC would decide whether the completed document would be classed as a Material Consideration or a Supplementary Planning Document.

It was agreed that an open evening on the VDS should be held, if possible in July, to involve the village more closely in the process. The VDS sub-committee was expecting to meet in the next week so start developing the document and would organise the open evening.

OC congratulated DS on making such a good start with the VDS and remarked that the village was lucky to have someone on board who was so knowledgeable on this subject. All agreed

Young Persons' Action Plan

DT reported that he had agreed to give a talk to a seminar on Action for Rural Kent to encourage others to take the steps taken by PPP . OC commented that this was very positive for the village. DT had circulated feedback from Trevor Skelton and confirmed he has a number of documents from him relating to grants, facilities and equipment for young people. Due to time constraints more detailed discussion of this subject was put on hold for the next meeting.

Village of the Year competition

DT reported that a judge wishes to visit on 25th June but it became clear that key members (DT and OC) would not be available on that day, so DT agreed to try to re-schedule.

Any Other Business

KW reported that a new resident in the village, Kris Saxby, had expressed a genuine interest in being involved with the committee and assisting. It was suggested that he could attend the next meeting to explore the options.

Next meeting.

The next meeting of the committee would be held on 11th July 2007.