

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE held on 16th May, 2007 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars, Preston.

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Roger Ayling (Vice-Chairman)
Oliver Chapman
Martin Ferber
John Greig
Louise Perryman
Duncan Scott
John Simpson
Pat Simpson

Trevor Skelton from Action with Communities in Rural Kent also attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Coller and Jan Rudolph.

Secretary

DT reported that OC had recently been elected chairman of the Parish Council and congratulated him on the appointment. OC had advised that he felt that it was not appropriate to be secretary to the Committee as well. LP had offered to take over the role of secretary with effect from the next meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 18th April 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

There were no outstanding accounts.

Village Design Statement.

DS reported on extensive research and consultations he had undertaken with a view to clarifying the process of producing a VDS for the village. OC reported that a work colleague who was familiar with producing such documents, and who was currently involved in Wingham' VDS initiative, had offered to help in the process at no charge.

After much discussion it was agreed to set up a sub-committee headed by DS and including OC and RA (and also AC if he was willing to be involved) to carry out further research and come to the next meeting with recommendations for a timetable etc.

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Reports on Action Plan progress.

Newsletter

PS reported on progress with the next edition of the newsletter and circulated a draft. Danny Salvatori would be sponsoring this edition. DS would design a logo in time for the next edition. Distribution would be last week in May.

The Village Hall Refurbishment –

JS reported on his current investigations regarding possible sources of funding for the village hall project. It appeared that the best option might be to redevelop the hall in phases, but that was still being investigated.

The Village Directory

Has been completed and will be periodically updated. DT raised the issue of the 'welcome pack' and it was felt that this would best be done by the parish council. OC would raise it at the next parish meeting. It was agreed that local estate agents should have copies of the V directory.

Speed Watch

MFenney was not at the meeting to give an update.

Neighbourhood Watch

OC reported that he had been trying over an extended period to contact the Police neighbourhood watch liaison officer without success. Trevor Skelton offered to send e-mail contact details.

Community Facilities

KW was not present at the meeting. DT reported that KW had not had any further meetings but was intending to do so shortly.

Education

JS stated that there was nothing to report except that the possibility of running computer courses was included in the newsletter.

Tennis Courts

M Ferber reported that he has several ideas, which he would be following up now that his move has been completed.

Helping Others

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DT reported on the work done by Tessa Woodward in trying to set up a scheme, and on the article she had written in the current newsletter. It was agreed that action would be delayed until feedback was received from the News Letter. MF would see if Pfizer's 'carer' scheme could be linked to a local scheme.

Keep Village Clean

AC was not present at the meeting.

Footpaths and Bridleways

LLB was not present but it was understood that she had held a successful meeting with local farmers to set up a network of rides under the TROT scheme.

Community Mini Bus

No progress at the current time. However, it was thought that this item may well be covered by the voluntary sector as a result of the Helping Others scheme.

Young Persons Action Plan

DT raised the issue of play equipment for older children (A major issue raised in the YP questionnaire). Trevor Skelton offered to investigate funding opportunities for improved facilities.

Any Other Business.

DT reported that a judge for the Village of the Year completion had visited and would be recommending that we progress to the next round.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Trevor Skelton for attending the meeting.

Next meeting.

The next meeting of the committee would be held on 13th June 2007.