

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE held on 8th August 2007 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars, Preston.

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Oliver Chapman
Duncan Scott
John Simpson
Pat Simpson
Lorna Listbrain
Martin Ferber
Karen Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Rudolph, Mike Fenney, Roger Ayling, John Greig and Alan Coller.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 11th July 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 and no items were raised under this heading.

Reports on Action Plan progress

The Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported that fundraising efforts would continue with a wine tasting event on 28th or 29th September, depending on the availability of the person organising the tasting.

JS reported that estimates for architectural/project management effort for rebuilding/refurbishing the village hall had come in from one source and a further one was awaited. MF suggested that Roger Lewis, who designed the new Preston Nursery building, should also be contacted as he has much experience of this kind of project.

Newsletter

It was agreed that as no input from the school had been received and other contributions were few, the issue of the Autumn Newsletter would be delayed by one month. All submissions must now be received before the 25th September.

Speedwatch

No progress made. MFenney reported via KW that Wayne Wright at Eastry did not feel able to get involved in this on behalf of Preston.

Neighbourhood Watch

OC reported that he had been trying to get in contact the Canterbury Neighbourhood Watch person, Sally Coleman, but with no success to date. An Open evening on this subject was suggested. OC will progress this area

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Community Facilities

Nothing to report.

Education

MFerber suggested contacting Canterbury Outreach at Canterbury College. They could bring several nearby villages together to make courses more viable. He offered to find out who deals with this area.

Tennis Courts

Kevin at Carpenters farm has a tennis court and is considering what he could offer for the village. He will come back to the committee with suggestions.

Helping Others

DT reported that Tessa is going to contact the Canterbury contact to see what he can offer, and is also trying to identify who needs assistance. An open evening is planned for October – no dates yet.

Keep the village clean

A tidy up around the village hall area took place on 20th July

Footpaths and bridleways

LL reported that contact had been made with Canterbury about clearing up the bridleway - they said they will do this.

The Village Design Statement

DS submitted detailed July minutes of the Working Group and also circulated the work in progress version of the VDS document

DS stated that the launch was planned for 6th and 14th September and Mike Ebbs had been informed. MF suggested inviting Alan Ash to a launch meeting, as he has been involved in the Kent Design Statement. Clive Alexander was also suggested.

The format of the two sessions and the topics proposed were agreed – the first a series of brief explanatory presentations, the second more a workshop where residents' views would be gathered. However DT felt that the timescales were too tight and the committee generally agreed. It was agreed to aim to do the first session on 14th September instead of the 6th, and to follow it up with the workshop session on 5th October.

Committee members agreed to help with the production/distribution of a flyer advertising these events.

Young Persons' Action Plan

No progress to report.

Village of the Year competition

A presentation will be made on the 3rd September at 6.30pm in Lenham and up to 4 people are invited to attend. DT nominate OC to attend and to decide who else should attend.

Any Other Business

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Political parties. The committee discussed the offer of Laura Sandys, prospective Conservative candidate, to attend this committee meeting to discuss crime in the rural community. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to invite her at this time.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 5th September 2007 at the Heathers, weather permitting.