

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE held on 8th November, 2006 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars, Preston.

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Roger Ayling (Vice – Chairman)
Oliver Chapman (Secretary)
Alan Coller
John Greig
Mike Fenney
Martin Ferber
Lorna Listbrain
Louise Perryman
Jan Rudolph
John Simpson
Pat Simpson
Duncan Scott
Karen Wright

Also in attendance : Trevor Bartlett (Ward Councillor and Cabinet Member – Dover District Council), Victoria Lawson (Action with Communities in Rural Kent), Brian Curtis (Wingham Parish Council).

Apologies for absence All committee members were in attendance

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 4th October, 2006 were adopted as a true record.

Matters arising

Most of the matters arising were dealt with by items on the agenda but DT reported that, at his meeting with the parish council in October, he had offered to provide a breakdown of the questionnaire returns relating to play equipment since the parish council currently had that under review. DT to action. Also reported was that subject to cost estimates being approved, the parish councils willingness to fund the newsletter and village directory

Liaison with Dover District Council

Councillor Trevor Bartlett attended the meeting and started by congratulating the committee on the production of an excellent plan document. He then explained that he had had discussions with Mike Ebbs of the Planning department (who was originally going to attend this meeting), and read out a letter he had received from Mr. Ebbs. Victoria Lawson reported that she had established contact with Suzy Tigwell and subsequently had an excellent meeting with Ms Tigwell who is currently establishing a framework for DDC to deal with current and future parish plans. Trevor Bartlett confirmed that he was aware of Ms Tigwell's involvement and would liase with her. He also reported that all the parish plan and VDS issues would be the subject of a report to the councils' management team in December.

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After much discussion it was agreed that TB would arrange for a delegation of DT, LL, OC and DT would meet with TB and Mike Ebbs at the council offices with a view to agreeing a way forward for a VDS.

OC would table questions at the forthcoming Towns and Parishes forum at DDC on 23rd November, 2006.

VL would be continuing to liaise with Susie Tigwell and would report back on progress.

Payment of accounts

There were no outstanding accounts for payment. AC had collected the invoices to make the final grant claim of £315.84 from ACRK.

Village Newsletter

DT reported that he had attended the parish council meeting on 6th October, and as stated above they had agreed with the idea of this group publishing a village newsletter and, subject to costs, had agreed to fund it. PS had done some preparatory work on layouts, contacting village organisations etc and anticipated that the newsletter would run to 4 sides of A4 (A3 folded in two). After some discussion it was agreed that we would aim to publish the first newsletter mid February, 2007. (All items for it should be with PS by 14th January, 2007).

Village Directory

DS reported that the village directory was almost complete but required checking that it is still up-to-date (with telephone contacts etc). It was agreed that the sub-committee (DS, Mfenney and JS) would meet to finalise it, arrange for printing and distribute with covering letter by 28th November, 2006

Action Plan

OC had distributed a resume of what needs to be done with each issue on the action plan (appended to these minutes) and suggested that to take them forward, the best approach would be to elect a committee member to 'champion' an issue, call upon volunteers where necessary and report on progress to each meeting. The committee agreed with that approach and elected 'champions' as follows;

Village Hall	JS (+AC, DS and RA)
Village Directory	DS (+Sub-Committee)
Newsletter	PS with help of LP and DT.
Speedwatch	Mfenney
Neighbourhood Watch	OC
Community facilities	KW
Education	JS

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Tennis Court	Mferber
Helping Others	JR
Keeping Village Clean	AC
Footpaths and Bridleways	LL
Community Minibus	Put on hold for time being (low demand)

Village Hall

JS reported on a meeting of the village hall committee the previous evening and on progress with the proposed redevelopment. Questionnaires had been returned although it had been decided to canvas Stourmouth too. The questionnaires had revealed a clear demand for better facilities.

JS reported of forthcoming events including a wine tasting on 1st December, Coffee, cakes and craft morning on 9th December and on other proposed events.

Any Other Business

DT reported that Victoria Lawson had succeeded in arranging for Preston Plan to be featured in the next edition of 'Oast to Coast' published in mid December. DT had provided some 'chairman's comments' to be included in the article.

DT reported that he had received communications from both Friends of Preston Church and the Parish Council regarding the 700th anniversary of Preston being granted a market charter in 2007. The committee were in favour of helping with arrangements to mark the event and DT would liaise with the correspondents.

DT reported the receipt of a letter from Jean and Derek Hougham-Griggs congratulating the committee on the production of the Plan document.

Next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 6th December, 2006.

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Appendix

WHAT'S REQUIRED FOR ACTION

Village Hall Renovation.

Form sub-committee of Village Hall Committee to canvas local needs, look at funding possibilities, review redevelopment proposals and drive the redevelopment.

Already being actioned by AC, JS, PS, RA and DS.

Village Directory

Compile a list of local facilities and service providers and other relevant information and publish into a document.

Already being actioned by JS. DS and Mfenney

News Letter

Discuss proposals with parish council and local church, request draft texts for inclusion in newsletter planned for January.

Action started by PS (needs additional permanent assistance).

Speed Watch

Contact Police and KCC for details of what is on offer, liaise with parish council with a view to exerting pressure for 40mph and 20mph speed limits and traffic calming. Establish if we have volunteers prepared to be trained and give the necessary time. Liase with adjoining parishes regarding joint use of the speed gun initiative.

Neighbourhood Watch

Obtain latest scheme details from the police, ascertain level of support for a scheme in the village and, if positive, set it up.

Community facilities

Establish what facilities there are available in the village and upon what basis providers would be willing to make them available. Publicise results (possibly by way of newsletter)

Education

Liaise with KCC to see what facilities and assistance are available, gauge likely level of support and set up if appropriate (may be in conjunction with village hall)

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Tennis Court

Investigate possibility of providing a tennis court in the village either utilising an existing court by arrangement with the owner or providing new. Investigate funding possibilities.

Helping others

Establish a network of volunteers who are willing to offer services, establish what services are possible and what is required. Publicise initially by newsletter. Tessa Woodward and Jan Rudolph have indicated their willingness to be involved.

Keep village clean

Arrange periodic 'clean-up' days with volunteers. Seth Lindstromberg has indicated willingness to be involved. Consider entering 'best kept village' competitions.

Footpaths and bridleways

Liaise with KCC rights of way to review network in parish and report back

Community mini bus

Investigate ways of providing a service, establish if any funding available, possibility of linking with adjoining communities.

Village Design Statement

Function of main steering committee if it proceeds. Currently subject to discussions with DDC

Housing needs survey

Would form part of VDS