

## **Minutes of Preston and Elmstone Village Society held**

**8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars**

### **Present:**

David Theoff (Chairman)  
Roger Ayling (Deputy Chairman)  
Alan Coller (Treasurer)  
Louise Perryman (Secretary)  
Ollie Chapman  
Karen Wright  
Patricia Simpson  
Duncan Scott  
Jan Rudolph  
Pip Hazelton

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from John Simpson and Roger Burville.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were adopted as a true record

### **4. Payment of accounts**

Alan Coller reported that a payment of £2,628 had been made to Mickle Print for producing the VDS. This Comprised £2,128 from the PPP account and £500 from another defunct local society account whose funds had been allocated to the VDS production. The Account balance is currently £308.14 but the Parish Council has agreed another £500 for this year plus a further drawdown of £500 from next year's income. This will mean the printing costs of the VDS will have been almost entirely covered by a mixture of grants and Parish council funding.

### **5. Young Persons Action Plan**

Pat Simpson reporting. A meeting would take place the following day with herself, PCSO Katy Parker Brown, Ollie Chapman if pos, John Simpson and Alan Coller, plus a number of the young people. The aim is to establish the site for the proposed Youth Shelter and to further discuss getting a Youth Centre/club. Discussions with Katy about working with other nearby villages to fund a youth worker to run a youth club are ongoing. Pip Hazelton suggested consulting the DDC Youth service strategy document.

Regarding the Teen fusion event at Deal and the unreliable/late coach service, it was agreed that Pat would phone to find out how much it was going to cost, who had the contract, what attendance records were available, and to raise concerns about it lateness.

## **6. Reports on Action Plan Progress**

### *Village Hall Refurbishment*

PS brought along the first concept design submitted by one of the architects, showing an exciting new building. Regarding funding she reported that the Lottery has a new four year cycle starting in April 2009 with 800 million available, mainly via matched funding. Large 'construction' grants cannot be obtained unless a Business Plan is prepared and Planning Permission obtained prior to the grant submission.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the village therefore needs to take the project forward in funded stages. The first major action is to apply to a range of organisations that will consider assisting with the funding of Stage 1.

Given the magnitude of this task Louise Perryman suggested that the Village Society offer to help in bringing this project to fruition, possibly by setting up a sub-committee. David Theoff would consider how best to achieve this.

### *Newsletter*

PS noted that contributions had been rather less than hoped and the Newsletter would be only eight pages. Karen Wright offered to write a recipe and Louise would put in a comment on computer training. Duncan Scott would do a piece about the Artist John Rignall for next time and PS would try to get a photo and write a few words about Katy Parker Brown.

### *Speed Watch*

OC reported that as part of the PACT agreement with the Police, Katie Parker Brown, PCSO, had conducted further traffic monitoring but with few drivers significantly exceeding the speed limit. He agreed to follow up on the traffic calming approach following the measures recently introduced in Littlebourne. RA requested that we write to KCC asking for special road signs to be made to deter lorries from using some of the few very narrow roads that they currently attempt because of their use of SatNav. He had learned that these signs are available.

### *Neighbourhood Watch*

DT reported that we have two additional volunteers from Preston. We need just three more to give a full coverage. This will be mentioned in the Newsletter

### *Community Facilities*

KW reported that Chris Saxby said he will sponsor a Newsletter. She will contact him to confirm that and ask that he sponsors this Christmas edition.

### *Keep Village Clean*

AC reported that the next clean-up day will be Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October. All to meet for a coffee at the hall 11am. Pat will be encouraging some of the young people to come and help.

### *Footpaths and Bridleways*

The TROT scheme is still not quite in place but KW reported that it was likely to go ahead very soon.

## **7. Village Design Statement**

Feedback on the VDS had been very positive. DT circulated a letter of thanks from a parishioner and several commented on the positive remarks made by representatives of all three political parties.

DS felt that the process of challenging the democratic deficit demonstrated by one councillor was nearing successful completion and was confident that the VDS would have to be taken into account in deciding the future of the village. He requested that we arrange for a letter of thanks to be sent to Mike Ebbs and Clive Alexander for their time spent on this matter. (DT to organise). DT would also ensure that the VDS got coverage via a Newsletter article.

## **8. Village of the Year Competition**

Roger Ayling and Ollie Chapman had attended the Village of the Year presentation and brought along the framed Very Highly Commended certificate in the Communications category. Also to be mentioned in the Newsletter.

## **9. Village Society**

DT circulated a draft letter, which was approved. It will invite all the different clubs to a meeting to discuss the village society in November. A sub-committee will help to get this kicked off and will comprise DT, RA, OC, LP, PS, DS. It was agreed they would meet on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the Breeches at 8pm.

## **10. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that the name of the society would for now be Preston and Elmstone Village society and OC suggested that we should find a suitable logo for the village to be used in all communications. All to give this some thought.

Date of Next Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in the Pub.