

**Minutes Of A Meeting Of The Preston Parish Plan Steering Committee Held
On 9th April 2008 At The Half Moon And Seven Stars, Preston.**

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Alan Coller (Treasurer) – late arrival
Louise Perryman (Secretary)
Oliver Chapman
Duncan Scott
John Greig
John Simpson
Pat Simpson

1. Apologies for absence were received from, Roger Ayling, Karen Wright and Martin Ferber

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 12th March 2008 were adopted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

All of the matters arising were dealt with by items on the agenda.

4. Payment of accounts

DS stated that he had now received £240 to cover all expenses for the Open Day from the Action for Communities in Rural Kent . Other funding opportunities were actively being investigated to finance the printing of the VDS. Including the KCC and Dover District councillors' fund, Grants for all, and the Coalfields regeneration fund. A donation of £440 would also be forthcoming from a now defunct account previously held by an Environmental protection association.

5. Reports on Action Plan progress

The Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported that he is waiting to meet the KCC strategic planning contact with Penny Day. The planner has asked to see plans of the Village Hall in the context of the buildings around. JS is still looking at other options for adjacent land and may approach other landowners

Fundraising – the Aging rockers night will now take place in June

Emergency repairs are being carried on the hall on an as required basis.

Newsletter

OC reported that Ian in Padbrook lane has offered to give any assistance he can with anything. PS reported that she had an offer to produce an article from someone in the village.

DT is co-ordinating funding of the Newsletters for now and has written to various local businesses asking for their support. Salvatori will be asked to sponsor the next Newsletter as they had already volunteered for several. Good feedback was also obtained from Wingham Estate agents who will be approached in due course wrt sponsorship.

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Speed watch

Nothing new to report. Waiting for follow up on OC's meeting with Terry Elvie.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT reported that he now has a meeting arranged for 23rd April with Sally Coleman and the Police community support officer Katie Parker Brown. The plan is to launch in Elmstone first and then Preston. There is a big NHW meeting on Sat 26th April at Maidstone – DT said he would book two places.

Community Facilities

Nothing to report

Education

LP said she would follow up with the trainer who did the computer courses to see what can be offered to those keen to continue improving their computer skills. She would write a short entry for the next Newsletter giving the options

Tennis Courts

DS said that Wingham TC is currently keen to attract new members and suggested we put a note about this in the next Newsletter – Liz would do it. PS suggested organising a group to go over in the summer to play a few sessions with coaching supplied.

Helping Others

Nothing to report – await June meeting when representatives will attend.

Keep the village clean

Nothing to report.

Footpaths and bridleways

Lorna not present – nothing to report

6. The Village Design Statement

DS reported that the final text changes had been made to the document and increased explanation of role the Wansom channel in the history of Preston had been added. A request for one area to be designated an SSI had also been added DS had a meeting with Simon Hopkins who is preparing 2 maps to go into the final document. He reported that RA had now taken the additional long-shot photos that had been requested and he had done the close ups of structural details. The whole document and the photos would be passed to LP in the next few days for merging and editing into a final document.

DT discussed who should do what with the VDS at the Preston Parish AGM. It was agreed that DT would cover the PPP areas and RA the VDS (to be discussed on his return).

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7. Village of the Year competition

DT confirmed that he we have been entered for the communications section of this competition (Newsletter). And have also applied for a Co-operative bank Award for Newsletter of the Year.

8. Village Society

Following discussion regarding the draft constitution, it was agreed that, if it could be established that there was no legal requirement to charge a subscription, then we would not charge one. This mainly because it was felt that only one or two pounds could be charged and the logistics of collecting and accounting for this money was more work than the team felt able to put in. Instead the village would be encourage to raise funds by other activities, because as DT pointed out, some income would be essential to cover basic administration cost. It was agreed that DT would put the proposal for the new Village society to the meeting on the 23rd and present it as something that is happening unless there is strong objection. DT would write a letter explaining the village society and its aims and circulate to committee before issuing to all households in the next few days. He would also be checking with each member of the PPPSC whether they were prepared to continue/transfer as members of the new Village Society committee. All agreed that it would be good to have a few new and younger members on board to and to arrange for a re-election of members at some point between 3 and 12 months away, when the society has settled into its new role.

prior to the meeting. There was some discussion about whether there should be a subscription charge – DT pointed out that all of the references he had found to village societies did make a small charge.

5. Young Persons' Action Plan

PS talked about 'Teenfusion' that was in the last Newsletter (a monthly Friday night event for 13 to 17 year olds in a Deal venue. 19 young people have responded to the article and PS was keen to take action quickly so emailed Sue Chandler who is proposing a bus between Preston/Wingham and Ash. This is now being considered by the Youth Strategy Officer at DDC – Yvonne Holder.

PS mentioned that Yvonne is also available for advice on the Teen Shelters and how to talk to the teenagers about their needs.

AC confirmed that he attended the youth forum on the 13th March and was extremely impress with the information and guidance available. He is waiting for representatives to provide him with information about the format he should follow to find out from the young people what they want as a youth shelter. He expects to have this information for the next meeting

He also mentioned that there is now a scheme for school age children that makes transport affordable - £50 for the whole year. We should publicise this.

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AC also submitted to the PPSC his outline designs for youth shelters (approx 2x3 metres). He agreed to look at materials costs for the next meeting.

JS suggested incorporating a wall into the designs – for kids to use to kick footballs.

It was agreed that a decision on how to approach the young people to get their views would be left until after the youth forum on the 13th, which should be able to provide guidance.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 14th May 2008 at the Moon and Seven Stars.