

Preston Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 9 January 2023

Present: - Councillors Ireland (Chair), G. Catterick, L. West, K. Thomas, S. Precious, S. Hope, B. Mendham, T. Hodge, T. Pank, K. Bayliss G. Hunter

The Parish Clerk, J. Ramsden

Apologies Councilor G. Bell & Ward Councilor S. Steel

The Chair welcomed Councillors and members of the public and opened the meeting at 19.02. The Chair stated that "Standing Orders would be suspended for the period of the meeting due to a potential time over-run when discussing the Parish Precept.

Declarations of Interest No changes declared

Minutes of the meetings 12 December 2022 and 14 November 2022 were approved and passed.

Councillor Mendham noted that no advanced Precept information had been received from the Clerk as per the minutes. All Councillors are advised to read the minutes and contact the Clerk or issuer for changes or comments.

Planning Applications

No new applications received.

ABP / HEP Now at Outline planning in Q3 this year, some 80 "Conditions" had been posted. Not able to give indication of who has taken up options. Power and services to site could be an issue.

TPRC consultation for councillors in the Hall 18 January public meeting 23 Jan.

PX consultation 30 Jan in the Hall

YEP forum 16 Feb.

ERYC Communities Forum 28 Feb Withernsea open to all, informal walk in event.

Comments made by YEP representatives were that the ERYC officers responsible for "Planning" in the area did not seem to have overall control and decisions were being made piecemeal.

Planning decisions received, none at this time.

Finance

Statement from the Chair. Some mandatory documents had not been submitted to the independent auditor PKF Littlejohn for 2019 - 2020 & 2022. This has resulted in outstanding charges and a CCJ against the Parish Council. The two older payments have been made circa £1,300; however, we do require an Internal Audit to get back on track. Part of the outstanding payments reflect the Auditor's additional administration charges whilst trying to contact the council. However, the main payment is in lieu of the audit submission (AGAR). The Council will need to ensure we have an internal Procedures and Governance review in Q1 to ensure we do not have a recurrence of this situation. An internal auditor has now been appointed.

These payments are as listed and offered for "Approval" retrospectively.

In addition, there are payments to be made in February 2023 for approval.

A copy of the Bank Statement was not available at the meeting, the Clerk was asked to ensure this would always be available for signing off at a Council meeting. It must be dated the Last Day of the Month prior to the meeting.

Councillor Mendham will review Standing Orders however further reviews will require participation of the full Council.

The Parish Finances are the responsibility of all Councillors however a sub-committee may be appointed to review procedure in this.

The Barclays Bank mandate of authorities will be updated, and an additional 3 Councillors are needed. Councillor West volunteered and Councillor Hunter would re-instate his on-line account, another needed. The responsibilities to be determined at the next meeting.

Precept Discussion

The Clerk had prepared 3 options relating to the setting of the Precept level for 2023 – 24. Indications of the Bank Balance at the FYE indicated that we would overspend into the reserve balance of £15,000. This was not unusual however; finances had been under pressure throughout the year and expected to have a shortfall of £3k to £5k this year which would be met by the reserve.

We do have an additional 12 Band D properties this year however these would not have a significant impact on finances.

For guidance the clerk showed 4 options

- 1 £38,500 an additional £5k
- 2 £37,500 an additional £4k
- 3 £36,500 an additional £3k
- 4 £35,500 an additional £2k

Given that a forecast FY spend of £36,000 was likely in addition to the Internal audit requirement it was the general opinion of Council that none of the above would service our spending obligations. The opening bank balance as of 2022 was £13,500 in forecast closing balance for 2023 is £12,000 though this is likely very optimistic and result in a shortfall in the Parish reserves. In consideration of this an increase Precept level is recommended.

Proposed Councillor Catterick that the precept should be set at £40,000

Seconded Councillor Hope

Amendment to the above

Proposed Councillor Hunter that the precept be set at £42,000

Seconded Councillor Pank.

Voting For the Amendment 7 votes “For”

Voting for the Proposal 3 Votes “For”

Therefore, the Amendment was carried and the Precept for 2023 –24 would be set at £42,000.

The impact of this would be an additional £0.70p per household per calendar month.

Village Award

There had been 3 main candidates for the Village Award and following a vote held in camera and by e-mail, Mrs. Pat Fergusson was nominated to receive the award in 2023. This was in recognition of the ongoing work Pat contributes to "Preston Village Life". The format of the Plaque to be arranged and a date for the presentation to be determined, likely at the "Coronation" weekend.

Traffic Carried forward until next meeting

Tree Planting at Preston South

It is accepted that space was limited however need to push the ERYC to offer landscaping to the rear of the Childrens Play Area and potentially add the Commemorative Tree there. Cllrs Bell and Bayliss to advise.

Funding

To be added to the Council Agenda each month.

Meeting Dates to be issued. Have all Councillors received these? Please advise.

Future Agendas

Potential for Council Elections in May

Village Questionnaire will in the Preston Patter in March GC LW TP

Potential prize for return of questionnaire

Cost to be advised to Council.

Check on Traffic Lights in Ness Lane.

Coronation Weekend Funding

Meeting Closed 9.36 (21.36)