



Prestbury Parish Council

Minutes of the 6th ordinary meeting of Prestbury Parish Council 2020/21, held remotely at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14th October 2020,

This meeting was held remotely using teleconferencing facility 'Zoom' because of Covid-19 restrictions and held in accordance with *Amendment Regulations to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the 2020 Regulations)*

Attendance

Members of Prestbury Parish Council

Cllr Lillian Burns
Cllr Danny Franks
Cllr Jon Hallowell
Cllr Valerie Herbert
Cllr Peter Holes
Cllr Marilyn Leather
Cllr Keith Podmore
Cllr Arthur Dicken
Cllr Denzil Murphy

Members of Cheshire East Council

Cllr Paul Findlow

Members of the public

A member of the public attended as an observer

PPC 20-21 / 196 Apologies for absence

Cllr Jackson

PPC 20-21/ 197 Declarations of interest

None

Signed

Date

PPC 20-21/ 198 Public Participation

A local resident attended the meeting to observe how the Parish Council operated

PPC 20-21/ 199 Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020 were approved
Proposed by Cllr Dicken. Seconded by Cllr Hallowell
All in favour

PPC 20-21/ 200 Finance

A report from the RFO was tabled and the following points in particular noted

- Engagement letter with Internal Auditors JDH Business Services Ltd – it was agreed to authorize the RFO to sign the engagement letter from JDH Business Services to appoint them as Internal Auditors for the current year 2020/21. Proposed Cllr Holes Seconded Cllr Leather. All in favour
- Reserves Policy – Members agreed to incorporate wording into the existing “Financial Regulations” in respect of reserves which will help to address their current high level. The RFO proposed that projects should be defined to include how reserves held above the provisions of the policy will be spent. The Chairman said that notes would be required in the accounts to explain any cash then held beyond the provisions of the policy
The regulations to then be brought back to Council in March 2021 for approval. Proposed Cllr Podmore Seconded Cllr Herbert. All in favour.
- Gifts Policy/Hospitality – Members agreed in line with the Councillor’s “Code of Conduct” to incorporate an additional statement into the “Financial Regulations” to ensure that a note is made by the clerk of any gifts received by members over the value of £25. This amendment also to be brought back for approval in March 2021
- Renewal of Insurance Policy –Members were asked to note that the policy with Hiscox had now been entered into and paid. The RFO further asked members to note the new Duty of Fair Representation” in disclosure of risk to the insurers.
- PAYE/NI– The RFO confirmed the results of the ongoing discussions with HMRC on the liability to the Parish Council from the employment of a previous clerk. The IR35 unit at HMRC have confirmed this lies with the Council. It was agreed that this outstanding issue be progressed by the payment of the amount outstanding.
- Armadillo contract – it was confirmed that there had been no further progress on this issue
- Resilience Plan – It was agreed at the present time not to progress with the development of a plan for Prestbury given the plans already in place by Cheshire East and the key emergency services

Signed

Date

- Budget and Precept 2021/2022 – As this item is to be discussed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 2nd November, members were requested to submit any spending proposals for up to the next three years, to the clerk by 23rd October for consideration. The RFO was also requested to provide members with the current year's project list
- Renewal of Prestbury Squash Club lease – members were informed that the clerk is still trying to obtain a copy of the original lease from the successor solicitors to Croftons. If unsuccessful, given the renewal date of March 2021 the Parish Council will need to work with the club to develop a new one as soon as possible.
- September Accounts – all accounts circulated were in order and no questions were raised
- Payments for authorization - it was noted that during the month there were no requests being sought for debit card payments. Cllrs Podmore and Leather have checked all other payments and as set out in the RFO report and below were approved as follows -
 - GR Bayley – Defibrillator Inspection. Whilst it was agreed to pay the submitted invoice of £228.00 + vat (£273.60) it was noted that the amount was for the number of visits was incorrect and should be £494.00. RFO to contact GR Bayley on the issue.
 - ChALC – Clerk training on Roles & Responsibilities. £25.00
 - ChALC - Two further courses for the clerk. £50.00
 - CC Gibson - Raise canopy of tree in playground. £200.00
 - Aquatec -Clean area at playground. £95.00
 - Rymans – Reimburse Cllr Herbert Purchase of stapler. £15.98
 - Clerk - Net monthly salary. £716.56
 - HMRC – Tax and NI. £222.56
 - SPS – Payroll Services. £93.50 +Vat - £112.20
 - K Dale Joinery – Refurbishment of village stocks.£585.00
- Proposed Cllr Holes. Seconded Cllr Podmore. All in favour.
- GDPR and Data Protection – The clerk confirmed to members that all information in relation to the Parish Council had now been updated with Cheshire East Council and ChALC.
- Christmas lights – Cllr Leather had received a number of contractor proposals for the provision of improved Christmas lighting for the village. Along with Cllr Hallowell, Cllr Leather will provide a scheme and costs when available.

A total budget of £16,000 was requested in order for timely orders to be placed.

Proposed Cllr Leather. Seconded Cllr Hallowell. All in favour

Signed

Date

PPC 20-21/201 Committees

The minutes of the Planning Committee minutes for the meetings held on 5th and 28th August 2020 were noted along with the draft minutes of the Planning Meeting of 16th September 2020

PPC 20-21/202 – Cheshire East Local Plan Part 2 (Site Allocation & Development Plan Document)

Cllr Burns updated members on the recent discussions at Cheshire East Council on the Local Plan proposals in relation to Prestbury and undertook to continue discussions with Peter Yates a local planning consultant on the most appropriate way to respond to the forthcoming public consultation on the Plan. The clerk was also requested to contact Disley, Bollington and Alderley councils to investigate how they were addressing the issues set out in the proposals being brought forward by Cheshire East:

Cllr Burns offered a number of proposals to progress the issue as follows

- That the Parish Council would continue to oppose moves by Cheshire East Council, through its Local Plan process, to remove the Green Belt designation from any land within Prestbury Parish and would continue to challenge the principal authority's case for doing so and its policies in relation to housing and Local Service Centres.
Proposed Cllr Burns. Seconded Cllr Murphy. All in favour.
- In order to form the best case and achieve best outcomes in respect of the proposals for Prestbury, that the Parish Council allocate a budget of up to £1500 to be used to employ Peter Yates to assist in completing a response.
- It was further proposed that Cllr Burns worked with Peter Yates on a response to Part 2 of Cheshire East's Local Plan publication draft of the Site Allocations & Development Plan Policies Document (SADPD)
- The Council also agreed to explore the feasibility of working alongside the other Parish Councils in North Cheshire who have Green Belt land designated in the draft for safeguarding.
- Finally that through Peter Yates the cost of obtaining Counsel's opinion be sought on the way that Cheshire East Council have allocated safeguarded land, to draw up the question that Counsel would be asked to answer and to keep the Parish Council fully informed of any dealings with the Counsel and that if asked by the Parish Council to work with Counsel.
- Members also agreed that it was prepared if necessary, to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Council to discuss the matter of employing Counsel..

Prop Cllr Burns. Seconded Cllr Franks. All in favour

PPC 20-21/203 – Highway impacts for the opening of the new Kings School

Members reported a considerable improvement to traffic over successive weeks since the school opened in September particularly with the removal of roadwork signals

Signed

Date

PPC 20-21/204 – Area Highways Group

Cllrs Leather and Findlow updated members of the outcome of the group meeting on the 12th October 2020. As a result of the meeting two schemes are progressed to assessment stage

- Parking and footways in Bollin Grove
- Review of the bend on Castle Hill opposite the Chelford Road junction, relating to two recent concerns raised about accident risk at either side of the junction

PPC 20-21/205 – Prestbury Railway Station

Cllr Murphy updated members and confirmed that the meeting with Network Rail will now take place on 2nd November 2020 which will hopefully help progress a number of outstanding issues.

Cheshire East Best Kept Stations Group - It was also agreed that the Parish Council should join the Community Rail Network in order for a Friends Group to be formed to help develop improvements for the station area.

Proposed Cllr Holes. Seconded Cllr Murphy. All in favour

Vandalised lights from the station into Prestbury – It was noted that a number of lights continue to be vandalized. Cllr Leather is to provide the clerk with the background and detail to this issue so a letter can be sent to officers at Cheshire East Highways to address the issue.

PPC 20-21/206 – Bridge Green Car Park

Cllr Podmore reported that the main contractor that had undertaken the work had gone into liquidation but with issues still outstanding in relation to grids and tarmac surfacing. Quotes for repairs are currently being sought. The Parish Council still has a retention budget which won't be released until the defects have been rectified.

PPC 20-21/207 – Refurbishment of the stocks

Members were informed that this work is now complete apart from some additional staining to the wood.

PPC 20-21/208 – Garden update

Cllr Podmore confirmed that there had been no progress in achieving any further quotations from contractors for the work. As a result it is possible that this work will slip into next year due to missing the planting season

PPC 20-21/209 – Newsletter

The Newsletter has now been distributed with council members helping to cover those areas not covered by the distribution team

PPC 20-21/210 - Provision of cycle racks

Cllr Murphy confirmed that whilst meeting contractors in relation to the railway station he could also take them to any other sites considered suitable for cycle racks. Members were requested to contact Cllr Murphy with any suggestions

Signed

Date

PPC 20-21/211 –Children’s Playground / Playing Field

Cllr Herbert provided members with three quotes to two replace up to two “springers” in the playground and proposed that a budget of up to £3,000 be made available to undertake the work..

Proposed Cllr Herbert. Seconded Cllr Burns. All in favour

PPC 20-21/212 – Proposal to investigate the siting of electric vehicle charging points

Cllr Holes updated members on the discussions he has been having to review this issue at car parks around Prestbury. He will continue to do this particularly for Springfields car park which would be subject to discussions with Cheshire East Council and access to the electricity supply.

PPC 20-21/213 – Police Report

Cllr Dicken updated members with the latest information relating to policing in the Parish as follows:

Announcement of new staff and organization. Prestbury policing now comes under a new Wilmslow & Alderley Edge Community Beat Team.

Our new Police Sergeant is 37040 Lynsey Jackson. And is no longer Sgt Helen Perceval.

Our PC is Laura Fox whi is currently on maternity leave and Sam Needham is temporarily acting PVC for Prestbury

PCSO Callum Edwards continues as our PCSO and first point of contact

The September Police Report has not yet been received

Our new police officers have been offered the opportunity to attend a future PPC meeting

Our PCSO will make observations following reports of speeding in the Village 20 mph area. He has no authority for Speed Checks in that location

Speed checks have been resumed on Castle Hill and Macclesfield Road

The PCSO commented on our concerns about cases of violence and harassment at our last meeting: he said they were not significant as a trend, this is a broad classification and such reports are not unusual with licenced premises in the locality.

PPC 20-21/214 – Update on Councillor Vacancies

Clr Podmore confirmed that two local residents had come forward to be considered as new councillors. Both had or were to have discussions with himself, Cllr Herbert and the clerk about the council and its operation. He requested members to review their CVs to allow for a discussion at the November meeting of the Council with a view to co-option on to the Council if agreed.

Signed

Date

PPC 20-21/215 – Training for the Clerk and Councillors

Cllr Burns outlined the continued training opportunities available via ChALC and encouraged all members to attend those relevant including on finance and planning issues. Cllr Burns will provide the original training list members were programmed to attend to then be recirculated by the clerk. The clerk was also requested to recirculate the current opportunities to all members. Members were also reminded of the upcoming ChALC annual general meeting and requested to inform the clerk if they wished to attend.

PPC 20-21/216 – Clerk's Report

Correspondence – members were informed that a letter requesting sponsorship to support CPR training in local school's had been received.

Members agreed that this should be an item for the November agenda.

Payment for use of Prestbury Village Hall – it was confirmed that the Council has a contract for hire of the Village Hall and needs to now pay it's quarterly account from 1st October 2020. The clerk was requested to write to the Village hall committee to progress this payment.

Shirley's car park – members confirmed that although there continues to be some issues with overnight and long term use of the car park they do not at present wish to review how it is managed.

Highway Safety – the clerk confirmed that a report had been made to Cheshire East Highways for a review of the current situation at the Mill Lane / Bollin Hall lane junction which is the scene of regular vehicle crashes into the wall.

The meeting finished at 10.25pm

Signed

Date

Keith Podmore
Chairman Prestbury Parish Council