

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PRESTON CAPES PARISH COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Present:	Dixie Hughes (DH)	Chairman & Highways Warden
	Bill Dearn (BD)	Vice Chairman & Finances Reviewer
	Rosie Mansfield (RM)	Councillor
	Scilla Smith (SS)	Councillor
	Sophia Maddison (SM)	Councillor
	Graham Stanton (GS)	Councillor
	David Cox (DC)	Councillor & Tree Warden
	Gary Denby (GD)	Parish Clerk & RFO

Public: None.

Welcome and any announcements from the Chair

DH welcomed Councillors to the meeting, together with GD the new Clerk.

1. Apologies received – None.

2.1 Receive minutes of Parish Council held on 11th December 2018

The meeting minutes were approved as an accurate record, proposed by SM, seconded by BD and approved by all present, signed by the Chairman.

2.2 Receive minutes of Extra General Meeting held on 6th February 2019

The meeting minutes were approved as an accurate record, proposed by BD, seconded by SM and approved by all present, signed by the Chairman.

3. Public time – None.

4. Councillor declaration of interest in the following agenda items

DH and DC with regards item 5.9 (BD to Chair item as DH reports from PCVH).

5. Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 Ref 1.1: The Chairman arranged a temporary replacement for the Clerk in absentia - himself.

5.2 Ref 2.1: Training record of Parish Councillors, in progress **GD**

5.3 Ref 2.2: NCALC were advised of the Council's decision to adopt N-CALC as its Data Protection Officer. £10 will added to the N-CALC invoice.

5.4 Ref 5.3: Carried forwards, the erection of a post for the speed sign **DH**

5.5 Ref 5.4: Letter sent by Clerk to landowner with regards localised flooding

5.6 Ref 5.6: Asset register to be update by Clerk with regards grit bins **GD**

5.7 Ref 5.7: The damaged noticeboard in Little Preston is back on its posts and is now considered repairable. Council approved that Mervin (husband of Sophia Maddison) action the repairs and submit incurred costs.

5.8 Ref 6: Working party to reduce wild plum tree in Little Preston is awaiting option from local farmer to burn the prunings **DC**



- 5.9 Ref 9.3: DH advised the meeting that at their meeting on 18th February, the Preston Capes Village Hall (PCVH) committee accepted responsibility for the damaged wall and the tree responsible for it. They intend to remove the tree (within the conservation area) and re-instate the boundary wall. The Parish Council agreed that if DC wishes to invoice them reasonably for his time and effort incurred in making the wall safe, this will be met at their March meeting.
- 5.10 Ref 10: The signs outside the village hall are now installed.
- 5.11 Ref 11: No comments were submitted by Councillors on the Provision of Housing Policy.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 17 Dec: Draft minutes from meeting on 11 Dec 2018
- 6.2 17 Dec: Mini e-Update from N-CALC - 2019 local elections postponed
- 6.3 17 Dec: Consultation on library provisions from NCC
- 6.4 17 Dec: Consultation on budget from NCC - BD made a personal submission
- 6.5 17 Dec: Official release that no local elections in May 2019
- 6.6 17 Dec: Latest local government reform update for West area
- 6.7 17 Dec: £417 available as a mowing grant for 2019 - **GD** to verify
- 6.8 17 Dec: N-CALC e-Update
- 6.9 20 Dec: Northants PCC newsletter
- 6.10 20 Dec: N-CALC training courses available for 2019 - **GD** to develop list
- 6.11 20 Dec: Collection of real Christmas trees - completed
- 6.12 1 Jan: N-CALC e-Update - Clerk vacancies, includes Preston Capes
- 6.13 1 Jan: Local Plan (Part 2) for DDC submission
- 6.14 4 Jan: Northants PFCC Newsletter (now Police & FIRE & Crime Commissioner). DH reported that there are savings to be made, where there are presently fire and police service located together. Sales monies will be added to the budget. The combined services are not replicated in surrounding areas, so this may protect Northamptonshire from further merger.
- 6.15 4 Jan: Invitation to Rural Crime Barn events in January
- 6.16 4 Jan: Village events dates? - forwarded to the free publication
- 6.17 5 Jan: Asbestos to slate roof replacement refused by DDC - then appealed & refused
- 6.18 7 Jan: Daventry Calling request for events details
- 6.19 22 Jan: Notes from Town & Parish meeting 13 December
- 6.20 22 Jan: N-CALC e-Update includes Local Government Reorganisation
- 6.21 24 Jan: Consultation on library provisions from NCC

7. Report from Parish & Town Council's meeting on 13 Dec 2018

DH reported that Community Speed Watch for the village is still in the pipeline, with Daventry District Council planning to operate its own scheme. After showing interest in Speed Watch in 2018, nothing transpired. Perhaps this year, before the Unitary?

8. Unitary Authority Changes

At the above meeting, it was realised that the TWO Unitary solution will NOT have a rural focus given its allocation of seats: 21 representing the former Daventry District Council (DDC); 21 representing the former South Northants District Council (SNC); 51 representing Northampton Borough (the largest population). Thus the Unitary decisions are most likely to be urban-population led.

The Northamptonshire two-unitary solution was defined by government criteria that a 300,000 population is the 'optimum' size for a new Unitary authority. This was based upon this being a 'typical size' from decades past. Nowadays, two thirds of Unitary Authorities are below this mythical threshold! Thus there have been recent moves to petition for a THREE Unitary solution (DH preference), with little prospect of success.

The risk facing Preston Capes village is within the new Unitary Planning structure, presently directed by the Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan, Part 2...), which takes some account of the elderly populations in the rural areas. When this is 'updated' by the Unitary, it is more likely to reflect the needs of the younger urban population. 'Sustainable development' pressures may come to the aid of the smaller villages...

9. Review of the village grit bins after the recent freezing weather

Elderly residents in Church Way have suggested an additional grit bin, more accessible to them and on the same level as the bungalows. Councillors considered the TWO grit bins not 50 yards away: one slightly higher on High Street by the telephone box (refilled by the NCC); the other lower on Hight Street (refilled by the Parish Council).



Rather than the cost of installing and replenishing another grit bin, it was felt appropriate to supply the residents with a bag of grit-salt to use in their locality, on demand. This avoids taking up grit bin space, where cars are presently parked.

10. Consideration of a Spring Litter Pick – Sunday 17th March 2019 TBC

It was agreed to arrange this in March 17th, subject to **BD** being able to arrange for the loan of equipment (sacks, grabbers and vests) from DDC. Alternative dates would be 10th March, or 24th March (Mervin is not available to drive the Land Rover on March 24th). **DH** will arrange for bacon rolls and refreshments for the volunteers.

11 Planning (www.daventrydc.gov.uk – Planning – Preston Capes Parish) None.

12. Finances and Accounts

- 12.1 Ref 9.4: An update of the Lloyds Bank mandate will be submitted by DH & BD tomorrow, to change the Bank Statement's name and address to the new Clerk GD. A check can then be made, whether the new Councillor signatories are operational **GD**.
- 12.2 8 Jan: A Precept demand for £6,500 was made for 2019-20, acknowledged by Gary Jordan, the DDC Financial Systems Controller.
- 12.3 Ref 9.5: Carried forwards, a review of the Parish Council budget for 2019-20 **GD**.
- 12.4 Report on the Parish Council's financial position for the new Clerk – in progress **GD**.
- 12.5 Update of the Parish Council's web site identifying the new Clerk - in progress **GD**.
- 12.6 The new Clerk's registration with HMRC; the former Clerk's P45 – in progress **GD**.
- 12.7 The following invoices were initialled and cheques signed on behalf of the Parish Council by DH and BD:-

Description / Power	Amount	VAT	Total
Village Hall hire Q4 Oct – Dec 9 hours @ £7.00/hr + refreshments c/f AFMD & Litter Pick	£63.00 £19.00		£82.00
Sharon Foster Clerk gross remuneration + office & travel expenses for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019	£267.66 £32.58		£300.24
Gary Denby Clerk gross remuneration for Feb 2019 (4 weeks) + Home as office expenses	£134.64 £24.00		£158.64

9. Councillors' Comments - None

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 19th March 2019

Councillors considered the planned dates for 2019 and adopted the Clerk's suggestion to skip December in favour of a January 2020 meeting. The implication is that the budget working party will occur in mid November, for approval at the November 2019 meeting (or Jan 2020).

Meeting ended at 8.30pm.


.....
Chairman

19.3.19
.....
Date