

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PRESTON CAPES PARISH COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 18th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Dixie Hughes (DH)	Chairman & Highways Warden
	Bill Dearn (BD)	Vice Chairman & Finances Reviewer
	Sophia Maddison (SM)	Councillor
	Scilla Smith (SS)	Councillor
	Rosie Mansfield (RM)	Councillor
	Richard Shires (RS)	Councillor
	Gary Denby (GD)	Parish Clerk & RFO

Public: None.

Welcome and any announcements from the Chair

DH welcomed councillors to the meeting.

1. Apologies received:

Cllr David Cox (holidays)

2. Receive minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2020

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

3. Public time - None

4. Councillor declaration of interest in the following agenda items - None

5. Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 Ref 11.2: Armed Forces Covenant was signed by DH on 10th February 2020 on behalf of Preston Capes Parish Council and is placed on file:-

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservist, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

5.2 Ref 11.3: Letter to Highways regarding the Little Preston road water and icing hazard – outstanding. The blocked overflow is leaving brick dust and deposits over the road. Draft to DH, include the landowner **GD**.

5.3 Ref 5.1: Clerk's review of 'Making Risk Management Simple' by LCAS – outstanding **GD**.

6. Correspondence

6.1 24 Jan: Tree removal advised by DDC Michael Venton at Holly Cottage, Old Forge Lane

6.2 2 Feb: N-CALC mini eUpdate Jan/Feb 2020 – elections 101

6.3 6 Feb: Invitation to 24 Feb meeting about Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's budget

6.4 6 Feb: Request for training support funding from Daventry Citizens Advise Bureau. The CAB have evidenced the support of four parishioners in their Annual Report 2018-19. BD is no longer its local Treasurer. He advised that their continued funding is essential for the vital service to remain (they are **NOT** nationally funded but require local funding as a local

charity). BD proposed the grant of £50 to CAB Daventry, seconded by SS and approved by all present **GD**.

6.5 9 Feb: Approved budget distributed for 2020-21, sets Precept at £6,600.

7. Report back from Parish & Town Council Meeting on 30th January by DH

The main presentation was from a Colonel Jones of the MOD, with reference to the Armed Forces Covenant (see 5.1 above). Pothole repairs were discussed. There was also mention of a change in the county Grit Bin policy... having obliged many parishes to adopt their grit bins, they seem to have taken ownership of them again and are keeping them topped up!

Sam Dobbs also gave a talk and sadly informed his audience of his retirement in March 2020, to become Chair of the Police Federation. The Clerk is to send him a note of appreciation **GD**.

8. Alignment of village litter picks with Northants Awards for Litter Heroes?

The next village Litter Pick is planned for **Sunday 15th March**, using loan equipment booked from Daventry District Council. One person has used the Parish Council equipment, a couple of weeks ago. **DH** will promote the event to villagers.

In February the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire promoted the **David Laing Awards for Litter Heroes**, where a total of £2,000 in prizes will reward litter picking groups from villages... across Northamptonshire. School children are a very important target for the message, as are adults of all ages. It requires the best three or four picking photos and a few paragraphs describing how it was organised. BD agreed to let them know what the village is doing. We also need to reserve equipment for an Autumnal litter pick **BD**.

9. Planning for use of Community Infrastructure Levy – None added

10. Planning (latest items available at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living)

10.1 DA/2109/1087: Demolish existing garage; replace with double garage with rooms above and greenhouse & garden room to side and rear at Holly House, Old Forge Lane. Councillors recalled its previous presentation and it being renewed once. The new garage is separated from the house and does not appear to be in keeping with its surrounds or the listed buildings opposite. There was agreement to oppose this plan on grounds of size, scale and its detrimental affect upon nearby listed building; also concerns over its materials within a conservation area **GD**.

10.2 DA/2019/0917: New windows and doors including velux window in northern elevation of garage at Medlars, Church Way. PC observations no objections. Approved 24 Jan.

11. Finances and Accounts – GD as Responsible Financial Officer

11.1 Ref 5.4: Update on ordering of replacement time-expired defibrillator pads. It is unclear whether these are required for the Preston Capes or the Little Preston unit. **SM** will check the Little Preston unit, which was gifted by the Heart Foundation. **GD and DH** will look at the unit on the village hall: Models and serial numbers are required, together with any battery or pad expiry dates.

11.2 Ref 5.5: Consideration of responses to mowing tender requests. Four invitations were sent out, with three responses at short notice (much appreciated). The highest was from Leicestershire Gardens at £400 per cut + VAT, probably reflecting their distance in Market Harborough. RTM Landscapes based near to Milton Keynes quoted £350 per cut + VAT in their highly polished and complete response. To be fair, both of these probably

included the half mile verge between Preston Capes and Little Preston, which is not as accurate as it might have been. The lowest charge for a three year contract was for £140 + VAT per cut (minimum 6 cuts per season) from the existing contractor P.W. Warden Environmental Services in relatively near West Haddon. The latter was proposed by SS, seconded by BD, accepted by all present. The Clerk is to notify the responders accordingly **GD**.

11.3 Ref 6.4: Update on verges mowing grants with NCC Highways. Agreement for the current year and an invoice for last year were submitted to Sheila Gilder (Northants Highways / KierWSP) at the end of January. This precipitated an odd exchange for a Purchase Order number, not previously required, subsequently withdrawn. Our invoice was then forwarded for payment, with £417.51 due to arrive on 21st February.

11.4 Ref 7: Update with regards hosted web site ordering, training & transfer requirements. 2Commune produced an invoice for £936.00 including 8 hosted email addresses. This was reduced to 2 emails (Clerk + Chair), lowering the amount to £684.00 inc VAT. Of this, £250 + VAT will be attributed to CIL as the site setup and training cost **GD**.

11.5 Ref 8: Update with regards ordering of TWO noticeboards from XL Displays, up to £250. These are external, lockable notice boards for the Village Hall (A0 size) and for Little Preston (A1) in brushed silver aluminium (having them painted nearly doubles the cost); both with a pinnable grey interior. The total required on the web site screen shot is a Grand Total of £231.60 inc VAT. All agreed to proceed with this, allocating it to CIL **GD**.

11.6 Ref 10.4: Update on Precept demand for £6,600 sent to DDC. Apparently accepted by Gary Jordan at DDC on 30th January. However, unlike South Northants Council, I have not received any notification that it has been entered onto their system... here's hoping!

11.7 Consider and approve the Parish Council payments listed below, re-writing the cheque to 2commune.com for a smaller amount. Approved by all Councillors present.

Description / Power	Amount	VAT	Total
2commune.com hosting of Parish Council web site including domain name registration, first year of web site hosting through Rackspace and 8 councillor email addresses for 1 year	£250.00 £250.00 £280.00	£156.00	£936.00
xldisplays.co.uk external, weatherproof lockable noticeboard with grey pin board, silver anodised aluminium wall-mounted for village hall size A0 wall mounted for Little Preston size A1 (KLSP-5/7)	£112.00 £81.00	£22.40 £16.20	£231.60
Gary Denby Clerk gross remuneration for Dec-Jan (4 weeks) + Home as office expenses	£134.64 £24.00		£158.64

12. Councillors' Comments

12.1 SS produced the 'Vision for Woodford cum Membris' leaflet for its strategy for 2020-25, obtained from the butcher's. It has a good explanation of what the Parish Council does. This might be useful for the Parish meeting? It was agreed that the Clerk shall produce an initial draft **GD**.

12.2 DH reported that DDC will be presenting their review of Preston Capes Conservation Area at the village hall on **Monday 24th February, from 3.30pm onwards**.

In addition, the Daventry District Core Strategy (with Northampton Borough and South

Northants) is under review (commenced when the Unitary Authority was first mooted). This impacts future planning protections. Over time, any building strategy becomes weaker and is open to challenge by developers; the last being 1997. Within this strategy some are 'service villages' which are able to attract development, since they are 'sustainable' (having sufficient public services). Preston Capes has no infrastructure such as a school, bus service or GP clinic, so is not a service village. Thus DDC hopes that its reviewed strategy will be 'fresh and strong' at hand-over to the Unitary Authority.

12.3 DH is anticipating a hip replacement at about the time of the next Parish Council meeting. BD may therefore be called upon to Chair the meeting.

13. Next meeting date: Tuesday 17th March 2020

Meeting ended 08:20 pm.

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Chairman

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Date