

Preston Bissett Parish Council

Parish Councillors attended the Annual Meeting which was held on Thursday 5th May 2022 at The Old School, Preston Bissett. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Four members of the Public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

May 0522/001 Apologies were received and accepted from G Gulliver and N Wheble.

May 0522/002 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

All members of the Parish Council stood down from their previous roles and the clerk held a vote for the upcoming year. G Ellis was proposed as Chairman by P Webb and seconded by J Wood. G Gulliver was proposed as Vice Chairman by J Wood and seconded by M Killick. All other councillors will remain in their previous positions with the same areas of responsibility.

May 0522/003 Approval of Report from Annual Meeting held on 3 June 2021 The report was unanimously agreed as an accurate record.

May 0522/004 Parish Council Update

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and said it was good to be able to meet face to face this year. He went on to provide an update from the Parish Council which is available to view on the Parish Website.

The Chairman was also able to provide additional information around The Piggeries, the latest update is a letter which has been received via Greg Smith's Office stating that there is a Planning Contravention Notice on the site and the owner has four weeks to respond. After this, the planning dept at Buckinghamshire Council will decide on next steps. A photograph of a car which has been placed on top of a container within the site has been sent by a neighbour as part of a complaint to the leader of the Council and Greg Smith.

The Chairman was asked what an enforcement order does?

It would put a stop to all activities at the site and only allow the works as agreed by the planning application to proceed.

It was noted that the access routes opened up by the rail companies have been beneficial in reducing the amount of HS2 traffic through the village and a Jubilee meeting was held the previous evening but this will be reported on later in the meeting.

May 0522/005

Update from the Village Hall Charity

Mark Payne, Chairman of the Village Hall Charity provided an update. He reminded those present that the trustees have been trying to obtain the title deeds for the property for the last 20 years. The hall will be managed by the Trust and in order to obtain a lease, an EPC, they need to improve the EPC (energy efficiency) rating needs to be established to an acceptable level. This should be achieved in the next few weeks.

There are plans to extend across the back of the building, improving the toilets, modernising the kitchen and providing storage space. The hall will be updated also. Overall the building is in good condition, it is not listed but the roof does need some work and insulation is required.

The Village Hall Trust will be charged a peppercorn rent and will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the building. They want to ensure all works undertaken require minimal maintenance in the long run as they won't generate a huge income to pay for such work.

There are plans to upgrade the tarmac behind the building to allow parking and all plans will be drawn up and shared with the village in order to obtain opinions.

M Payne confirmed the Trust has around £10,000 in the bank and will apply for grants once they have a lease in order to pay for the majority of the works. The initial problem they have to overcome is to bring the EPC up to spec before the lease can be signed and any spending on improving the EPC rating this will be incorporated in the long term plans.

Ron Aspinall confirmed there is around £40,000 in the bank account of the Recreational Trust which owns and manages the

School Masters House and the land its rental old village school. This money is currently used to maintain the Masters House. He said £30,000 has already been spent from this account on legal fees for the Village Hall and it is hoped the lease will be completed/received next week.

It was asked if the School Masters House rent will be able to be used for maintenance on the Village Hall? It is for the Recreational Trust to decide but they must maintain the House as a priority as this secures the income. Some money could be moved across to the Hall Trust if this was agreed upon.

R Aspinall clarified that the church does not benefit from any of the School Masters House income, the money is for Preston Bissett. The scheme specifically states that the Trustees of the Recreational Trust own the Village Hall, the School Masters House and the land and that the Village Hall Trust can rent the Hall to the Village Hall Charity for a peppercorn rent.

It was asked if there are any plans for car parking behind the building? The Trust would like a little parking however there are access issues which they are looking into. They would also like to incorporate a community garden and seating.

The Chairman of the Parish Council agreed to forward any details of grants that become available via Buckinghamshire Council to the Trust in order to help.

May 0522/006

Update from the Cricket Club

Neil Daniell, Chairman of the Cricket Club provided an update: The Club have one team which play on a Saturday and a Wednesday and there are 15 or 16 home games this season. Unfortunately it is a dying game. He mentioned that the toilet facilities have been updated and there are now male and female toilets. Work had started on installing practice nets but it will cost a further £10-12,000 to complete the work. The clubhouse also needs doing up therefore the club will be looking to secure grants from the Community Boards and Buckinghamshire Council to be able to do this.

May 0522/007

Updates from other groups in attendance

Ron Aspinall provided an update on the Church: He

explained that the Church has run for the last 10 years with a positive bank balance of £10,000. Half of the income comes from fundraising plus regular giving and collections. This bank balance has been maintained throughout the covid pandemic but it has been achieved by cutting the Parish Share Contribution. Last year was the first time the Church didn't pay the contribution as funds have to be maintained to address any maintenance or issues that arise. They are keen to protect the bank balance as much as possible.

R Aspinall explained that 98% of the Parish Share Contribution pays towards the minister (including salary, training etc.) The Parish Share is £6,500 per year and the parish will lose the minister if they don't contribute on a long term basis.

Fundraising is important to the Church and they will work together with other village groups and charities to ensure that each get their fair share of funding money available. The congregation comprises of 10 or 12 regular people plus the church now attracts one or two people from outside the village.

Pat Webb provided an update from the Jubilee Committee: A party was planned for Sunday 5th June however an event will now be held on Friday 3 June at the White Hart pub. The group are aiming for a typically British afternoon tea to be served at 3pm followed by a BBQ and drinks in the evening. Tickets for the afternoon tea will be sold in advance. and people will have the option to join for the afternoon and the evening or one or the other. If the weather is wet a marquee could be used and parking at the cricket club will be arranged. They are just waiting for the pub to confirm they are happy with the plans before proceeding.

Ron Aspinall provided an update on the Village Lunch: The village lunch was held earlier that day at the White Hart., Tthe lunch had been organised for many years by John Gulliver but he is no longer able to continue. The new organisers would like to expand the lunch which occurs on the first Thursday of the month as it is a great village activity for people to dip into and meet people.

May 0522/008

Date of next meeting - to be confirmed alongside Parish Council 2023 meeting dates

Close of Meeting Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Open Forum

Meeting end

Preston Bissett Website www.prestonbissett.co.uk

Parish Clerk Email: parishcouncil@prestonbissett.co.uk

DRAFT