

# Preston on Stour Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Jonsson prestononstour.clerk@gmail.com [www.prestononstour.org](http://www.prestononstour.org)  
( 07554 314046 Mansell Farm House, Preston on Stour, Stratford on Avon, Warks. CV37 8NL  
**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Preston On Stour Parish Council held at  
Three Parishes Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour, Warwickshire on  
Thursday 25th January 2018 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors: Mrs. A. CORSER, Mr M. JENNINGS, PROF. R. REED and Mr W. SPENCER (Chair)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 4 members of the public, Mr J Perks (Alscot Estate ), P.A O'Donnell-SDC and

Mrs E JONSSON (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr L Smith (attending another meeting) and were accepted.

2. Declarations of interests

None.

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23RD NOVEMBER 2017 were previously circulated by the Clerk were **ACCEPTED** as a true record with a correction Minute No. 7- planning permission number 17/02925/TREE

4. Public Participation

None.

5. Appointment of Parish Clerk and RFO

IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Mrs E JONSSON as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) for an initial period of six months (which commenced on 2nd January 2018) at a rate of £..... per hour (standard NALC/SLCC pay rates) for ten hours per month.

6. Action Points arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2017

.1 Minute No. 12a - Quotes for footpath repairs - **Action: WS**

Nothing to report.

.2 Minute No.13- Remedial action by the Alscot Estate re The Forge- **Action: Alscot**

Mr Perks (Alscot Estate) advised the Council that an application would be made for planning consent to remove the existing roofing material and replace it with more appropriate corrugated sheeting thereby improving the appearance of the building. Mr Reed expressed concern at the Forge's overall condition which he believes to be close to collapse. Messrs Jennings and Reed and Mrs Corser expressed their view that historic buildings within the Conservation area should be maintained and not allowed to deteriorate to the point of collapse It was noted that the history of Preston village is of importance to both the residents and the Estate.

.3 Minute No. 14- Provision of activities for young people- **Action AC**

Mrs CORSER confirmed that a meeting had been held on 20th January 2018 at the Three Parishes Millennium Hall. The meeting was poorly attended (three adults). The purpose of the meeting was to enable interested parents to work together to organise activities for their children. Mrs Jo Coleman will be taking this forward.

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## 7. Parish Council Reports

Messrs JENNINGS and REED updated the Council to the progress of Preston's Broadband Group. A copy of a newsletter (to be circulated electronically) was distributed. Mr Perks (Ascot Estate) confirmed that the Estate would be willing to volunteer way-leaves to enable fibre optic cables to be laid at reduced cost. Mr REED advised the Council that an optical fibre cable would be the preferred option to improve broadband provision to Preston. Costings for this would be provided by BT by the end of February 2018. Alscot volunteered help with fundraising should this be required. As ITS has first option on providing broadband until 2020 it is not possible to obtain funding from CSW. Should ITS withdraw its interest in providing broadband then the project could be moved forward more quickly. Alscot offered to liaise with ITS in order to determine if they would be prepared to withdraw their intention to provide broadband.

Mrs CORSER advised the Council that details of a consultation event organised by Cala Homes had been distributed to a number of households within Stratford-upon-Avon however no notification had been received by the Council.

Cllr CORSER had recently attended the recent WALC meeting and advised the Council of topics discussed including Data Protection.

In the Clerks Report Mrs JONSSON advised the Council that it had been awarded a Grant to enable it to comply with its obligations under the Transparency Code (which came into effect in 2015). Approval was given for the purchase of a computer, software and printer/scanner (quotation previously circulated). Following a discussion it was decided that Messrs REED and JENNINGS should be authorised to determine the necessary actions to ensure compliance with the Council's legal obligations.

## 8. Reports from other Organisations

a. Ward Member for Warwickshire County Council - apologies received and no report provided.

b. Ward Member for Stratford District Council - Ms O'Donnell read a report to the Council re SDC's proposed council tax increase of £1.36 on a Band D property for 2018/19. The increase would fund SDC to implement the provisions of the Homelessness Act 2017 and enable funding for the local Citizens Advice Bureau. The Council proposed to make temporary housing available for homeless residents thereby reducing the expenditure on bed and breakfast provision. Mrs CORSER referred to correspondence she had received concerning an increase in traffic from the approved expansion of the crushing plant on Atherstone airfield. Ms O'Donnell confirmed that she would check to determine whether no increase in traffic volume was a condition of planning consent. It was further noted that Cala Homes proposed to reduce the percentage of affordable homes to be built within their Long Marston development, citing increased remedial costs.

c. Alscot Estate - Mr Perks advised the Council that a contract for resurfacing the road leading up to housing behind St Marys Church in Preston which would be carried out over a day to be decided in May. Mr JENNINGS asked that the residents who would be affected by the works should be notified in advance. Mr Perks confirmed that they would be.

It was also stated that a possible site for a Community Orchard was being considered. Mrs CORSER advised that a map of original footpaths would be provided to the Estate for reference. Mrs CORSER requested that, between now and the date of the next Parish Council meeting, that any information on either the development of Atherstone Airfield or the Community Orchard should be forwarded to her.

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9. The following up-dates were noted:

Application no.	Proposal	Address	Agreed comment or up-date
17/03705/ AMD For information only	Change of roof materials for previously approved planning application 15/00494/FUL	The Old Manor House, Preston on Stour, CV37 8NG	Approval of non-material amendment 06.12.17
17/03384/ LBP For information only	The Environment Agency proposes to fill voids with concrete on the downstream side which potentially compromises the integrity of the structure.	Sluice and Weir, River Stour, Atherstone on Stour	Listed building -prop. Lawful dev. granted.
17/02494/ LBP For information only	Repair and replacement of rotten windows prior to external redecoration. All replacement of rotten windows prior to external redecoration. All replacements to be "like per like" as per the repair schedule.	Park Farmhouse, Preston on Stour, CV37 8NG	Listed Build-Prop. Lawful dev. granted.

## 10. Financial

- a. Financial Reports were received and approved from the RFO.
- b. IT WAS **RESOLVED** to pass the following payment; Village Hall £37.50
- c. External and Internal Auditors - The Clerk confirmed that Mr Kenneth Dunn had agreed to carry out the Internal Audit of the Parish Accounts on the same basis as the 2016/17 audit for a fee of £50. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to issue a letter confirming the Terms of Engagement for audit services for 2017/18 on the same basis as 2016/17.

## 11. Mowing

### .1 Appointment of Mowing Contractor

Mr SPENCER advised the Council that three contractors, Thomas Fox, AMW and Cotterell and Charles had been invited to tender for 2018. Only Thomas Fox and AMW had actually provided quotes. Clarification would be obtained re the AMW quotation (which was a great deal higher than Thomas Fox) and the Council would be advised. **ACTION: WS**

The quote from Thomas Fox (on a like for like basis) was £130.50 (£127.50 in 2017).

### .2 Grant for Cemetery Mowing

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council would make a grant of £500 in 2018/19 towards the cost of cemetery mowing. This amount would be permitted under S132 LGA 1972 The Clerk was instructed to advise the Council of the remaining amount of expenditure permissible under this power as it was noted that as the Clerk is unqualified, that a General Power of Competence to permit spending would not apply in 2018/19.

## 12. Budget

The proposed budget for 2018/19 was discussed and it was noted that a grant had been awarded to enable the Council to comply with its obligations under the Transparency Code. This figure had not been included within the budget however it was expected that expenditure to enable compliance would match the grant received. Any shortfall of funds to enable compliance would be drawn from reserves. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the proposed budget (appended) for the next financial year(2018/19. **IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** to set a Precept of £6500 for the financial year 2018/19 which is held at the same level as 2017/18.

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## 13. Governance

### a. Data Protection Policy and upcoming changes

**IT WAS NOTED THAT** the new Data Protection Regulations would come into effect on 25th May 2018 and information relating to this was circulated by the Clerk.

b. Freedom of Information Act- The website link providing information on this would be sent by the Clerk to Mrs CORSER in the first instance.

### c. Parish Councillors dedicated email addresses for Parish Council Work

Following a discussion **IT WAS DECIDED THAT** Mr JENNINGS should liaise with Councillors in setting up dedicated Gmail account addresses for Parish Council work . - **ACTION MJ**

## 14. Trees on the Village Green

**IT WAS NOTED THAT** a tree survey had been carried out previously but that recent storm damage necessitated a new survey before contractors would be invited to quote. The Clerk confirmed that she would provide assistance to Cllr Spencer in obtaining a new tree survey in order that possible contractors for the work could be identified and contacted. **ACTION - EJ/WS**

**IT WAS FURTHER NOTED** that gritting bins in the village now required refilling and that one may need replacement due to damage. Mr SPENCER would contact the Highways Department concerning this. - **ACTION WS**

## 15. Correspondence

The list of correspondence received was noted.

## 16. Items for future agendas

Draft documentation concerning the adoption of a revised Code of Conduct for Councils (previously circulated) was discussed. **IT WAS NOTED THAT** SDC proposed that a new Register of Interests disclosure be made to replace the existing disclosure made by each Councillor upon appointment and updated as necessary. **IT WAS DECIDED THAT** adoption of the revised Code of Conduct should be an agenda item for the next meeting (22nd March 2018) under Governance. All councillors present voluntarily agreed to update their Register of Interests disclosures in line with the new Code and for these to be forwarded to SDC for inclusion on their website.

## 17. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be an Ordinary General Meeting to be held on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 7.30pm at the Three Parishes Millennium Hall.

It was decided that the date of the July 2018 should be moved to Thursday 5th July 2018 at 7.30pm at the Three Parishes Millennium Hall - **Action: CLERK (to confirm amended booking)**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed

**MEETING CLOSED at 21.38hrs**