



Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

Held on: Thursday 21th March 2024 at 7:30pm
Place: The Three Parishes Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour

Present: Cllrs Will Spencer (Chair), Anna Corser (Vice-Chair), James Seccombe

In attendance: Laura Callow (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: 5

84/23 **WELCOME and APOLOGIES** - CC Izzi Seccombe and DC Dominic Skinner

85/23 **Declaration of Interest** - Cllr James Seccombe and Cllr Corser declared interest in Lower Farm Barns planning application.

86/23 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
The minutes of the Ordinary meeting from 18th January 2024 were **confirmed and signed**.

Proposed: Cllr Spencer **Seconded:** Cllr Seccombe All in favour

87/23 **Open Forum** - no comments or questions received

88/23 **Alscot Estate** - Graham Carter attended on behalf of Alscot Estate and read out the report that is attached to these minutes.

89/23 **DC Dominic Skinner** - DC Dominic Skinner emailed over a report which was read out by Cllr Spencer and is attached to these minutes.

90/23 **CC Izzy Seccombe** - No Report received

91/23 **ST, Mary's Church** - Andrew Holman-West (churchwarden) informed everyone the rebuilding of the wall has started and will be a slow process. The sheep will be going back into the churchyard very soon.

92/23 **Internal Audit** - all agreed to use Kenneth Dunn for the Internal Audit.

93/23 **Clerk Training** - all agreed that Preston Parish Council will pay for the third session of 1-2-3 clerk training taking place on 8th May 24 and to also split the cost of the CiLCA course starting on 9th July 24 with Alderminster and Admington Parish Councils. CiLCA training course costing is £115.50.

92/23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- i. The financial report was discussed and agreed
- ii. Bank Reconciliation
- iii. 2 invoices were approved for payment

Inv 20	Clerks Wages	£435.25	
Inv 21	Village Hall Hire	£72.00	

81/23

Planning

- i. **23/03354/FUL Lower Farm Barns - No Representation** - Clerk submitted response "Preston-on-Stour Parish Council is not able to comment on this application because we are not quorate due to declaration of interests." on 14/03/24.
- ii. **24/00295/TREE Lower Farm - No Objection** - Clerk submitted response on 28/02/24
- iii. **24/00225/TREE Applegarth - No Objection** - Clerk submitted response on 28/02/24
- iv. **24/00214/TREE Old Ways Cottage - No Objection** - Clerk submitted response on 03/02/24
- v. **All Things Wild - Objection** - Clerk submitted response Preston on Stour Parish Council are very shocked and concerned that SDC are still even considering this totally inappropriate application. As we previously stated one of the main objections is the significantly increased traffic congestion it will cause particularly, but not exclusively on the B4632 Campden Road which is already struggling with the impact of local major developments along that route. It will also markedly increase traffic on both Stratford through and approach roads and the bridges. Other concerns relate to significant noise and light pollution and the sheer size of the development. This will compromise 32 hectares of unspoilt countryside and result in a major reduction of associated naturally occurring wildlife. Clerk will submit response by 27/03/24.

82/23

Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

- i. **Arboricultural Survey** - this was covered in Alscot Estate report.
- ii. **Warwickshire County Councils Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)** - all Cllrs will complete the survey online.
- iii. **Banking** - Cllr Spencer is still looking into this.
- iv. **Red Phone Box** - Add to Next Agenda

83/23

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- o Thursday 16rd May 2024
- o Parish Meeting at 7.00pm
- o Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm

82/23

TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Proposed: Cllr Spencer Seconded: Cllr Seccombe All in favour

83/23

PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

SIGNED:

/

Alscot Estate Report March 2024

Village Greens Landownership Exercise

Arrangements have been made with John Cawley for the village greens to be mown and maintained. The schedule is every two weeks from April – October 2024.

The Estate has met with PEG and they are aware of the ownership and will liaise directly with the Estate in terms of any proposals and agreements.

Land adjacent to the church/Silvester Cottages

The reinstatement work to the lane/parking areas for Silvester Cottages, churned up through constant use/wet weather, is scheduled for Spring. It is difficult to set a date with a contractor as we need optimum conditions to carry out the work safely and effectively, still allowing access and minimising mess. We will drop onto this as soon as the conditions are right, and all residents and the church will be notified.

Repairs to The Church Wall

The repairs to the Church boundary wall has now begun and are likely to take 8 -12 weeks to complete.

The bricklayer, Paul, will at times need a trailer on site to dispose of the spoil and there will be the need for deliveries of bricks and materials. Paul is conscious of the wet ground conditions and movements will be minimised, to protect the ground. Mess will be kept to a minimum and any damage will be rectified. The Estate are organising this work and overseeing it, despite the wall belonging to the church.

Lower Farm Barns

A planning application 23/03354/FUL has been validated for the potential conversion of the barns into residential dwellings. We understand that there was some internal confusion within the PC regarding the date of the public consultation meeting and the PC has made the parish aware of the application.

Hydro Scheme

A planning application was submitted in December 2023, the application is currently being processed for registration.

Forestry

Consent was granted by SDC to remove trees adjacent to the river at Lower Farm Barns, this work will start March 2024.

Consent was granted by SDC to reduce the conifer hedging between Oldways Cottage and No 3 Preston on Stour. This work has been completed.

Management of the woodland areas across the Estate continue.

The Estate has recently instructed Tree Works Environmental Practise to carry out a Health and Safety Survey of trees on the Estate. Surveyors will be on site, including the village, to capture tree data and map trees on 13th and 14th March and 20th and 21st March.

Oldways Cottage

Following improvements to the property, we handed the property over to a new tenant on 15th March.

Biodiversity Land

The Croft School will be on site on Friday 24th May for their third educational nature activity day. They continue to support the village hall.

Farming Review

The Estate is currently carrying out a full Estate farming review. The review will assist the Estate and its Directors in its future direction. The Estate is keen to adopt environmental practises that lead to regenerative farming methods that assist the environment in a positive way, including soil structure and organic matter, natural capital opportunities, flood alleviation, green power, and more.

Kind regards,

Emma Holman-West
Chief Executive, Alscot

Alscot Estate Office, Atherstone Hill, Atherstone on Stour, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 8NF

Tel | 01789 450451

Email | emma@alscot.co.uk

Web | www.alscot.co.uk

District Councillor Report
Cllr Dominic Skinner
Doms Skinner4quinton@gmail.com
07783 740520
Feb/March 2024
Quinton Ward

Flooding

The flood risks in the district are well recognised. We have seen more and more flooding (for example, Storms Henk and Isha at the beginning of the year). The wetter winters will only make this worse and we must make sure that our planning policies locally address this. Information below helps when there is a threat of flooding:

You can check which rivers have flood alerts or flood warnings in place by visiting <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>

If you are affected by floodwater from:

- the road - please contact [Warwickshire County Council Highways Team](#) on 01926 412982
- a main river - please contact [The Environment Agency](#) on 0345 9881188
- a public sewer or burst water main - please contact [Severn Trent](#) on 0800 7834444

You should also call the Environment Agency Floodline on 0345 988 1188 if you see flooding from collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks, or unusual changes in river flow. Main rivers may also be blocked by a vehicle or fallen trees and increase the risk of flooding.

If you see animals trapped in flooded fields, please call 999 and report this to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Please call Severn Trent Water on 0800 783 4444 if you see flooding from sewers and burst water mains.

If there is a risk to life dial 999.

Budget cycle

This is the first budget of the new administration. The proposed budget went for public consultation in January. Stratford-on-Avon District Council is required to set its budget annually; this is normally approved by Council at the meeting at the end of February each year. This year the council will be debating and voting on the budget on the 26th February. The Council sets out its spending plans for both revenue and capital for the year ahead, along with reviewing the position for the following four years. A key element of the budget is the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which is updated annually. The budget proposals include support for the cost-of-living crisis, help for the rural communities and vulnerable residents, support to address the Climate Emergency and resources to implement the new Council Plan agreed in December 2023.

Budget proposals include:

Rural communities and vulnerable residents

- £28,000 for Rural Crime Advisors, working with Community Safety Team, to improve response to rising rural crime.
- £85,000 to maintain support for the UBUS service, to protect the vital connection between isolated communities and public services.
- £5,500 for a new pilot scheme in Southam and Alcester for Customer Access Terminals in rural communities to enable face-to-face communication with the District Council.

Staying healthy and active

- £25,000 for a new Leisure Community Instructor to provide targeted support for people with long term health conditions.
- Reduction in hire fees for use of public playing pitches in Stratford-upon-Avon to incentivise more sporting activity.

Cost of Living Crisis support

- £250,000 to continue to protect residents from the ongoing cost of living crisis, providing grants for those most in need of support with energy bills.

Climate change emergency:

- £500,000 extra funding to enable the Council to achieve its carbon reduction targets.
- £250,000 to change the current refuse collection vehicles to the use of HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel to reduce harmful emissions by nearly 100%.

Council Plan and Change Programme:

- £2million to implement the new Council Plan, benefitting residents within six areas of focus, including delivering better homes, boosting the local economy, increasing green spaces, encouraging alternative modes of transport, supporting Town and Parish Councils and their local communities, and improving the overall effectiveness of the Council.

The draft budget also proposes an increase to Council Tax of £5.00 for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and 2.99% thereafter, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year.

Full Council meeting 26th February 2024

This is an important meeting in the council calendar as the final budget will be debated and voted on, and council tax set.

The Liberal Democrat councillor group has submitted three motions on issues and areas where we would like to see further council action:

1. Climate change and development in the Floodplain
2. Tackling Food Insecurity in our district
3. Climate Change Adaptation.

A question to Council was also submitted about the importance of Neighbourhood Development Plans and how these must be given full weight when considering planning applications.

Community Climate Change Fund

The District Council's new Community Climate Change Fund (CCCF) will invest in work to tackle the climate emergency and allow the District Council to formally invest in initiatives proposed by either community groups and charities or Town and Parish Councils to enhance local climate change agendas.

£100,000 is to be awarded across two phases, with the first phase opening for expressions of interest for £50,000 from Monday 22 January 2024.

The CCCF will provide grant funding to projects which meet one of the following criteria:

- Projects which result in a direct reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Projects which build resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Projects which will result in research enabling access to more significant funding applications

The first phase for expressions of interest will be used to establish what projects are needed by communities throughout the District to address the climate crisis.

To register an initial expression of interest for your project, to check that your project is eligible or if you are developing an idea and need some advice please visit our Community Climate Change Fund website, which can be found at:

[Stratford-on-Avon Community Climate Change Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Organisations that submit an Expression of Interest which fulfils the eligibility criteria will be asked to submit a full application in due course.

The District Council will also be hosting a Community Engagement Event in March to provide interested parties with the opportunity to formulate project ideas - more details on this to follow in due course.

For any query you can contact climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Green waste bin subscription

Subscriptions for the Garden Waste Service April to March 2024 opened on the 16th of January. The annual charge is £46 per green bin.

[Garden Waste Service | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

For further information, you can contact the District Council on streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or 01789 260628

Traffic issues

Closure of the Warwick Road

The closure of the Warwick Road northbound for 6 months will result in a diversion for traffic travelling to the A46. It will effectively take all northbound traffic which travels over Clopton Bridge up the Birmingham Road and past the Maybird. It has the potential to cause considerable congestion in the area. Representations have been made to Warwickshire County Council.

Binton Bridge (Welford on Avon) repair works and road closure

You might be interested in the revised schedule sent by Warwickshire County Council which yet more changes the planned management for (re)opening and closing the bridge in the next few months. Due to flood and cold weather delays the bridge is scheduled to be fully reopen on 24/05/2024, 3 weeks later than previously planned. This schedule as we have seen in the past is subject to further changes.

115	Traffic Management	236 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 24/05/24
116				
117	Type			
118	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	236 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 24/05/24
119	2-way temporary lights	12 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 13/10/23
120	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	23 days	Sat 14/10/23	Sun 05/11/23
121	Fully open (Christmas break)	47 days	Mon 06/11/23	Fri 22/12/23
122	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	30 days	Sat 23/12/23	Sun 21/01/24
123	2-way temporary lights	47 days	Mon 22/01/24	Fri 08/03/24
124	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	37 days	Sat 09/03/24	Sun 14/04/24
125	2-way temporary lights	12 days	Mon 15/04/24	Fri 26/04/24
126	Fully open	28 days	Sat 27/04/24	Fri 24/05/24
		0 days	Fri 24/05/24	Fri 24/05/24

Project: Binton South Bridge Date: Wed 24/01/24	Task Split	Milestone Summary	Project Summary External Tasks
--	---------------	----------------------	-----------------------------------

24/01/2024 (Rev 7 - 'High Level')

Finally, councillors will already be aware of the **Surplus HS2 Free trees** for community groups, as a result of the programme changes along the line of HS2. A reminder that requirements, including species and quantities will need to be made by the end of February with a delivery address and contact details. It is anticipated that delivery will be during March and this can be done by contacting communityinvestment@balfourbeattyvinci.com.