



# Minutes

## Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

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Held on: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm  
Place: The Three Parishes Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour

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

**In attendance:** Laura Callow (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the public:** 6

70/23 **WELCOME and APOLOGIES** - DC Dominic Skinner, Andrew Holman-West

71/23 **Declaration of Interest** - there were none to receive

72/23 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting from 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

**Proposed:** Cllr Spencer

**Seconded:** Cllr Seccombe All in favour

73/23 **Open Forum** - A member of the public asked if the Parish council had any more thoughts about helping with the funding for water testing. A member will email the costs so far to the clerk to circulate. Cllr Izzi Seccombe mentioned Severn Trent are currently doing investigations in the area. Another question asked was if we could get a village skip for the village to help for the residents that are unable to make tip runs etc. A member of the public mentioned using The Mansell trust funding as it had been used previously but this funding was a one off and is not available anymore. The public asked if there was a planning application for the yew tree in the church that was cut down along the path. The Parish Council are not aware of this and will email the church warden to ask.

74/23 **Alscot Estate** - Graham Carter attended on behalf of Alscot Estate and read out the report that is attached to these minutes.

75/23 **DC Dominic Skinner** - DC Dominic Skinner sent over a report. This was read out by Cllr Corser and are attached to these minutes.

76/23 **CC Izzy Seccombe** - CC Izzi Seccombe informed everyone about the budget process and the time frames it has to be done. They have the basis of their budget inline but waiting for a few last-minute adjustments. Special educational needs budget has got out of control this year. Broader demand that's coming through is people choosing where they want their children to go to school and this has increased the transport from home to school costs. For the first time they will have over spent this year. The fire and rescue situation is under scrutiny at the moment. 50% is full time and 50% are on call. All local fire stations to Preston on Stour are on call stations and are currently running on a very low percentage meaning half the time they can't be used for their services. Shipston turn out is currently around 5% so very low. The peak demand times are between 8am-10pm. After 10pm till early morning is very low and out of every 4 calls 3 are daytime and 1 night time. They are now trying to recruit more fireman/firewoman for the high peak times at the on-call stations. Shipston have done 18

call outs in the last 5 years. Under the new surge firefighters will be able to live slightly further away from the station as currently it's a maximum of 5 minutes.

**77/23** **ST, Mary's Church** - Andrew Holman-West (churchwarden) has email updates. The clerk read out the following updates. The wall on the village green should be started shortly, now that the park wall on the A3400 is nearly complete. The internal hedge in the new cemetery will be cut back next week, along with the box in the old churchyard.

**78/23** **Ownership of Village Greens** - In 1968 the greens were registered as village greens under the commons registration act 1965. This registration became final on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1970 with the registration number VG26. Cllr Spencer had documents dating back to 1982 saying the Parish Council owed it. 2 years ago, when the Estate proposed a development at Lockes Farm the matter of ownership of the greens was brought up in relation to car parking. Since then the estate have been looking into the question of ownership and at our November meeting Jack Kennedy said according to land registry the village greens were owned by the Estate. Cllr Spencer has seen nothing to say definitively when the village greens were designated as in the ownership of the Alscot Estate. The Parish Council are not in a position to dispute this. This has now brought up the question of who should pay for the maintenance of the village greens and that the villagers should still be able to use the greens as they previously have done. The Estate suggested they could lease the greens to the Parish Council and we would still pay for the mowing. Cllr Spencer said the Estate should take over the maintenance for the village greens and trees. Cllr Seccombe agreed that the estate should now pay for maintenance and the usage should stay as it currently is. PEG will need to speak with the Estate regards the wild flower area.

**79/23** **Mowing of Village Greens**-Parish Council will pass on the mowing quotes for the village greens to Alscot Estate.

**80/23** **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

Inv 18	SDC -Election Fee 2023	£100.00	
Inv 19	Clerk's wages	£431.50	

- iv. Budget 2024/2025- removed mowing and tree work figures but added a budget of £100 for river testing funding.
- v. Precept - all Cllrs agreed on a figure of £5000 for the precept for 2024/2025.

**Proposed Cllr Spencer**

**Seconded Cllr Seccombe**

**All in favour**

**81/23** **Planning**

- i. **23/03289/TREE 10 Preston-on-Stour -no objection-** Clerk submitted on 04/01/24
- ii. **24/00008/LBC The Old Manor House, Village Rd, Preston on Stour - no objection-** Clerk will send this response by 02/02/24.

**82/23** **Councillors Reports and items for future agendas**

- i. **20 is plenty** - Cllr Corser had no update.
- ii. **Warwickshire County Councils Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)** - all Cllrs will complete the survey online.
- iii. **Banking** - Cllr Spencer is still in the process of sorting this.

iv. **Future Agenda - state of roads**

**83/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 7:30pm

**82/23 TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The meeting was closed at 09.30pm

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

**83/23 PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**SIGNED:**

**Estate Update**  
**Parish Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Jack Kennedy**

Jack Kennedy's consultancy services to the Estate came to an end in December 2023, therefore, for Preston Parish Council (PPC)/Alscot Estate related correspondence, please contact Graham Carter. Graham will attend the next PPC meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. The Estate and its Directors continue to employ the services of other independent advisors for professional services.

**Village Greens Landownership Exercise**

Following a request to do so by PPC, the Estate carried out a land ownership exercise and concludes that the query raised by PPC in relation to the villages greens/verges, concludes that The Estate is the registered title holder and therefore owns the land in question. The Estate is happy to discuss potential opportunities and management of the land, with PPC. The plan attached indicates the Land Registry title numbers and it is advised that the PPC carries out its own legal ownership research. The Estate requests copies of quotes for maintenance that the Parish hold and the normal schedule for cutting.

**Land adjacent to the church/Silvester Cottages**

The land to the side and rear of the church has over time become churned up, this is due to wet weather and vehicles both using the church and accessing the cottages. As the ground has become wetter more recently, some of the residents with smaller cars are finding access particularly difficult and in fact sometimes being stuck. Due to these difficulties, it is our intention to carry out improvements by way of repairs to reinstate the condition of the existing lane to benefit the community. As the land is privately owned and already in existence as an access road, we have been advised that we do not need to seek planning permission to carry out the reinstatement works.

**Lower Farm Barns**

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

**Hydro Scheme**

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

**Forestry**

We have just completed winter planting of 5000 new trees in woodlands across the Estate.

**Biodiversity Land**

Biodiversity Phase 1 is its fifth successful year of land management, and the Estate is now considering further land for a second phase of the project.

The Proposed Phase 2 project provides connectivity of habitats along the river valley of the river Stour, from the northern to southern boundary of the estate.

**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.

**SUA4**

Part of the Atherstone Airfield SUA4 is a 48 Acre site allocated for Employment in the Stratford Local Plan. The Pre-Application documents were submitted to the LPA in November 2023

## **District Councillor Report January 2024 – Cllr Dominic Skinner Quinton Ward**

I'd like to wish a very happy new year to all and I look to continue to work with the parish council throughout 2024.

### **Ward Walk Arouds**

I'm offering 'ward walk around' sessions to all the parish councils within my ward. It is an opportunity for myself and members of the parish council to walk key areas of the ward and for the council to highlight any issues or areas they would like my support with. These can range from potholes to more serious issues such as future planning developments. I feel the relationship between district councillor and parish councils is an important one and while family and work commitments mean I may struggle to attend Parish Council meetings, I want to be accessible to all. I would be happy to arrange a walk around at the weekends. If you wish to arrange one then please drop me an email at [domskinner4quinton@gmail.com](mailto:domskinner4quinton@gmail.com) or contact me on my personal number 07783740520.

### **Budget cycle & actions so far**

We are now in the first budget cycle of the new administration, with the proposed budget going 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. 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.

Prior to the current budget the Portfolio Holders have started to make changes. For example, these include a new contract for grounds maintenance that will be much more sustainable and environmentally friendly with the avoidance of glyphosate.

We have seen major progress in the economic development portfolio with good relationships developed with Warwick University and Stratford College as well as the business community.

The Climate Change Fund will be used for projects that include solar panels, heat pumps and insulation measures to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. A new Community Climate Change Fund is being launched this month which will encourage Parish Councils and constituted community groups to carry out actions that support the Council's climate change goals.

SDC Leader Cllr Juned has asked for a meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss recent flooding but also the implementation of natural flood management projects. Cllr Juned is also going to talk to Warwickshire County Council about surface water flooding.

Working with Warwick District Council and the County Council progress is being made on electric vehicle charging including a feasibility study to look at provision for council owned car parks, kerbside and village halls and for social housing.

## **Council Plan**

Full Council approved the Council Plan on Monday 11 December 2023. Following this the Council Plan provides the strategic direction for the Council over the next four years and will be a critical document in guiding the District Council's allocation of resources to priorities. The proposed budget will reflect these priorities.

### Council Plan 2023-2027

The Vision: We are an ambitious, fair, inclusive, and responsible organisation which will put our communities at the heart of everything we do.

The Council will be recognised as a leader for supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents, protecting our environment, delivering sustainability and innovation.

By proactively working with partners the Council will strive to deliver cohesive communities that are well built, in the right place and served by appropriate infrastructure.

The Council will support existing business to thrive and seek to attract new businesses to create valued jobs and opportunities.

Six priorities:

- Local Economy
- Affordable, Well Built and Maintained Homes
- Health and Wellbeing
- Climate Change
- Delivery of Service
- Residents and Communities

### **Binton Bridge repairs works and road closure.**

I know many local people use the Binton Bridge in Welford so I thought it would be helpful to include an update. The bridge will be closed again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January for the next stage of the closure.

A new revised timetable is below, but as usual this is subject to change.

115	<b>Traffic Management</b>	215 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 03/05/24
116				
117	Type	215 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 03/05/24
118	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	12 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 13/10/23
119	2-way temporary lights	23 days	Sat 14/10/23	Sun 05/11/23
120	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	47 days	Mon 06/11/23	Fri 22/12/23
121	Fully open (Christmas break)	16 days	Sat 23/12/23	Sun 07/01/24
122	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	47 days	Mon 08/01/24	Fri 23/02/24
123	2-way temporary lights	30 days	Sat 24/02/24	Sun 24/03/24
124	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	12 days	Mon 25/03/24	Fri 05/04/24
125	2-way temporary lights	28 days	Sat 06/04/24	Fri 03/05/24
126	Fully open	0 days	Fri 03/05/24	Fri 03/05/24

  

Project: Binton South Bridge Date: Tue 19/12/23	Task Split	Milestone Summary	Project Summary External Tasks
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19/12/2023 (Rev 6 - 'High Level')

### Fire & Rescue services consultation

As you are aware, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) which carries out fire and rescue functions on behalf of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Warwickshire County Council (WCC), is consulting on a proposed change to its service delivery model as part of its Resourcing to Risk approach. It's a radical change to current operations. They are proposing to close Bidford, Fenny Compton, Henley, Shipston, Polesworth, Kenilworth, Wellesbourne and Gaydon as on-call fire stations into surge stations. I have grave concerns about the change from an on-call station system to a surge team model which has not been tried before in a comparable rural county. I also want to understand what data has been used to model these new options. I urge parish councils and residents to engage with the consultation: [Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service - Consultation on proposed service delivery model - Warwickshire County Council - Citizen Space](#)

There are public meetings and I have already attended the one hosted by Bidford on Avon PC. I also hope to attend the Stratford on Avon meeting on the 17th January at Stratford School. Link to register here:

[Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Events | Eventbrite](#)

### Rural Crime

#### Community Crime Prevention Toolbox Event

One of the SDC Rural Crime Advisor projects for 2023/2024 aims to raise awareness of the opportunities to improve home security by providing Crime Prevention Toolboxes to support village communities. These events are done, where possible, with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team in attendance and work best when run alongside an existing event, such as a coffee morning or lunch club.

Following the event, the box is left with a *custodian (identified prior to the event)* and the villagers can decide how they wish to use the contents e.g., loan the equipment to try, or organise a property marking event for tools.

Let me know if the parish council would be interested and if they can suggest a custodian, and I will book a session.



### **Podback coffee pods recycling**

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are launching a new service to help residents to recycle used coffee pods in partnership with **Podback**, a not-for-profit recycling organisation. The new coffee pod recycling service supports the District Council's aims to reduce waste, increase recycling, save resources, and give materials a second life.

Residents will be able to recycle their plastic or aluminium coffee pods at home by signing up for free on the Podback website. They will be sent two rolls of Podback recycling bags (26 bags or six months' supply) along with instructions on how to use the service. Filled bags of used coffee pods can then be put out alongside or on top (not inside) of the waste, recycling, or garden waste container(s), on the scheduled collection day. Residents living in flats can participate by using the Podback Drop Off service.

Once collected, the coffee pods will be sent to specialist recycling plants. The plastic and aluminium will be transformed into new products, including beverage cans, automotive components, building products and re-usable plastic crates, while the coffee grounds will be treated by anaerobic digestion to create renewable energy and soil improver.

For more information, please visit: [www.stratford.gov.uk/podback](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/podback) To find out more about signing up for the new Podback service please visit: [www.podback.org](http://www.podback.org)

### **Christmas tree collections**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will also be collecting Christmas trees on the scheduled collection between 8th and 19th January 2024. Residents do not need to have a garden waste subscription for this. Just leave the tree outside on the day of collection, but do not obstruct the public highway. Trees over 5ft need to be cut in half.

### **Sherborne Material Recycling facility**

The state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Coventry, which is a project by 8 local authorities including Stratford District Council is now fully operational. Its technologies achieve high purity rates and tackle a wider range of waste materials, including single use plastics. The most advanced MRF of its kind in the UK, the plant utilises specialist AI technology to process dry mixed residential kerbside recycling in the most sustainable and efficient way possible.