

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PRESTON PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE held on 7th February, 2007 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars, Preston.

Present: David Theoff (Chairman)
Roger Ayling
John Greig
Louise Perryman
Duncan Scott
John Simpson
Pat Simpson
Karen Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Ollie Chapman, Alan Coller, Martin Ferber, Lorna Listbrain and Jan Rudolph.

KW agreed to take the minutes in OC's absence.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 10th January 2007 were adopted as a true record.

Matters arising

All of the matters arising were dealt with by items on the agenda.

Payment of accounts

The treasurer was not present but it was understood that there were no outstanding accounts.

Newsletter

DS and PS circulated draft copies of the newsletter, all present were delighted with the content and the distribution date will be 16 February. The newsletter would have a few additional items in the form of 'post-it notes' added to the back page. DT suggested that the author of the articles was named, it was hoped this would encourage other people to write to the newsletter in due course. Congratulations went to PS and JS who both did the bulk of the work; they were of course aided by a few other technical wizards around the table, namely LP and JG. It was agreed that Danny Salvatori would get a thank you for printing of the first newsletter and village directory.

Distribution of Newsletter

This is being organised by the committee, DT will be away on the distribution date, and so everyone was asked to liase with PS and JS for the distribution. It was also decided that we would add Stourmouth, which is approximately another 100 houses to be delivered to. PS said that the lady at the playschool knew a lot about Stourmouth and KW was happy to with the aid of PS and JS to deliver the newsletters to Stourmouth (this if the lady at the playschool was unable to). It was

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also suggested that we had extra copies of the directory for estate agents in Wingham, these to be for new people moving into the parish.

It was noted that the committee had received specific offers of assistance to deliver newsletters from various parishioners and DT would get a list of the volunteers to PS and JS who will liase with all concerned for the overall delivery of the newsletter and the village directory.

If anybody had any contributions, information or stories for the next issue they should e-mail it to johnsimpsoin@vfast.co.uk

Reports on Action Plan progress.

The Village Hall Refurbishment –

JS reported the following - It would take considerable time for the rebuilding of the hall and therefore various refurbishments would take place to the existing building, as a start it was to be redecorated this weekend, Saturday/Sunday 10th/11th and the following weekend Saturday/Sunday 17/18th February. AC would be in charge and all help would be welcome. The next VH committee meeting to be on the 9th February 2007. Prior to the main application for funding there is a possibility of the village hall obtaining two smaller grants that could be obtained sooner. One is "Awards for All" which is up to £10,000, and this could be used to get rid of the metal box in the car park and build a satisfactory alternative for about £10,000. The second type of grant that could be obtained is called "Extended Schools Development Programme", as the school are a major part of the redevelopment this application would need to go via the school. JS advised that we could obtain up to £20,000 towards the future programme. The VH committee has had discussions with Nick Blake (the architect) and the committee will liase with him to produce the initial designs.

The Village Directory

This has been finalised by DS and everybody congratulated him on an excellent piece of work. This will be distributed with the Newsletter.

Speed Watch

No developments.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT advised that there were some notes that he would pass on to OC and OC would discuss this at the next meeting.

Community Facilities

Still ongoing

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Education

JS confirmed there would be a natural development as the village hall refurbishment progressed.

Tennis Courts

M Ferber absent.

Helping Others

JR absent

Keep Village Clean

No progress

Footpaths and Bridleways

LLB absent, however KW mentioned that LLB has had discussions with local farmers including Trevor Bradley in pursuit of setting up bridleways in the form of TROT which is a charitable organisation to help riders keep off the road and make more land available for them to ride on, this is subject to an annual fee. Discussions are ongoing.

Community Mini Bus

No progress at the current time.

Village Design Statement.

Following the meeting that OC/DS and DT had in Dover, a letter was sent to Mike Ebbs and no reply has been received to date. However Mike Ebbs sent an email to Trevor Bartlett and Trevor Bartlett copied it to OC/DT. It was agreed that we would respond to that copy email, OC is drafting a letter. DS advised that on the 26 April 07 there is a committee meeting which is a review of the provisions of plans and preparation for ADF (replaces local plans) information will be taken from April 2005 to December 2008. May 2008 is a deadline for the information to be submitted and "preferred options " need to be done by June 07. DT confirmed that he would forward the email response that Mr Ebbs sent to Trevor Bartlett by email all members. LP raised questions on the village design statement, as did RA who agreed that it was important for us to be pushing for something to be done. DS suggested that a sub-committee should follow up and report to steering committee. Therefore a sub committee comprising OC/DS/DT would take the necessary action. RA suggested that all correspondence was copied to the appropriate government minister to ensure some positive action.

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Facilities.

Sports Facilities – carried forward to next meeting

Young Persons Action Plan – carried forward to next meeting

Any Other Business.

DT advised that Victoria Lawson was involved with Kent Village of the Year Competition and had suggested we might like to consider entering. A £2,000 prize is to be awarded to the winning village. There are various categories to enter and information can be found on the website is www.ruralkent.org.uk.

The Committee

DT raised the issue that the Parish Plan Committee has in the past considered changing to a Village Society and in view of the forthcoming Parish Council AGM it would be a good time to raise the subject, all agreed. DT also stated that it was now two years since this committee was formed, i.e. in February 2005 as he has completed two years in the chair and he was happy step down should anyone wish to take over from him. equally, he is happy to remain if the committee so wishes.

Next meeting.

21st March 2007 (later than usual due to several members being away)