



Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Great & Little Preston held remotely 18:00hrs on Wednesday 28th April 2021 via Zoom

The Meeting was conducted by the Chairman of the Parish Council David Bath, and the Minutes of the Meeting were taken by the Parish Clerk, Shelley Bath.

Those Present:

Cllr. Bath, Cllr. Taylor, Cllr. Dickinson, Cllr. Hurdley, Shelley Bath.
There were 2 Members of the Public present.

Chairman's Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2019

The last Annual Parish Meeting was held on April 24th 2019. The Minutes of this Meeting were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters arising from the 2019 Minutes:

There were no Matters Arising.

3. Progress Reports:

The Chairman of the Parish Council read out the Chair's Report. A copy of the report is attached to the Minutes.

The Chairman of the Parish Council announced his intention to retire from the Council in the coming weeks.

4. Open Session:

A Member of the Public asked about the details of the 1 and 5 year plan referred to in the Chair's report. It was communicated that this would be available and publicised once it has been agreed at the next meeting.



The Member of Public would like to see additional information regarding the expected costs vs actual costs, details of how the precept is being spent in relation to the plans.

Cllr. Taylor – stressed how important attending the meetings and raising points is in relation to the above, so that the right information can be provided.

The Member of the Public requested that copies of the accounts are placed on the noticeboards along with other relevant information for Parishioners. It was discussed how the accounting information is provided on an annual basis in line with the External Audit requirements. Any other information that has normally been published on the noticeboards has been less frequent due to the advice provided by the Local Council's Association to stay at home where possible and that there was no legal requirement to update the noticeboards during the Covid-19 pandemic. Going forward the noticeboards will be updated more frequently.

Cllr. Hurdley raised concerns over the accounting information available and that a Profit and Loss is not sufficient and that a balance sheet is required.

A Member of the Public raised concerns over the Village Hall management committee having fewer and fewer numbers. Cllr. Taylor communicated that there is a meeting arranged next week with the Village Hall Management Committee.

A Member of the Public raised the drainage issue in the Wildflower Meadow. Cllr. Taylor communicated that there is a meeting arranged with Leeds City Council on 29/04/2021 and reassured the Member of the Public that the issue is being addressed.

Cllr. Bath communicated that the drainage in the Wildflower Meadow is in the current year plan (to be agreed) and with contingencies.



The Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 18.50hrs.

Chair.....Date.....

The above Draft Minutes will be approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting.



Great and Little Preston P.C.
Annual Parish Meeting, Chairs Report 2020/21.

Welcome.

On behalf of Great and Little Preston Parish Council may we wish all present a warm welcome and thank you all very much for attending this remote Annual Meeting this evening. As we are all aware this has been a very different and traumatic year with the COVID 19 Epidemic and the two phases of "Lock Down" The second of which we are now hopefully coming out of.

Please note any reference to "Village/Villages" means Great Preston, Little Preston, Glencoe and the Bowers Row/Queens Street Development

Agenda Items

Current year and Five year Plan

The Parish Council (PC) introduced a Current Year and five Year Plan in 2018/19, these are working documents to help us plan what we intend trying to do in the current year and also a rolling five year plan to give an idea of our future intentions. The docs will help us budget and can also be a measure of our performance. These documents will be available in the Web Site and on the notice boards

Village Hall

The Hall has been closed for the past year due to the current COVID 19 situation.

The Village Hall Committee are hoping to reopen the Hall in May this year.

It is also hoped that once opened it will soon return to the very popular and successful venue that it was in the past due to the enormous effort and hard work of what is left of the depleted Management Committee and also help from the PC.

The Hall has been and hopefully will continue to be the focal point for public meetings and it's use for Local Elections and General Election purposes.

The Hall is also hired out and used by a variety of groups and private functions. The revenue from these helps towards the fabric and structural maintenance of the building.



If anyone would like further information about the Committee, or would like to hire the Hall, please contact the bookings representative by Email at (mail@dunrunin.plus.com)

Essential Maintenance to the Hall.

Following on from the essential maintenance carried out to the Bell Tower and to the car park (in line with the CISWO lease) and also with the Halls closure due to the COVID 19 situation, the PC took the opportunity to complete the following works.

Vestry. Completely re-roofed, including re-felting, re-lattening and replacing any damaged Blue Slate tiles. Copings and Kneeler Stones removed, cleaned and re-bedded. All leadwork replaced with the correct code lead.

Entrance Hallway. Completely re-roofed, including re-felting, re-lattening and replacing any damaged Blue Slate tiles. Copings and Kneeler Stones removed, cleaned and re-bedded. All leadwork replaced with the correct code lead.

West Gable Rendering. Any loose render removed and repaired, all remaining render checked and secured as necessary with special anchor ties.

The Gable then had a five coat special render system applied, the final two coats being textured and coloured to match the existing building engineering brickwork. The render was cut back and finished at the bottom 300mm (12") from the ground level and the brickwork has been bitumen coated, this was advised during the first quinquennial survey

Also any missing brickwork was replaced around the building and several local areas repointed. This action is try to prevent vermin entry, rats, mice and squirrels.

Hall main lights. The eight Main lights (existing were very old 400W Son type, very inefficient and all different colours, similar to factory lights) have been replaced with 200W circular LED type fittings, any combination of two rows now fully lights the Hall.

Hall Uplighter lights. The six uplighters have also been replaced with 50W LED type, these are now adequate to light the hall when special functions are taking place, dances etc., and give the hall a more softer atmosphere.

Our next Quinquennial survey on the building is due in 2022.



The (PC) hope that you all agree that all these works have given the building another much needed face lift and that the above works will guarantee the continued use of the building for many years to come.

Parish Precept

The PC have decided that due to the COVID 19 Situation and lots of unknowns for the future that we will keep the Parish Precept as last year, basically no increase.

The Annual Parish Precept gives the PC working capital for projects in the Village, the main one being the Village Hall, we estimated that in the order of £100K was required to bring the building back into a good state of repair, to date we have spent half of this, circa £50K which hopefully guarantees its continued community use for many years to come.

The increased working capital over the past few years has also enabled the PC to be able to provide Christmas motive decorations on the lamp posts on Preston Lane, Whitehouse Lane, Berry Lane and Goody Cross Lane and this year on Queens Street Bowers Row also. The PC hopes that everyone enjoys the added Christmas festivity effects

The increased working capital has also enabled the PC to be able to install Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) the first one has been installed to the North of the Village on the Whitehouse Lane approach, and a second on Astley Lane, St Aidan's RSPB Site Entrance, this SID was provided from the Ward Councillors budget, many thanks to them.

See the five year plan for future sites.

And finally the PC have also been able to fund a Defibrillator which is installed at the Village Hall overlooking the main road, we will also be funding a training course for 12 delegates as and when we can with the COVID 19 restrictions..The installation of the unit brings us in line with our neighbouring villages. The unit went operational from the 22nd April 2019, all local sports clubs, Ambulance, Doctors etc., will be informed of the unlock code.

War Memorial

The PC have been in contact with CISWO and Wake Smith, Solicitors (who are acting on behalf of the Trustees of the (Bowers Great



Preston Miners Welfare Scheme) and have agreed the land will be transferred to the PC (free of charge). Following this agreement we have now instructed the PC Solicitors, Emsley's, Colton, to contact Wake Smith and prepare the transfer documents, this transfer has been going on for the past 10 months and has now finally been formally completed , we are awaiting the Title Deeds from our Solicitors. **Transfer is now completed.**

Parish Hall Car Park

Whilst updating the PC Asset Register, documentation has come to light that suggests that the Village Hall Car Park should have been transferred to the PC in the late 1990s, when the Scouts Lease expired.

The PC wrote to the CEO of CISWO in February last year (two letters) detailing our case and forwarding all the relevant information, there was no response at all. We have again written to CISWO last week, (CEO and Estate Manager) forwarding once again all the relevant information, if we still get no response or a negative response then our next port of call will be the Ward Councillors and our Local MP Alec Shelbrooke, and ask for their help.

See also the 5 year plan.

Parish Notice Boards

The PC have supplied and fitted a total of 3 new style Notice Boards, one on Queens Street, Bowers Row, one on the entrance to the St. Aidan's Estate and one at the South entrance to the Whitehouse estate., we intend to replace all the village boards (6 in total) over the next few years.

See the 5 year plan.

Broadband

Virgin have now completed the installation of the Fibre network in Little Preston, this completes the work in the two villages for the time being.

Site Allocations

Proposed New Housing Development to the North of St. Aiden's Estate HG2-131 (3100B)



The allocation has now been removed from any foreseeable future LCC plans.

Litter-pick

No litter picks have been arranged due to the COVID 19 situation. The PC will update as and when the Village in Bloom (VIB) arrange any new events.

Fly-tipping/littering

Fly Tipping is still an ongoing problem in the village.

In the first instance (and to help with the PC workload) please report incidents by visiting the following web sites (LCC Website Fly Tipping/Clean My Street) and filling out a (Report Fly Tipping Form) also (<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/environmental-health/flytipping-and-waste-issues>), we should all continue to be vigilant in an attempt to stop this activity from spoiling our village.

May we also remind all residents that throwing garden waste/rubbish over your fence onto Public Land and Rights of Way (PROWs) is still classed as Fly Tipping and can lead to a prosecution.

Dog-fouling

Although not perceived as a huge problem in the village, there remains a minority of dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets. In the Wild Flower Meadow (WFM), a bin is provided at the South entrance which has to be emptied by volunteers, the bin outside the metal barrier onto the Whitehouse's is emptied by LCC once per week. The PC are actively trying to attract more people to use the WFM, the Preston Lane Green Space and the Village Hall Wood walks. All three areas have seating at various points.

Finally, we reiterate, please do not let your dog's foul on the main walkways, **and if they do please clean up after them and dispose of the poo bags correctly. We are still seeing Poo bags just left here and there, someone has then to tidy up.**

Wildflower Meadow and Preston Lane Green Space Upkeep

Both these areas take a lot of time, effort, public (Precept money) or sponsored money to keep in a tidy and pleasing condition.



The PC are now actively sourcing Sub-contractors to cut both areas at least twice a year to compliment the work done by others keeping the designated paths cut short and made obvious to follow. Volunteer litter picking by local residents is very much appreciated.

Please all take care of and be proud of our Green Spaces.

Preston Lane (School Parking)

After constant lobbying by the PC following complaints from parishioners we now have the Double Yellow lined parking restrictions from the Preston Lane/Wood Lane Junction to the Brigshaw Lane junction. These restrictions continue to make a tremendous difference to the traffic flow and general safety on this stretch of road. We still have some parents dropping off on Wood Lane and not using the village hall car park that is provided free of charge by the PC, please all do try and be safe.

St Aidan's Country Park - (Transfer of Control)

As we are now all aware, the Country Park has been taken over by the RSPB and formally opened on the 17th of April 2017. A new tarmac surfaced car park has been prepared, laid, white lined and is now completed and in use. There is a charge £4.00 to use this car park which does close overnight, don't get locked in!

We are still in discussion with LCC, Ward Councillors, RSPB and our local residents, regarding the parking in Astley Lane, there is a stretch 200 metres long (from the entrance to the North) that has been filled with road planings (by LCC) to make extra parking for dog walkers and the like. A more permanent "free" solution inside the Site Boundary is maybe the best way forward in the future.

The majority of the country park falls within the GALPPC boundaries therefore we do keep a keen interest in any work being carried out.

We now have a direct RSPB contact who attends the PC meeting Open Session from time to time and is also available to the PC via Phone or Email.

Great and Little Preston 'In-Bloom'

The In-bloom committee and helpers continue to do splendid work around the village. The wildflower meadow mentioned earlier.

Thanks to all concerned in making our Village a great place to live.



The In Bloom also organised the Summer BBQ and Fun Day a couple of years ago, maybe this is something that could be arranged again if the COVID 19 Lockdown eases sufficiently for larger numbers to gather outside, last time it was attended by around 80 people and the day was a great success. Preston Lane field, may be considered if the event it put on again.

The PC are actively trying to introduce a woodland maintenance programme, (see 5 year plan) we are currently working on the Parish Hall frontage where ivy infested trees have been removed from the hedge row line to enable the hedge to be reclaimed and replanted with Hawthorne and also make the hedge maintenance possible with large machinery. We have also been in contact with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust personnel, with a view to them also being involved with our woodland upkeep.

Great and Little Preston P.C. Website

Our Web Administrator along with an ex. Cllr managed the website and updated the site to make it more user friendly.

Unfortunately the Cllr left the Village about two years ago, which was a great loss for the PC.

The Parish Clerk has now taken on this function and is the PCs contact with the Web Administrator on a day to day basis on all matters. This will continue for the foreseeable future albeit we do keep reviewing the arrangements and are also pleased to receive any constructive comments or suggestions to improve our website.

Media Matters

Our ex. Cllr also opened a Face Book account on behalf of the PC and we now have many Face Book followers.

The Cllr was also the Editor of the Parish Newsletter which the PC circulate around the Parish.

Our Clerk now looks after our Face Book account and we have hopefully recruited one of our residents to take on the role as Editor of our Parish Magazine, this is still to be confirmed

It is now some time since the last News Letter and we are keen to get a new one put together, published and circulated around the Village, any contributions of local historical or general interest are always appreciated.



Parish Clerk

Shelley our new Clerk of 18 months will hopefully now be able undergo training (now that the COVID 19 Lockdown is beginning to ease) on our new electronic accounting system Xero and also basic Parish Clerk courses in order to start to gain her qualifications as a qualified PC Clerk.

Parish Councillor Retirement.

Denise Blackburn, a long serving parish councillor retired at the end of last year, Denise will be a great loss to the PC, we are most grateful and thank Denise for her long and loyal service to both the PC and the local community.

Dave Bath.

Chair, Great and Little Preston P.C.

28thApril 2021