

Great and Little Preston P.C.

Annual Parish Meeting Notes 2019.

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 the Annual Meeting this evening.

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

Agenda Items

Current year and Five year Plan

The Parish Council (PC) have this year introduced the above 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 continues to be very popular and successful thanks to the continued effort and hard work of the Management Committee.

The Hall is the focal point for public meetings and is used 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 representatives.

Janet Winn on 0113 2869288 or Gwenn Cooke on 0113 2862399

Essential Maintenance to the Hall.

Following on from the maintenance carried out last year to the building structure and to the car park we are now obtaining quotes for further works to the Main roof, West gable end and the Vestry roof. Please reference to our 5 year plan for more detailed information. Copies in the meeting room.

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

The (PC) hope that you all agree that this first phase has given the building a much needed face lift and that the above proposed works will guarantee the continued use of the building for many years to come.

Parish Precept

As you all will be aware the (PC) have again requested a 24% increase (which equates to a small increase in the Band D charge of £7.11) in the Annual Parish Precept in order to give ourselves more working capital for projects in the Village, the main one being the Village Hall which will cost in the order of £100K to bring the building back into a good state of repair and guarantee its continued community use for many years to come.

The increased working capital 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, this will be the first time for many years, possibly over 10 does anyone know the last time?

The increased working capital has also enabled the PC to be able to install Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) the first one to be installed to the North of the village on the Whitehouse lane approach. 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. The installation of the unit brings us in line with our neighbouring villages. The unit went operational from the 22nd April, 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, Emsleys, 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.

Parish Hall Car Park

The PC continue to talk to CISWO regarding the transfer/purchase of the land to the Parish. See 5 year plan.

Parish Notice Boards

The PC have supplied and fitted a new Notice Board on Queens Street, we intend to replace all the village boards 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

The litter pick on Sunday the 17th March was not attended as well as in 2018, we intend to advertise earlier next year in the hope of getting a better response. This is a key spring event for the village clean up and is also a good bonding event for parishioners and the community spirit. There was refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall, many thanks to Janet Winn and friends for their efforts. Also thanks to LCC who provided grabbers and High Vis. Jackets and also provide a pickup collection service on the day.

Fly-tipping/littering

Fly Tipping is still an ongoing problem in the village, Cllr Bentley is the point of contact if anyone wishes to report incidents, also to help our workload we would encourage parishioners in the first instance to visit the following web sites to report incidents (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 rights of way 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 Meadow bins are provided at both entrances. We are actively trying to attract more people to use the Wildflower Meadow. We have seating at various points. We are also seeing fouling on the mown footpaths in the Preston Lane Field.

Wildflower Meadow upkeep

Following on from the improvements last year to the entrance to the Wild Flower Meadow from the White House Estate entrance. New Gates, Fencing and Path/Road surface repairs etc., we have now completed a replanting programme in designated patches, this involved the applying for grants, initial marking out, rotavating the patches several times and then the back-breaking job of raking and finally seeding. This took more seed than envisaged but the shortfall, a sack full was thankfully provided FOC by Charles (Julie), which saved us a lot of money. And once again a great big thanks to all those who gave up their spare time and came down to get stuck in to the hard work done, please no claims for back troubles.

We have also agreed with Charles Hirst the local farmer to continue to cut our fields and hedges as and when it is required, the meadow grass will be left until September to allow the new planted areas to become established.

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/Woodlane 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 Woodlane and not using the village hall car park that is provided free of charge by the PC.

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 which this year has been increased to £4.00 to use this car park which does close overnight, don't get locked in!

We are still in discussion with LCC regarding the parking in Astley Lane, there is a stretch 200 metres long (from the entrance to the North) that could easily be made into parking for dog walkers and the like.

The RSPB have now completed the ground works to prevent Foxes entering the wetland area during the breeding season, the footpaths have now been reinstated and are in better state of repair. The majority of the country park falls within the G&LP boundaries therefore we do keep a keen interest on any work being carried out.

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 last year which was attended by around 80 people. The day was a great success and we hope it will become an annual event. The venue may be moved this year to the Preston Lane field, yet to be decided.

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 Blackthorn and also make the hedges 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

Malcolm Webster's son, Alistair along with Cllr Hanson manage the website and have updated the site to make it more user friendly. Cllr Hanson is the PC's contact with Alistair 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

Cllr Hanson has opened a Twitter and Face Book account on behalf of the PC and we now have 75 Twitter and 128 Face Book followers and are gaining more followers every week/month

Cllr Hanson is also the Editor of the Parish Newsletter which was circulated earlier in the year, we intend to replace this with the Chairs report this month and to publish the Newsletter in the third quarter, and contributions of local historical or general interest are always appreciated.

Parish Clerk

Our PC Clerk Janet Winn will be retiring from the position at the end of this year. We are most grateful to Janet and thank her long and loyal service to both the PC and the local community. The PC will be looking to recruit a new Clerk in the coming weeks and will be advertising the position on our local notice boards and social media.

Parish Councillor Retirement.

Elisabeth Crossley (Betty) one of our longest serving parish councillors will be retiring at the end of April, Betty will be a great loss to the PC and as with Janet we are most grateful and thank Betty for her long and loyal service to both the PC and the local community.

Proposed Traveller Site in Hollinhurst

The PC and local residents have lobbied LCC and as a result the Planning application was turned down. There has been an appeal lodged which was to be heard in Bristol but changed to Leeds and was heard on the 18th of April 2018. The outcome of the appeal was to allow restricted use of the site by travellers. Not the result many of our parishioners wanted.

Dave Bath.

Chair, Great and Little Preston P.C.

21st April 2019