



Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

Held on: Thursday 21st November 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: 2

43/24 **WELCOME and APOLOGIES** - DC Cllr Dominic Skinner

44/24 **Declaration of Interest** - There were none to receive

45/24 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting from 19th September 2024 were **confirmed** and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Spencer

Seconded: Cllr Seccombe

All in favour

46/24 **Open Forum** - No comments

47/24 **Alscot Estate** - Report was emailed prior to meeting which was then read out by Paddy Hoare who represented the Estate. This report is attached below (Appendix A)

48/24 **DC Dominic Skinner** - no report given.

49/24 **CC Izzy Seccombe** - A report was emailed prior to meeting and Cllr Izzy Seccombe elaborated on this. The report is attached (Appendix B).

50/24 **ST, Mary's Church** - No update given

51/24 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- i. The financial report was discussed and agreed
- ii. Bank Reconciliation
- iii. Budget for 2025/26 was reviewed and a draft budget of £5000 was approved. All councillors also agreed to use some of the reserves to put back into the community.
- iv. 3 invoices were approved for payment

Inv 13	Clerks wage	£483.13	
Inv 14	HMRC	£19.40	
Inv 15	WALC	£42.00	

Proposed Cllr Spencer

Seconded Cllr Seccombe

All in favour

52/24 **Planning**

- i. 24/02629/TREE Lower Farm - **No Objection** was submitted on 07/11/24
- ii. 24/02437/FUL 45 Preston on Stour - **No objection** was submitted on 01/11/24

iii. **24/02425/FUL Aviation Ltd No objection** was submitted on 01/11/24

53/24 Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

- i. **Website-** Clerk gave update on the website and will email details of another website provider to consider for future. Cllr Seccombe is going to look into the issues we are currently having with the website.
- ii. **Banking** - Clerk informed Council that Lloyds have introduced a monthly charge so might be an idea to consider an alternative or stay with HSBC but move to online banking.
- iii. **War Memorial** - Cllr Spencer attempted to clean the panels. Cllr Corser spoke to Simon about applying for a grant for maintenance of the memorial. Council agreed for Mick to re-fill in the letters.
- iv. **Remote Meetings** - This was discussed and answers to survey were given to clerk to submit before 19th December 2024.

54/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- o Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7:30pm

55/24 TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The meeting was closed at **09.05pm**

Proposed: Cllr Spencer Seconded: Cllr Seccombe All in favour

56/24 PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

SIGNED:

Appendix A

Alscot Estate November Report Emma Holman-West

Regenerative Farming

As planned, our new farming regime started in September this year across 700 hectares of land that was recently taken back in-house following the retirement of long-standing farming tenant farmer, Richard Kerby.

So far, "Home Farm" land has been sown with either, Herbal Leys, Legume Fallow, Temporary Grass Cover or Winter Bird Food mix, and in addition to the crops, we are making plans to improve hedges by laying, coppicing, gapping, and planting new hedge rows.

Regenerative agriculture has been implemented here at Alscot as a key solution to growing organic food, while also tackling climate change and improving the environment. We're excited to see how the soil improves over the next few years as we work to regenerate it, and the positive effects it brings for the future.

Clifford Chambers environmental group have expressed an interest in learning more about the project, and what changes they might expect to see, and we have set a provisional date for this community talk in Clifford Village Hall on 2nd April 2025 – further details to follow.

Silvester Cottages

The reinstatement works to improve the ground by Sylvester Cottages has begun. Over a period of time, the area has become very uneven and rutted due to heavy rain and vehicular use to the Cottages and the Church. It is important to remember that this reinstatement work only and restricts what we do. It was also requested by the occupants that we try to improve the carparking to no 8.

Whilst happy to help, this has proven difficult given the remit we must work within, including materials, the location of the existing services on both the surface and those drains and cables buried beneath, but are very close to the surface, as well as the varying ground levels. However, we are trying to make the area better, within that remit and doing what we can under the circumstances to provide a flatter, harder surface so cars can manoeuvre more easily. This is currently work in progress as we navigate the obstacles we are facing. All occupants of that area have been informed and we welcome their patience and understanding.

Trees

Lower Farmhouse – application with SDC to fell the dead Rowan tree in the front garden by the driveway.

We are about to apply to remove self-seeded sycamore trees at Church Cottage that are problematic to the property.

Reinstatement of Wall at 45 Preston

45 Preston Wall – application with SDC for LBC and FPP to rebuild the bulging wall at 45 Preston before it falls down. As it is attached to the property, LBC is required as well.

Lower Farm Buildings

The project remains on hold due to planning constraints and further surveys. We remain hopeful that we will be able to reinstate this project in Spring 2025.

John Large

Following the sad passing of John Large, there will be an internment and celebration of life on Saturday 23rd Nov. The internment is at 10am at Stratford Cemetery, Evesham Road, Grave B98, followed by a celebration of Life at 12.30pm at Stratford upon Avon Rugby Club, Loxley Road.

Christmas Drinks at Alscot

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 12th December for Christmas Drinks, and Santa, at Alscot.

Appendix B

Warwickshire County Council November Report WCC Cllr Izzi Seccombe

Armed Forces Covenant and Remembrance

Last week I was delighted to host at Warwick the signing of the Armed Service Covenant. WCC is a Gold Member and has led partners such as Districts, Education, Health and Business in joining and engaging in the support of Veterans and Servicemen and women. This is about support and understanding the challenges of service men/women and veterans around housing ...especially when leaving services. Education, Health. Valuing their commitment. We were delighted that over a hundred attended and we had national support from Defence Services.

I also was incredibly touched once again to lay a wreath on behalf of WCC at Sundays Remembrance Service in Warwick.

Budget

We have some benefits from the Budget around SEND and Social Care, but as ever the detail is not yet understood, and we await the Local Government settlement in December for that. We are still a long way from achieving the demands we face, but welcome what is likely to come our way.

WCC is providing a support network to help those who may be entitled to welfare support after the loss of the Winter Fuel Payments. If anyone is known, please direct them our way.

I am working with PennyAnne ODonnell to hold a debate on the impact of the Budget on our Farming Community. Food Security to the nation and the ability to ensure we have an ongoing and vibrant Farming sector is under threat. We intend to write to this Government objecting and raising all these important issues.

Health and Social Care

I am pleased to be hosting a roundtable with the CX of NHS England (Matthew Taylor) later this month. I have attending all our Hospital Chairman and CXs and we intend to put the Warwickshire perspective and challenges together with opportunities that we can and want to take forward.