



# Minutes

## Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

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**Held on:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 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:** 4

**57/24 WELCOME and APOLOGIES** - Apologies accepted from DC Cllr Dominic Skinner and Paddy Hoare

**58/24 Declaration of Interest** - There were none to receive

**59/24 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting from 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

**Proposed:** Cllr Spencer

**Seconded:** Cllr Seccombe

**All in favour**

**60/24 Open Forum** - MOP spoke about activities that are being held at the hall which are open for all. They are in need of some more equipment for one of the activities (table tennis) and have asked if the Parish Council would help with this. Clerk will email a grant application to the Hall committee and list it on the next Agenda.

**61/24 Alscot Estate** - No Report

**62/24 DC Dominic Skinner** - Report was emailed and can be seen at the end of these minutes (Appendix A).

**63/24 CC Izzi Seccombe** - CC Izzi Seccombe spoke about the Governments plans to devolve more powers to Regional Strategic Authorities in a White Paper which was published on 16/12/24. Areas of two-tier councils will be merging to create a single tier new council. All councils were invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> phase but to do this quickly the elections will be delayed by a year. The Leaders made the decision last Friday (10<sup>th</sup> January) to go ahead with phase 1. There won't be any local consultations. Town and Parish councils will remain unaffected by this change.

**64/24 ST, Mary's Church** - Andrew Holman-West (church warden) reported there has been no major changes, but the noticeboard will be going back up onto the wall and asked if the PC will assist with the cost of the mowing of the churchyard. Clerk will email a grant form and this will be added to future agenda.

**65/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- i. The financial report was discussed and agreed
- ii. Bank Reconciliation was approved
- 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. Precept was approved and agreed to be set at £4500 and they will use reserves to make up the rest of the expenditure for year 2025/26.
- v. 2 invoices were approved for payment

Inv 16	Clerks wage	£405.44	
Inv 17	HMRC	£0.20	

**Proposed Cllr Spencer**

**Seconded Cllr Seccombe**

**All in favour**

**66/24**

**Planning**

- i. **24/03084/TREE Church Cottage, Preston on Stour - No Objection** was submitted on 24/12/24

**67/24**

**Councillors Reports and items for future agendas**

- i. **Website-** Cllr Seccombe gave update on the website and will look into a new website provider.
- ii. **Emergency Plan** - Cllr Corser informed the PC what steps are needed to be done, clerk will draw up a plan and email to councillors. This will then be approved at a future meeting.
- iii. **Village drains** - Cllr Spencer has been in touch with WCC about the drains being blocked and he is still awaiting a reply.
- iv. **Parish Forum Meeting** - All agreed for Cllr Corser to attend this meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 on behalf of the PC.

**68/24**

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

- o Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:30pm

**69/24**

**TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The meeting was closed at **08.55pm**

**Proposed: Cllr Spencer**

**Seconded: Cllr Seccombe**

**All in favour**

**70/24**

**PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**SIGNED:**

## **Appendix A**

### **Q1 2025 District Councillor Report**

**Cllr Dominic Skinner – Quinton Ward**

**Domskinner4quinton@gmail.com – 07783 740520**

### **District Council Performance and Parish Forum**

LGA undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) review in March 2024. Feedback received was very positive in that the CPC reported the Council is well run, recognises its challenges and is ambitious for the future of the district. There is much to be proud of in how the Council is delivering for the communities of this large and diverse area.

The CPC report led to an action plan for 10 specific recommendations. This action plan has periodic review and the progress is monitored by Cabinet. One recommendation was to strengthen the Citizen's Panel and develop a Parish Forum to engage more effectively with local people on a range of opportunities and challenges. This is the catalyst for the Parish Forum which is arranged on MS Teams on 30th January 2025. All Parish Council Clerks and Chairs have been invited to participate. The Council has allowed funding for a Parish Liaison Officer to support these efforts and the role is now being scoped out. A follow up review of the CPC will be held by the LGA on 21st January 2025.

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

The Preferred Options Consultation went live on 10th January and is open until 7th March. It is an opportunity for the Parish Council and Residents to 'have a say' in the development proposals for the area up to 2050. The Clifford Chambers Neighbourhood Plan was made on 12th July 2021 and runs to 2031. It is this document, which in conjunction with the District Core Strategy, provides policy for development within the Parish. It is important to keep a Neighbourhood Plan up to date and relevant and although there is no set guidance on the review period it is commonly accepted that plans should be reviewed every 5 years. Full details of the Preferred Options Consultation are available on the SWLP website.

### **Community Climate and Nature Fund Phase 2 (CCNF)**

The District Council has provided a discretionary fund (c. £56000) for grants towards community projects which aim to tackle climate change either by direct action or adaptation to future climate change challenges. Details can be found on the District Council Website. Applications will open on 10th January 2025 and close on February 2025.

### **Devolution White Paper and Local Government Reorganisation**

Government announced plans to devolve more powers to Regional Strategic Authorities in a White Paper published before Christmas. In addition, there are proposals to move to a single tier of local government which will mean District Councils in two tier authorities will be abolished and Unitary Authorities will be the structure for the future. There has been much coverage in the press and concerns expressed about the consultation process between authorities, the size of the Unitaries and the appropriate grouping into Strategic Authorities which are set to represent c. £1.5M residents. The Leader of Warwickshire County Council (Cllr Secombe) has written to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution asking for consideration of a new Unitary Council for the County and the postponement of the County Council Elections which are currently scheduled for May 2025.