



Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

Held on: Thursday 16th July 2026 at 7:30pm
Place: The Three Parishes Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour

Present: Cllrs Will Spencer (Chair), James Seccombe (Vice Chair), Emma Owen

In attendance: Laura Callow (Parish Clerk), WCC Cllr David Curtis

Members of the public: 3

28/26 WELCOME and APOLOGIES - Apologies accepted from Tom Gurney

29/26 Declaration of Interest - Cllr Seccombe declared an Interest in Agenda item 39/26 - Planning.

30/26 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting from 21st May 2026 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

Proposed: Cllr Spencer **Seconded:** Cllr Seccombe **All in favour**

31/26 Open Forum - Members of the public used this time to ask questions and express their opinions. Charles Wasdell and Lester Smith spoke of their wishes to be co-opted to the Parish Council. All councillors agreed to co-opt both residents at the September meeting.

32/26 Alscot Estate - Tom Gurney emailed a report on behalf of Alscot Estate prior to the meeting. This is attached at the bottom of these minutes. Paddy Hoare attended the meeting and spoke about all topics on the report. **Appendix A**

33/26 DC Paul Harrison - no report given.

34/26 CC David Curtis - CC David Curtis read out a report on local matters. His full report is attached at the end of the minutes. **Appendix B**

35/26 ST, Mary's Church - no report

36/26 Village Hall - It was agreed a councillor would attend the village halls yearly AGM. Clerk to liaise with hall committee and report back.

37/26 Red Kiosk - chair to liaise with Alscot estate to establish an agreement for the area of land the kiosk sits on. Once this is finalised chair will sign the contract with BT.

38/26 Graveyard - Clerk and Chair will look into this further and it will be added to the next agenda.

39/26 PLANNING -
• 26/01641/FUL Land Off, Preston Lane - no representation due to not being quorate.

40/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Inv 4	Laura Callow	¹	£549.83	Clerks wage
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Inv 5	Parish Online	£378.00	Website
Inv 6	HMRC	£25.90	Income tax

- i. The financial report was discussed and agreed
- ii. Bank Reconciliation was approved
- iii. Invoices were approved for payment

Proposed Cllr Spencer

Seconded Cllr Owen

All in favour

41/26 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – Resident spoke with Cllr Spencer regarding a dangerous tree, Cllr Spencer asked Paddy Hoare to investigate this further.

42/26 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- o Thursday 17th September 2026 at 7:30pm

43/26 TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The meeting was closed at **08.21pm**

Proposed: Cllr Spencer

Seconded: Cllr Seccombe

All in favour

44/26 PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

None

SIGNED.....

Appendix A

Alscot Estate

Tempo 5k

Thanks to the village for their cooperation and support in respect of Tempo's 5K at Alscot Thursday 9th July.

Tempo Events are a well organised and respected company and as hosts Alscot were raising funds and awareness for Friends of Stratford Hospital, a local charity that serves the community of Stratford upon Avon and everyone that uses Stratford Hospital.

We are pleased to say that to date we have raised in excess of £10K. We welcome any further fundraising support from the parish or individuals. Thank you also to those that cheered on the team, with temperatures around 34 degrees that evening, all support was much appreciated!

Regenerative Farming

During April and May, our pedigree Longhorn herd grew through the arrival of several home-bred calves, alongside the purchase of additional cows and young stock to strengthen the herd. They are loving life on the driveway at Alscot Park with some of the young stock now grazing the historic pasture field around the Estate Office.

This summer we set aside an area of approx. 60 acres of Herbal Leys in the old Parkland between Preston and Atherstone to make our own organic compost. The aim is to make and then spread the compost on the fields to primarily increase the organic matter.

Being an organic farm, we cannot use fertiliser, so it is an organic way to encourage crop growth, alongside grazing with livestock, producing our own inputs to spread and put back into the ground - boosting organic matter and enhancing water retention.

Earlier this year, we also planted a further 700 cricket bat willow tows and invested in a new solar-powered water pump to ensure they remain well hydrated during the summer months.

Following the planting of 1,250 metres of new hedgerow along the Clifford Track, we have also installed new fencing. We hope this will help reduce the ongoing issue of dogs entering cropped fields. Unfortunately, dog fouling remains a significant problem, and we continue to ask all dog walkers to act responsibly by cleaning up after their pets to help protect our livestock, crops and the wider environment.

Solar Scheme

With the perimeter fencing now in place, we are working with Severn Trent Green Power and their contractors to manage the herbal leys in line with our organic farming status.

We are shortly due to cut and bale the herbal leys on their behalf.

Appendix B

Warwickshire County Council Report Councillor David Curtis

Changes to Councillors' Grant Fund

Community groups across Warwickshire are to benefit from a refreshed County Councillors' Grants Fund 2026-27, designed to deliver greater impact, simpler access, and stronger alignment with local priorities. Discover more:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7734/changes-to-councillors-grant-fund-to-boost-impact-for-communities-across-warwickshire

NB This year there will only be 1 round and deadline is July 26

South Warwickshire Local Plan

Officers from Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council would like to invite you to attend an update on the Publication Version of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The online session will take place on Friday 10 July, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Please register in advance using the link below:

www.events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d76576a585d94c11a81fb70b1b929e71@ea0773dc0dc-4c50-a4c9-bc26a247ed21

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing the Microsoft Teams joining link. If you experience any difficulties accessing the meeting, please contact us at swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

This session is intended exclusively for Parish, Town and District Councillors in Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts, and Warwickshire County Councillors.

Supporting key transitions for children and young people

As the end of the summer term approaches, families across Warwickshire are preparing for a range of important changes in their children's education.

Find out more about the support available:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7745/supporting-children-and-young-people-through-key-transitions>

Summer SEND picnic at Ryton Pools (X and Facebook)

Families of young children with SEND enjoyed a fun-filled summer picnic at Ryton Pools, bringing parent carers together to play, share experiences and access valuable support.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7801/summer-picnic-at-ryton-pools-brings-parent-carers-and-young-children-with-send-together>

Looking after the vulnerable in hot weather

If you have friends, family or neighbours who you know are more vulnerable to the effects of hot weather, it's important you check in on them to ensure they are safe and well. Find out more on staying safe here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/>

Float to live - water safety

Parents and carers! Would your child know what to do if they found themselves in a dangerous situation near water? Teach them the 'Float to Live technique. It could save their life one day!

Watch the video: https://youtu.be/XiN5hvoouMk?si=Afnt_NOxtuegTuHv