

PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2024

Present: Councillor Councillors Amsden (Chairman), Fletcher, Higham, and Knights
Clerk: Linda Stevens

Unitary Councillor Sedgwick was also in attendance for part of the meeting.

One member of the public

Apologies for absence: Councillor Michael Sayers

25. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 June 2024

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 June 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26. To declare Councillors' interests in items on the agenda: None.

27. Presentation on the role of the new Leyburn and District Community Anchor Organisation

Councillors received a presentation by David Poole on the support that would be provided to all communities under the new North Yorkshire Council Community Anchor Organisation in both emergency and non emergency situations. This outlined the structure, interfaces and responsibilities of the Leyburn and District Community Anchor Organisation (LDCAO) whose area of cover included Preston under Scar.

As part of his presentation, David emphasised the importance of each community having an up to date Community Emergency Plan in place and providing a copy of that to the North Yorkshire Resilience Forum. It was recognised that communities and Councils would not all be able to provide the same level of resources and support and one of the roles of the LDCAO was to look at where specific resources (for example sandbags and generators) were and weren't available and how they might be shared. No central budget was available to fund any equipment required but in some limited cases Councils had been able to identify and obtain grant funding.

It was noted that although the Council had made some progress with developing an Emergency Plan for Preston under Scar, progress had faltered on some aspects. It was recognised that it may not be possible for all sections of the Plan to be fully completed but it was essential that the Plan, in its current state be revisited and completed as far as possible.

Resolved:

- (1) That Mr Poole be thanked for his presentation;**
- (2) That the draft Community Emergency Plan for the village be revisited and completed as far as is reasonably possible so that it can be signed off by the Council and submitted to the Resilience Forum.**

28. Action taken since the last Parish Council Meeting on 20 June 2024

Moor Road update – an update was still awaited from North Yorkshire Council in respect of both the flue structure and possible further work to improve drainage

Village Road Surface - although a mechanical sweeper had attended to sweep the road through the village, the service had not (despite being requested to do so) contacted the Parish Council in advance to enable the Council to assist with encouraging residents to park elsewhere on the days concerned.

Village Play Area – North Yorkshire Council had confirmed that it would carry out the proposed work to the play area (minute 19 of the Parish Council meeting on 20 June 2024) and that the work will be scheduled in for early winter before Christmas. The Parish Council would be notified of the date for the works, once this has been agreed.

29. Decisions taken by the Clerk since the last meeting

Resolved:

That the following decision taken by the Clerk since the last meeting, under her delegated powers, be noted:

Subject of decision:

To submit representations to OFWAT in respect of their consultation PR24 – Draft Determinations for 2024 Price Review.

Summary of information considered:

Information received from the Ilkley Clean River Group via the Stop Ure Pollution Group and a suggested letter of representation

Outcome of consultation with Parish Councillors

Decision Taken:

On behalf of the Parish Council, to submit the representations attached as the Appendix to this report.

Date of Decision: 16 August 2024

30. Finance and Banking

Resolved:

(1) To note the following opening balances as at 1 September 2024:

Current Account: £ 9,666.24

Savings Account: £ 2,307.35

(2) To note the following payments authorised by the Clerk since the last meeting of the Parish Council under her delegated authority:

Payee	Item	Payment Type	Amount
DCN	Grass Cutting: June	BACS	£330
	July	BACS	£330
	August	BACS	£150
Town & Parish Council Websites	Annual Website hosting charge	BACS	£180

(3) To approve the First Quarter Financial Review for 2024/25 as submitted to the meeting,

31. Village Maintenance:

(1) Oak Tree, Light Lane – it was reported that this tree had lost a significant branch over the summer and that there was a possibility that further branches might be lost/broken in high winds.

Resolved:

That the Clerk ask Bolton Estate whether the Estate’s Woodman can provide advice on any necessary works to the tree and, if possible, carry out those works.

(2) Benches – it was reported that the bench outside the play park (by the water tank) was defective and that the seat ribs on one of the benches in The Stanney were broken.

Resolved:

That arrangements be made for the above benches to be removed and disposed of.

32. Cemetery

Councillor Higham reported that she continued to explore options for obtaining trees for the cemetery and was now looking at prices for larger trees than saplings. She had contacted the Woodland Trust for advice but it appeared that they would require an area of several hectares and one possibility might be to plant a few trees in the cemetery extension and use the surplus in Spring Wood. She was also considering phasing the planting, starting in the south east corner of the extension and then progressively landscaping other areas over time.

In relation, to the layout of the burial plots in the extension, although a map showing where the water pipe ran through that area had been obtained for Bolton Estate, it was considered advisable to engage a contractor to trace the actual line on the ground so that the plot layout could be designed to ensure that no plots were located over or very close to its route.

Resolved:

- (1) That Councillor Higham continue to explore options for tree planting/landscaping in the cemetery extension**
- (2) That the Clerk obtain quotes for tracing the line of the water pipe under the extension.**

33. Biodiversity

Councillor Knights presented a progress report on this progress which he felt was making slow but not negligible progress. The circular letter to residents had attracted little response but he felt that the project was finding its feet, although it needed some refinement. There had been a steady trickle of sightings and David Brooks was to be thanked for his work on developing a database for their recording. Contact had been made with a number of bodies and possible next steps were to:

- Hold a further meeting of the working group in the autumn.
- Continue developing connections with the Yoredale Natural History Society, the NEYEDC, the Woodland Trust, the Rivers Trust project, etc.
- Continue developing spreadsheets of observations.
- Organise a 'bioblitz' event – e.g. in Spring Wood. Contribute pages to the new PC website.
- Collate an anthology of photographs representing the variety of habitats within the Parish. Invite one or more speakers to an event
- Contribute to the landscaping of the extended cemetery.

Resolved:

That Councillor Knights be thanked for his work to date on this initiative and that his report be noted.

34. Redesign of Village Website and migration to gov.uk domain name and Email addresses for Parish Council business

The Council considered a report by the Clerk and Councillor Sayers which invited the Council to approve a brief for the new website, which would be used as the basis for seeking quotes from new suppliers. The report recommended that quotes be sought from 3 companies who were included on the Cabinet Office list of Approved Domain Registrars who were experienced in working with the Parish sector and were able to provide a specified range of support.

Resolved:

- (1) That the specification for the new website, as submitted, be approved and be used in seeking quotes;**
- (2) That the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Sayers, seek quotes from 3 companies included on the Cabinet Office List of Approved Registrars who are able to provide a “one-stop-shop” service for domain name, website and email addresses for the Clerk and all Parish Councillors**
- (3) That, once obtained, the quotes be submitted to the Parish Council along with any clarification/additional information requested to assist the Council in selecting a supplier.**

35. State of roadside verges along Preston Mill Lane

A resident had drawn Councillors' attention to the overgrown vegetation along Preston Mill Lane, which had resulted in the lane becoming dangerous to walk down as there was now nowhere off the road to stand to avoid traffic. In addition, several of the marker posts (on the south side of the lane were almost totally obscured and one or two were lying on the verge, possibly having been hit by Vehicles.

Resolved:

That the Clerk write to North Yorkshire Highways requesting them to cut back the verges along Preston Mill Lane and to reinstate the red and white marker posts in the interests of all road users.

36. Dog Fouling

A resident of the village had drawn Councillors' attention to the current problems with persistent dog fouling in the vicinity of their property. Councillors noted that, in this case the fouling was occurring on land which was privately owned but to which the public had access. Councillors agreed that it was unacceptable that some dog owners/walkers failed to pick up and dispose

of their dog's own faeces safely in sealed bags, either in the litter bins in the village or in their own domestic waste.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council write to all residents in the village to remind them of the need to clear up and safely dispose of their dogs' faeces.

37. Planning Applications

New Applications : None notified

Upcoming Applications: None notified

Update on Previous Applications:

ZD24/00273/FULL - Full Planning Permission Proposed Extension of Existing Horse Stable Building and Position Relocation on Land to the North at Paddock At Harry Wood Os 4896 Wensley Station, Preston Under Scar, North Yorkshire (*planning permission granted*)

ZD24/00009/CLD - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed for replacement of all existing windows and one door at Sakhir Cottage, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire (*the Parish Council had no objections to the granting of this Certificate – awaiting decision*)

ZD24/00084/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Single Storey Extension to Existing Dwelling and Detached Garage at Low Scar Barn, Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire (*the Parish Council had no objections to this application – awaiting decision*)

23/00129/LBC - Listed Building Consent for Replacement Roof to Existing Modern Lean To Garage at 2 Preston Mill, Wensley Station, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AG (*the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal - awaiting decision*)

38. Date and Agenda Items for the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk consult Councillors on a date for the next Parish Council meeting, to be held in late November/early December 2024, unless any issues arise which require an earlier meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN

