

# PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs J Tomblin (Chairman), Cllr S Rawlinson,  
Cllr Mrs H Lynas Cllr S Cameron, Cllr C Brennan, Cllr A Holmes

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs R Morton (Clerk), Cllr Mike Evemy

### 1 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr A Stone, Cllr Spivey

### 2. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct

**2.1 To Receive Member's Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda** - None

**2.2 To Receive Updates to Members' Register of Interests** – None

### 3. Minutes from Previous Meetings

**3.1 Acceptance and signing of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **RESOLUTION 38/25-26**

The Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Tomblin, seconded Cllr Lynas, 3 in favour, 3 abstentions.

3.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

- Play Area Monkey Bar Repair

**ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote from Greenfields for repair.**

- To note change of date for Spring Litter pick – now 18<sup>th</sup> April @10.00am

**ACTION: Clerk to obtain stickers from CDC and inform them about the litter pick.**

**ACTION: Cllr Tomblin to get litter pickers from UBICO.**

## 4 Procedures

**4.1 To Review and Adopt IT Policy**

**4.2 To Review and Adopt Data Protection Policy**

**4.3 To Review and Adopt Media & Communications Policy**

Councillors reviewed the above policies and with one change to the media policy, the above policies were adopted. Proposed Cllr Tomblin, seconded Cllr Rawlinson, all in favour.

**4.4 To Review and Adopt a Grant Awarding policy**

Councillors reviewed the policy and agreed to adopt it. Proposed Cllr Tomblin, seconded Cllr Holmes, all in favour.

**4.5 To consider format and date for Annual meeting in May**

It was agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The Annual Parish Council meeting will start at 6.30, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.00.

Cllr Holmes agreed to contact some wildlife experts to ascertain whether one would be able to give a talk at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr Holmes to report back to Council and all Councillors to consider alternative speakers should Cllr Holmes not be able to find someone suitable.**

## 5 To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors – Cllr Lisa Spivey and Cllr Mike Evemy

Cllr Evemy reported on:

The local governance review boundary between Cirencester and Preston holding discussions with officers and with the Parish Chair and Clerk. His understanding is

that the officer recommendation for the Council meeting will be not to change the current parish boundary. The rationale being that the new Unitary Authority will be undertaking a boundary review within its first term so to have one now would be premature. The meeting at which this will be decided is March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Council agreed its budget and set the Council Tax on 23 February. CDC's precept for a Band D property will go up by £5 a year as in previous years. CDC has set a balanced budget without the use of reserves and are able to fund the £6 million investment in replacement waste vehicles without borrowing.

Cllr Every played an active part in the consideration by the Council's Planning and Licensing Committee of the proposed development at Siddington Park Farm including attending the Committee and speaking twice as well as attending the site visit. The application was refused by the Committee on design and listed building impact grounds. It is likely that the applicant will consult further with the community and the Council to try to come back with a revised proposal which would be more acceptable.

CDC has written a third letter to the Government about the Council's housing targets which included comments made in response to our Regulation 18 Consultation. The Council will publish a summary of those responses later this month.

Cllr Tomblin asked about potholes – Cllr Every suggested that Cllr Spivey would be better placed to answer any questions.

**6 To Receive Questions and Comments from the Public – N/A**

**7 To Receive Chairman's Report – Cllr Mrs J Tomblin – no report was required.**

**8 Playing Field**

- **Update on Lease** – the Clerk reported that the Lease is imminent, but the solicitors cannot give us a date yet.
- **Update on tree works and closure.** – the tree works have been completed, and the playground is open again.

**9 Village Hall**

- **Minutes of the Oct, Nov & Jan Meetings (circulated)** - noted
- **Verbal Report from Trustees** - Cllrs Brennan & Cameron reports that the Village Hall Committee are working hard in their Terms & Conditions and getting the H & S policies and requirements up to date.  
Cllr Cameron reported that Mrs C Sutton would like to give up monitoring the defib, and could the Council find another volunteer to do that.

**ACTION: Cllr Brennan to talk to Mrs C Sutton to ascertain what is involved with a view to taking on that responsibility.**

- **To discuss invoicing arrangements and the hire of the hall.**  
Currently neither the PC nor PCC pay for their use of the hall. The Council agreed that should the Village Hall Committee decide to charge them, they would be happy to pay for the hire.

**ACTION: Cllrs Cameron & Brennan to bring this to the next VH Trustee meeting and report back to Council.**

**10 Village Affairs**

- **Response to Highways Queries and to Consider 50/50 share of cost to replace Gateway at Wiptpit Lane.**  
The Clerk reported that the gateway was on order (email from Gill

Portlock 16.12.25). The Council has agreed to pay 50% of the cost of the gate once invoiced by GCC.

The speed limit sign has been replaced.

- **Update on Defibrillator grant request** – The Clerk reported that the grant has been submitted and we are awaiting the outcome.
- **To note the absence of a Newsletter due to lack of articles submitted.** Discussion took place. The Council extended huge thanks to Abbi Holmes for her sterling work in taking on the newsletter and editing it. It was agreed that it was a shame that no articles were forthcoming from the community. The monthly list of dates is still emailed out, and 20 printed copies are distributed to those not on the email distribution list. Cllr Lynas suggested that approaching people individually asking them to write something specific may garner more results than a blanket appeal for articles. It was noted that the Village WhatsApp group was used to advertise events. There is a concern that planning notices are being missed and so it was agreed to put out an email regarding signing up for planning alerts.

**ACTION: Clerk to send out a mail chimp regarding signing up for CDC planning alerts.**

## 11 Finance

- 11.2 **To Receive Bank Reconciliation and a statement of accounts up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
Received without comment and signed by the Chair.

11.3 **To retrospectively approve payments in the normal course of business.**

It was resolved to approve the payments as presented, proposed Cllr Tomblin, seconded Cllr Rawlinson, all in favour.

11.4 **To Consider and agree to appoint an internal auditor**

It was agreed to appoint an internal auditor.

POST MEETING NOTE: Mrs J Smith who had previously carried out the audit, can no longer do so.

**ACTION: Clerk to source an alternative auditor and report back to Council.**

## 12 Planning

12.2 New Planning Applications

**26/00254/FUL** | Erection of single-storey side extension, rear infill extension, loft conversion with juliet balcony, and porch alterations with associated works | 19 Kingsway Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5XA – Deadline 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

**The application was permitted on 06.03.2026.**

12.3 **Planning Applications Awaiting Decision**

**25/01623/FUL.** Land At Grid Reference 401975 198339 Spratsgate Lane Siddington Gloucestershire Installation of solar farm, associated infrastructure, ancillary battery storage units and grid connection cable run.

Awaiting Decision – noted.

**24/01563/LBC** Old Farm House Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR Replace 5no. windows on front elevation

Awaiting Decision – this application is going to the planning committee.

12.4 **Decision Notices Received**

**24/02513/FUL** | Development of land and erection of buildings to expand an existing Integrated Retirement Community (Use Class C2), including landscaping, parking,

access and associated works | Siddington Park Cirencester Road Gloucestershire GL7 6GU – **REFUSED**

**25/03734/FUL** | Change of use of land to accommodate new vehicular access and landscaping. Erection of single-storey dwelling extension and two-storey garage extension; annex refurbishment | Preston Mill South Cerney Road Cirencester Siddington GL7 6ET – **WITHDRAWN**

**25/03735/LBC** | Erection of single-storey dwelling extension and two-storey garage extension; Internal alterations to the utility / living rooms and annex refurbishment. New vehicular access and landscaping | Preston Mill South Cerney Road Cirencester Siddington GL7 6ET – **WITHDRAWN**

**25/03892/FUL** | Change of use of land to residential and installation of solar panels. Part-retrospective | Blackthorns Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR – **PERMIT**  
Cllr Cameron reported that adjacent neighbouring properties had not received any notice regarding this application or any previous ones at this site.

**ACTION: Cllr Evemy to ascertain which properties should receive statutory notifications**

**ACTION: Clerk to email Mr Warren with details of the previous applications**

**ACTION: Clerk to send out copies of planning notices to adjacent properties in the future for significant applications to ensure that neighbours are aware.**

**26/00007/TPO** | T1 Ash. Fell. Basal rot, tree in decline and leaning towards the care home T2 Ash. Fell. Basal rot, tree in decline and leaning towards the care home TG3 Mixed species. Fell dead trees in group (mostly elms) T4 Magnolia. Fell. Cavity in the base of the tree, high target area | Hunters Care Centre Cherry Tree Lane Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5DT – **PERMIT**

**26/00331/TCONR** | Tree has been blown over and is fallen on lawn it needs to be reduced and removed | Church Farm Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR – **NO OBJECTION**

#### 12.5 Tree Works

**26/00263/TPO** | Cherry tree to reduce by 40% and reshape | Preston Mill Barn Siddington Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6ET – no comment.

**26/00127/TCONR** | T1: Horse Chestnut - 30% Crown reduction to allow light into the home and garden. This has been done before so will conform to the previous cut points. | Village Farmhouse 78 Preston Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5PR – no comment.

#### 12.6 Planning Correspondence

- **Email from CDC re LGS designation: To consider and agree whether to go ahead with the designation of the Playing Field.**

Discussion took place. It was agreed to not pursue the designation, particularly in light of the lease on the playing field being imminent

12.7 **Any Urgent Planning Items Received since Publication of the Agenda** – none.

**13 Correspondence received.**

- **Circular emails from GCC & CDC.** – noted.
- **Email From Andrew Tubb, Cirencester Town Council re Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution 06.02.26**  
Cllrs Tomblin & Stone and the Clerk will attend and report back to Council.

Plus Any Urgent Items Received since Publication of the Agenda – nil of note.

**14 Any Other Business**

**Please Note:** Decisions cannot be taken under this item. It is an opportunity for Members to bring issues to the Council's attention or items for future meetings.

**15 Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting**

Date Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Annual meeting of the Village at 6.30pm  
Date Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed .....