

# Preston Brook Parish Council

**MINUTES OF PRESTON BROOK ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 8:30PM ON TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT PRESTON BROOK VILLAGE HALL,  
SANDY LANE, PRESTON BROOK, CHESHIRE, WA7 3AW.**

## **Members Present:**

A Price, J Walton, C Murray, K Dainty, M Marlow, P Bolton.

## **Also Present:**

Luke Trevaskis - Proper Officer, Ward Cllr Peter Lloyd-Jones, Ward Cllr Colin Hughes, and 6 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr L Sanders.

### **2. Declarations**

Cllr Alan Price noted an interest in Preston Brook Village Hall.

Cllr Kerry Dainty noted an interest in the proposal for future partnership working with Heatherfield Heritage.

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

### **5. Police**

Members noted that there had not been a report received from the Police.

### **6. Public Realm**

An update was received regarding the £3K that had been allocated for open space improvement works. The Council noted a contractor had been identified for Bridgewater Grange and there has been an agreed scope of works. Members noted that the contractor had so far been unable to start, and the Council approved for a second contractor to be approached to commence work.

Members received an update regarding the planters.

Ward Councillors agreed to chase Jimmy Unsworth regarding the additional boulders for Bridgewater Grange which had been agreed to be provided by Halton BC.

It was noted that there had not been an update regarding the weed control in the parish, and further contact would be made with Jimmy Unsworth to understand when this will be undertaken.

It was noted that the sandstone wall has been repaired on Windmill Lane.

It was noted that no update had been received from Halton Borough Council regarding the Horse Chestnut Tree. The Council agreed for the felling to be undertaken, after Halton BC had been provided with notice for urgent works to proceed due to Health and Safety. It was noted that three Oak trees would be planted in the new year.

It was noted that no timeline had yet been provided by Halton Borough Council regarding the repair work to the sandstone wall on Windmill Lane.

Residents were thanked for undertaking some clearance of pathways in the parish.

## **7. Finance**

The Council approved Month 4 and Month 5 budget reports and bank reconciliations for FY2425.

## **8. Planning**

The Council noted that liaison between Halton BC and the developer regarding Planning Application 22/00203/FUL had still not concluded.

The Council agreed to continue working on its objection, subject to receipt of final documentation.

9. **Ward Councillor Report** - a report was received regarding repair work that had taken place to a pothole. It was noted that Shopping City was privately owned and there was little influence Halton BC had over its future development. More frequent pathway clearances were requested by members and it was noted that work has been programmed for between November and February. A contractor had used incorrect equipment and a local blocked gully had not been draining correctly, this has resulted in flooding on Windmill Lane and an order has been raised to address this through additional gully cleansing.

10. **Traffic Monitoring** - the Council resolved to delegate the procurement of software to monitor the speed of vehicles in the parish to the PO, to be coded to the Highways budget. Members noted that the existing SID would be moved shortly, and it was requested that this be recalibrated to ensure it was operating effectively. It was noted that traffic monitoring equipment had been installed on Chester Road and Windmill Lane, which was understood to relate to a speed monitoring survey being undertaken by the Liverpool Combined Authority.

11. **Communications** - it was requested that the next newsletter clarify the meaning of the term 'S106'.

## **12. Conservation Status / Neighbourhood Plan**

The Council agreed to hold a Neighbourhood Plan Consultation evening on 26 November 2024, between 6-8pm. A poster will be designed for the Spa and Noticeboards.

## **13. Next Meetings**

It was noted that the next meetings of the Council would be held on:

Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 8.30pm

Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 8.30pm

## **14. Public Forum**

### **STREET LIGHTING**

Several residents expressed concerns regarding the amount of light pollution around estates during the hours of darkness. It was agreed to ask Halton BC why street lights remained on all night.

### **DOG FOULING**

A resident discussed the amount of dog fouling on pathways and asked if the Council could post on Facebook to remind residents to pick up after their pets.

**IVY ON FOOTBRIDGE**

It was noted that the ivy on the footbridge had been reported to Halton BC. Some has been cut. However, the other side still requires clearance. The ivy originates from private property.

**15.Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Council agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds that information discussed in the following items may be confidential.

**16.Heatherfield Heritage**

The Council agreed to explore potential partnership working with Heatherfield Heritage - the PO to prepare a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

**17.ChALC**

The Council acknowledged the response from Jackie Weaver, ChALC, concerning its proposed motions for the Annual General Meeting of ChALC's membership, which were designed to improve diversity of representation. The Council agreed to seek further guidance from NALC on how member councils can meaningfully influence the direction of their local Association. Specifically, the Council seeks clarity on how councils can openly discuss and propose amendments to the Association's constitution and policies with other membership councils, in a transparent and accountable way, without encountering undue censorship or limitations on debate.

The Council noted vacancies existed on the ChALC Executive Board, and Cllr Cathy Murray agreed to submit a nomination. The PO agreed to make contact with peers to gain support.

**Signed as a true record**

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**Chairperson**