

# Preston St Mary Parish Council

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## Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 27 September 2016 in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Bardzinski; Hanlon; Martin

District Councillor Clive Arthey

Sylvia Watson, Parish Clerk; 2 Members of the Public

**In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Bardzinski agreed to Chair the Meeting:**

1. (i) Council agreed to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Kerrie McGrory; Peter Bisson; Alan Luck; Mat Shenton; because of work commitments.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**  
(i) There were no disclosures of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests on the matters to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**  
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 31 May 2016 were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
4. **Public Forum:** To receive comments from the Public.  
It was reported that the Village Green was formally registered as such about 30 years ago. Before that it was regarded as Common Land.  
A further complaint was made about speeding tractors through the village. A suggestion that some form of traffic calming should be installed and contact to be made with the farmer about the matter.
5. **To receive Reports from County and District Councillors:**  
**County Councillor Jenny Antill's Report:**  
I am sorry that I cannot be with you, but I am away on holiday.  
All has been quite quiet at the County Council over the summer months.  
**Devolution community engagement:** The Community engagement exercise for the Suffolk/Norfolk devolution deal officially closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. However it is still possible to express your opinion directly to Suffolk County Council prior to a decision on the matter by councillors in early November.  
Over 2500 submissions have been made as part of the consultation by people completing the online survey. Ipsos-Mori has also been carrying out more than 6000 phone surveys across the two counties to ensure decision makers have a representative sample of views. To my mind the way in which the questions were framed in the on line survey was unsound, and led people towards a positive response. Also only a small proportion of those questioned claimed to have much knowledge of the issues involved.  
I did not vote for the deal last time around, and, unless I feel that there is overwhelming real support for the proposals from the public, or something unexpected comes to light, will not do so in November.  
I am happy to discuss this further with anyone who would like to contact me.  
**A level and GCSE results.**  
In August we received preliminary A level and GCSE results for Suffolk students.  
As far as GCSE's were concerned more of Suffolk's 16 year olds achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and maths this year.  
Provisional results collated in Suffolk suggest a 4% rise in the number of students reaching the threshold in English and maths (currently a C grade or above). Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools show 63% have achieved the threshold in English and maths compared with 59% of these schools achieving this in 2015.  
The results also saw a significant improvement for disadvantaged pupils – these are looked after children and pupils eligible for free school meals.  
The overall pass-rate for A-levels has also continued to rise.  
Almost 3000 pupils were entered in Suffolk, although yet to be verified the figures show that 98.5% of pupils achieved A\*- E, in comparison to 98% in 2015. 76% of pupils achieved A\*-

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C, in comparison to 77% in 2015. A lower figure here reflects results across the country. Early indications show that our academic average points per entry at 32.9 is above the national average figure and an improvement on last year, although direct comparisons are difficult due to a change in the Government's score system.

**Jenny Antill, September 2016**

### **District Councillor Clive Arthey's Report:**

#### **Devolution:**

The consultation results seem to indicate support for the East Anglia Devolution proposals in Suffolk and Norfolk, but maybe not with a directly elected Mayor. Over the summer there have been major changes in Government nationally and further discussions will be taking place during September and early October, after which we should know if the proposals are still supported by the Government.

#### **Chief Executive, Babergh and Mid Suffolk:**

During the period between the departure of our Chief Executive and the recruitment of her successor, BDC and MSDC have appointed Deborah Cadman (Chief Executive of SCC) as temporary Head of Paid Service.

#### **Conversation on Growth - Building a Sustainable Future and Call for Sites:**

Following on from a series of briefings on housing and employment growth, and consultation during the summer, the Call for Sites closed at the end of August. Submissions are being considered and Parish Councils will be advised on supported sites early in the New Year. Probably unlikely to affect Kettlebaston directly, but may affect neighbouring parishes. Local plan consultation will follow (probably late spring).

#### **District Electoral Review:**

Some wards (including North Cosford) are now outside the 10% variance for electoral equality. Firstly the review will establish the number of councillors for the district and arrive at a median number of electors per ward. Wards should then be within 10% of that figure to ensure electoral equality. It will involve changes to ward boundaries (not necessarily all), but should not split parishes.

#### **Capital Investment Strategy:**

The Government's Revenue Support Grant is reducing (might be zero by 2020) and Councils have to look to other sources of income. BDC is able to borrow £25million at very low rates to invest in land and buildings to generate a return and support its budget. Hopefully much of this will be investment in the district which will help support our market towns.

#### **Accommodation Review:**

Decision 20th September on four options: 1: MSDC and BDC operate from BDC Hadleigh HQ. 2: MSDC and BDC operate from MSDC Needham Market HQ. 3: Both councils move to SCC offices at Endeavour House, Ipswich. 4: MSDC and BDC build new joint HQ. Both BDC and MSDC Conservative administrations favour SCC offices in Ipswich.

#### **Funding event to be held in Lavenham on the 19th October.**

***\*Please also look at information in the Town and Parish Council Newsletter circulated by email.***

**Clive Arthey, September 2016**

### **7. Clerk's Correspondence:**

(General correspondence has been circulated by email, prior to the meeting and any matters arising have been added to the Agenda.

**a. Complaint re Trees on the Village Green:** We are continuing to receive complaints from a resident regarding certain trees on the village green causing interference with utility and telephone services, despite action having been taken by the Parish Council. The complaints now suggest that the height of the trees may be a problem. The matter will be further investigated.

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**b. Request from a researcher to view all Parish Council Minutes.** Minutes of Meetings held by the Parish Council have been deposited with the County Records Office in Bury St Edmunds. Minutes of Meetings from the 1940's to the 1980's are not available and the Council has been advised they were destroyed in a fire.

**c. Meetings with the Safer Neighbourhood Team:** The local police are now holding meetings regarding their work at various venues in the county. The next local meeting will be in Hadleigh Town Hall commencing at 6.30 pm on Monday 21 November.

**d. Website:** Suffolk County Council will no longer be hosting the parish websites from November 2016 and have passed this to Community Action. There will in future be a charge for this service.

**e. Data Protection Registration:** We are now registered with the Information Commissioner.

**f. Draft Emergency Plan:** This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**8. Finance:**

**(i) Audit:** The BDO Report was read and approved by Council. The Notice of conclusion of the Audit has been displayed on the notice boards.

**(ii) Bank Reconciliation as at 30 September 2016**

**Bank statements at 31 August 2016**

Barclays Community Account: 20724386:

Opening Balance	£5986. 01
Closing Balance	£5879. 01

**Barclays Business Saver Account 10640956 as at 30 June 2016:**

Opening Balance	£ 500. 84
Closing Balance	£ 500. 90

**Receipts since 31.08.16:**

Newsletter	£36. 00
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**Cheques awaiting payment:**

30.9.16	100528	Insurance	£190. 17	
	529	Newsletter Printing	£100. 80	
	530	PCC grant	£400. 00	
	531	Village Hall grant	£250. 00	
	532	Clerk's salary and office costs	£507. 58	
	533	HMRC tax	£111. 60	
	534	SALC (VAT to be claimed back)	£50. 00	
	535	Info Commissioner Registration	£35. 00	<b>£1645. 15</b>

**Summary:**

Community Account	£5879. 90
Business Saver Account	500. 90
Receipts since 31.8.16	36. 00

**£6416. 80**

Deduct cheques awaiting payment	£1645. 15
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**£4771. 65**

(Total includes Transparency Funding of £1645)	£1645. 00
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**£3126. 65**

**9. Planning:**

**(iv) Application B/15/00525** Refurbishment and Extension to Swift's Farm Riding Centre – permission granted within defined Red Line Plan.

It has been reported that contrary to an approved planning application, stables have been erected on the field opposite the Riding Centre. The Planning Office has been informed.

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Plans for a small development of houses and bungalows, together with a car park for village hall users was displayed for councillors and members of the public to view. These plans have previously been seen at a village hall meeting.

**10. Questions to the Chair/Reports from Councillors**

(i) It was reported that the verge of the Village Green opposite Parsonage Farm remains in poor condition. Sylvia will contact the builder to request this be repaired.

(ii) It was suggested that the Parish Council contacts previous Council Chairman to ask if they have further information about the missing Minutes.

(iii) A councillor reported that a stone statue has been taken from the garden of a house on the green.

**11 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 October at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

**Minutes signed by the Chairman, Councillor Kerrie  
McGrory .....**

**Date .....**