



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 10th February 2025 @ 7.30pm
Prestwood Village Hall, Wycombe Road
Prestwood HP16 0NZ

- Public Forum:** Representatives from PEACE CIC
Representative of Prestwood Community Association
- Present:** Cllr A Hewett – chair
Cllrs: Cook, Johnstone, Lee, Marshall, Martin, Pither, Pusey, Bunting
- 2024/032 **Apologies:** Cllrs Bains, Gladwin, Humphreys, Ormesher, Stevenson
Not present: Cllr Lovegrove
- 2024/033 **Declarations of Interest:**
Items 064 & 066 – Cllr Hewett
Item 059 – Cllr Bunting
Item 060 – Cllr Pither
- 2025/034 **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2025** – were approved and signed as a true record.
- 2025/035 **Matters arising –**
- Castle Water Ballinger Allotments – a refund has been received of £514.33. This was due to the meter only being located recently.
 - Prestwood Community Centre – the water heater cupboard in ladies toilet has now been repaired for £150.
 - Prestwood Community Centre insurance claim – the invoice from Harcross Specialist Contractors for £1,441.47 has now been received. This is the VAT portion of the insurance claim for the vandalism last year. This is usual procedure as the council is VAT registered and can reclaim this.
 - Prestwood Community Centre - the broadband contract for one year, at £16.45 + VAT / month has been renewed. This is within the agreed budget.
 - Tetherdown – it has been noted that vegetation cuttings have been left on the parish owned land at Westrick Walk. It may have been left by an adjacent resident, this will be confirmed and requested to be removed.
 - A disbursement invoice for £58.20 from Wellers in regard of Prestwood Recreation Ground legal work has been received and was approved by Cllr Johnstone.
 - Police and Crime Commissioners fund is now open for applications - the parish council will apply for the 2 x solar powered MVAS units. The closing date for application is Monday 24th February 2025.
- 2025/036 **Councillor Vacancy** – Two candidates were present at the meeting to be considered for the proposed co-option to the Prestwood & Heath End vacancy. Cllr Bunting proposed and Cllr Cook seconded the nomination for Martin Everitt and this was resolved by majority vote.
- 2025/037 **Elections** – the information on the upcoming parish council elections was noted. Nominations are open on 18th March and close on 2nd April at 2.00pm. Completed paperwork must be hand delivered. The clerk offered to take any completed nomination papers to Bucks Council Offices in Aylesbury on Monday 24th March. Any contested ward candidates will be published on Bucks Council’s website on 3rd April. The election is on 1st May.
- 2025/038 **MVAS – South Heath - groundscrew** – it has been difficult to find a supplier for the replacement groundscrew. Truvelo (UK) Ltd have provided a quote for £1,750 + VAT for a new style of groundscrew, which will only fit two of the mobile poles. However, they may have one old style groundscrew which they have quoted £750 +

VAT. The parish council resolved the cost of the old style groundscrew, but if not available then the cost of £1,750 + VAT for the new style groundscrew was approved by resolution. The cost of £193 for the streetworks licence was also resolved. These costs will be taken from the budget for MVAS equipment with any extra funds required to be taken from general reserves.

- 2025/039 **Taxi Consultation** – the council discussed Bucks Council’s latest taxi consultation regarding the proposed approach to minor motoring offences. The council resolved by majority result to support the more moderate approach, noting the reliance on taxi services in the parish.
- 2025/040 **Wycombe Road, Prestwood** – speed reduction to 30mph – the commission and design quote has been received for £13,956.64 + VAT. This is within the £15,000 which was approved, allocated from general reserves, at the November 2024 & December 2024 meeting. This was again resolved by the council, as part of the £30,000 which has been allocated as an earmarked reserve in next years budget. The invoice was received just prior to the meeting today and has been added to this months’ payments.
- 2025/041 **Parish Cup** –nominations for the resident(s) who walked the extra mile for the parish last year were discussed. It was agreed to advertise in the upcoming Source edition for nominations from the parish by the 7th March. It was agreed to postpone the presentation to April meeting so that the decision can be made at the March meeting.
- 2025/042 **South Heath Defibrillator** – the cost for a new electrical connection at South Heath crossroads and associated costs to power a new defibrillator were discussed. The approximate costs for a solar powered cabinet were also discussed. (Approx £3,600 + VAT for solar powered cabinet or £5,000 for new electrical connection and additional costs for a brick kiosk, electrical supplier, concrete plinth and electrician costs.) The quote for £3,600 + VAT for solar powered cabinet was approved by resolution, acknowledging that there would be further costs for a concrete plinth to put the cabinet on. A Community Board application has been applied for the cost of the defib itself which has already been approved by the council (£1,400 + VAT). A quote will be provided for concrete plinth and installation of defib cabinet. Planning application/certificate of lawfulness will be required as will streetworks licence of £193 to install concrete plinth. This cost was also resolved.
- 2025/043 **Red Lion/Station Road/SANG – Abbey Park, Great Missenden**– it was noted that the expression of interest to manage this Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) at Abbey Park had been sent to Bucks Council.
- 2025/044 **Sustrans – Great Missenden Village Gate** – update – the response from Sustrans regarding the proposed new village gate on the Aylesbury Road were noted. This includes confirmation that the existing village sign will be removed, rejection of the idea for a red road surface and confirmation of proposed various warning signs. Unfortunately, the requested positioning of the new gateway village sign at the entrance to the village, directly from A413, was refused on grounds of size and highway visibility. The council approved the request to refute this and ask Sustrans and Bucks Council to reconsider this.
- 2025/045 **HS2 Road Safety Fund** – Update – it was noted that there has still been not decision regarding the South Heath Road Safety Fund application, not the parish council’s application in conjunction with The Misbourne School with proposals for London Road, Great Missenden. It was noted that there was to be a further meeting to

discuss these projects by Bucks Council, including their Highways technician, and an update will be provided by Peter Martin, Bucks Council.

2025/046 **Pride Flags** – proposal to display flags in June – this was discussed and it was resolved to submit a planning application for 15 progress flags in the Great Missenden conservation area, with additional progress pride flags in Prestwood. The cost of the planning application of £568 was approved by resolution. It was noted that exact locations of the flags would be required in order to submit the application.

2025/047 **Prestwood Community Centre** – Electricity Renewal – a two year contract with EON was resolved by unanimous vote. The estimate of £2,088.33 for the first year was noted to be within budget line.

COMMITTEES - Planning

2025/048 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **3rd February 2025** – were approved as a true record and will be signed at a later date.

2025/049 **HS2- Update**

1. General HS2 project – Excavation of the trace has been paused for the wet weather season and any major soil movement is unlikely to recommence until March.

2. Small Dean Viaduct – the 345m Small Dean Viaduct just south of Wendover was pushed across A413, Small Dean Lane & Chiltern rail line. This was carried out over four days. A shared foot & cycle path will also be delivered by HS2 alongside the main road as it passes under the viaduct between the A413 London Road roundabout and the houses near Rocky Lane. The viaduct's beams are made from weathering steel. Structurally the viaduct beams will use an innovative double composite approach, similar to the nearby Wendover Dean Viaduct. Now the deck is in position engineers will begin the next stage which is lowering it by 60cm onto its permanent bearings.

3. Rail Systems Transition Update – once the Main Civils Works Contractors have completed the civils construction the sites will be used by the HS2 railway systems contractors. They will fit out the mechanical and electrical systems for the operational railway. The main rail systems contractors will be brought together under a collaborative Rail Systems Alliance. It is planned that all members will collaborate on design, access, resources and logistics to achieve common goals for cost and schedule. It is planned that the initial design stage of the work will be completed and ready to mobilise as soon as the civil works are complete.

4. Main Civil Works Contractors – further topics which need to be discussed include:-

- the box tunnel design for the Leather Lane overbridge
- the impact of the closure of Rocky Lane from February 2025 for six months, probably followed by the closure of Leather Lane for six months
- the impact of the Rail Systems Alliance becoming involved.

Open Spaces and Lighting

2025/050 **Annual Tree Survey – Report and recommendations** – the recent risk assessment report was noted, as were the arboriculturist's recommendations for work. As the list is quite short it was suggested that a quote to carry out all the work at once would be more economic. Quotes will be provided. The arboriculturist's advice on recent concerns raised by residents was also noted. (Greenside tree outside 42/44,

- Collings Walk Trees and Greenlands Lane boundary trees – all of which raised no safety concerns and would be monitored until the next survey in 18 months.)
- 2025/051 **Buryfield Replacement Trim Trail** – update – the advert for the tender has been placed on Contracts Finder website. The closing date is Friday 14th February. Cllrs were invited to meet at the parish office on Monday 17th February @ 10.00am to assist with opening and reviewing the tenders.
- 2025/052 **Prestwood Colts – Football pitches** – the request from the Colts for ideas for further pitches for use by the Colts, for their recently expanded, 18 teams to train and play on. Any suggestions will be forwarded to the clerk.
- 2025/053 **Tetherdown – grass damage** – the quote from Sextons for £75 + VAT was resolved. This is to repair the grass damage at Tetherdown.
- 2025/054 **Tennis Courts** – update – the cleaning of the two courts at Buryfield is now completed. It was noted that it was recommended that there should be an additional moss treatment in October and an additional wash of the courts in November. Quotes will be provided for this work to be considered.
- 2025/055 **Ballinger Common – Path** – the proposal for a certificate of lawfulness to be submitted for the Ballinger Path was resolved, as was the cost of £250 for this.
- 2025/056 **Request to use Buryfield – Circus & Lighthouse** – a request for 2026 for the use of Buryfield by the circus for Sunday 2nd August – Sunday 9th August was discussed. Lighthouse have already indicated that their event will run from Sunday 19th July – Monday 3rd August in 2026. Given the advance notice it was resolved to ask the circus if they can consider any alternative dates for 2026.
- 2025/057 **Biodiversity Policy** – the policy was reviewed and adopted with no amendments. It was agreed that the next review period would be in two years' time.
- 2025/058 **Streetlight Repairs** – update – the repairs to Abbey Walk, column 27 and Walnut Close, column 30, to LED bulbs at £185.00 + VAT each, was resolved.
- 2025/059 **Land at London Road – PEACE CIC – Request for lease** – the council discussed the request for a 3 year lease from Prestwood Ethical & Community Enterprises (PEACE) for the land at London Road in order to create a community vegetable growing space. PEACE have the support of The Misbourne School and there are plans to apply for funding to install fencing and employ a horticulturalist to help manage the project. Although it was felt that this was a good idea in principle, there were concerns expressed regarding the large size of the land requested and practicalities such as the cost of fencing, water supply and available parking. There would also need to be appropriate consultation with the parish before leasing the land. It was suggested that two vacant allotments at Greenlands Lane could be offered to PEACE, at no charge, in order to start their project. PEACE will discuss this offer and respond to the council.
- 2025/060 **Request to use Prestwood Rec & Common – Prestwood Community Association** – the council approved the request for use of Prestwood Common & Prestwood Recreation Ground on Saturday 21st June for a community event.
- 2025/061 **Request for rugby goal post at Ballinger Common** – the request from a resident to replace the old football posts at Ballinger Common with some combination football/rugby posts was discussed. The council requested quotes for further consideration.
- Finance and General Purposes**
- 2025/062 **Draft Health & Safety Policy** – the council approved by resolution to adopt the Health & Safety Policy with minor amendments.

- 2025/063 **Parish Office – telephones** – the updated quote for £700.88 + VAT for the VOIP telephone system, hardware and setup costs, was approved by resolution.
- 2025/064 **Grant Request – The Source** – the grant request for £630 for insurance was approved by resolution.
- 2025/065 Payment of accounts for **February 2025** numbers **243-266** for the sum of **£40,399.61** (inc VAT) were all agreed and sundry items of **£36.53** were ratified.
- Editorial Working Party**
- 2025/066 ‘The Source’ – Cllr Hewett advised that she was now a director of The Source and that the next edition was due at the end of the month. A meeting of the editorial working party was due on Wednesday 12th February at 5.30pm
- 2025/067 **Reports from Representatives to outside Groups**
- Great Missenden Village Association – Cllr Johnstone reported back from the recent meeting.
- 2025/068 **Clerk’s Report** - this was noted.
- 2025/069 **Matters for information** – none.

Meeting closed : 9.50pm

Future Meetings

- a) **Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 3rd March 2025 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre**
- b) **Parish Council – 7.30pm Monday 10th March 2025 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre**