Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th June 2026 @ 7.30pm

Prestwood Village Hall, Wycombe Road
Prestwood HP16 0NZ

Public Forum: A representative of Prestwood Community Association

Present: Cllr A Hewett - Chair
Cllrs: K Allan, C Bains, C Bunting, L Cook, M Everitt, J Gladwin, R Griffin, M Johnstone, M Lee, V Marshall, V Martin, K Pither
Also present: Jane Hennessy, clerk

2026/165 **Apologies –** Cllrs J Hewitson, S Parker & R Pusey

2026/166 **Declarations of Interest**
Item 172.2 – Cllr Pither

2026/167 **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2026** were approved at a true record and signed.

2026/168 **Matters arising**
- Chequers Lane Hedge damage has been repaired by Graham Sexton with a chain link fence for a cost of £145 + VAT.
- Security alarm contracts for Parish Office & Meeting Room came in for renewal same cost as last year and within budget.
- Two rails are noted broken on Buryfield fence – quotes for repair are being sought.
- Feedback from the recent photo exhibition was very positive. It was agreed that the photographs needed sorting now that the exhibition was finished.

2026/169 **Proposal to consider meeting in Ballinger Village Hall –** it was agreed to hold the September council meeting at Ballinger Village Hall. Cllr Parker advised that this would be available at no charge.

2026/170 **Guide Hut**
1. Lease – the clerk updated the council that the lease has now been signed by the parish council and received by the solicitors. Confirmation is awaited regarding the signature from the District Scouts.
2. Asbestos Management Policy – this was resolved and adopted by the council.

2026/171 **Wycombe Road Speed Reduction** – **update** – the £2,095.22 additional payment requested for additional costs including post inspection survey was approved by resolution.

2026/172 **Prestwood Community Centre**
1. Working Party Meeting 14th May – the detailed notes were discussed.
2. Prestwood Community Association – request to waive charges for hire - this item was withdrawn and an invoice will be sent to the PCA
3. To consider redecoration quotes – following the resolution on item 189 below. The quote from S Graham for total for redecoration throughout, of £6,350 + VAT was resolved by majority vote. Item 189 resolved the increase in earmarked reserve for refurbishment of the Community Centre to £17,000. The council agreed to postpone the painting until the quotes for the cupboard carpentry have been considered. Currently these quotes are awaited.

2026/173 **To consider the order of agenda items**- it was discussed but agreed to continue with the current order of the agenda.

COMMITTEES - <u>Planning</u>

2026/174 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **1st June 2026** – were approved and will be signed at a later date. The two call ins to the County Planning Committee recommended will be sent to the county councillors to progress.

2026/175 **Meeting with Thames Water** – Cllr Bunting & Everitt updated the council on the recent meeting. Articles were suggested on proper use of drains for a future edition of The Source. It was also noted that recent power cuts affected the water supply in Prestwood and it was agreed to write to Affinity Water regarding this.

2026/176 **Greenlands Lane, Prestwood** – the appeal response which has been submitted to the inspectorate, under clerks delegated powers was noted. It was also noted that there was a date for the hearing of 28th July @ 10.00am. Councillors were encouraged to attend.

2026/177 **HS2- Update**

1. HS2 Reset & Progress – the latest report was published by the Secretary of State for Transport on 19th May. The expected cost is now in the range of £87.7-£102.7 billion. This is a huge increase in the previous cost range and are due to a combination of necessary works that were missed from the scope of the original plan, under estimation and inefficient delivery. A third of the cost increase is linked to inflation. The delivery of the opening stage is now expected between 2026-2039. The review makes clear that progress on completing the civil engineering is at least four years behind schedule. The long term intent is for a full new rail line connecting Birmingham and Manchester but no decisions have been taken on the specifications or timetable for delivery.

2. Progress on construction sites – the construction of the ancillary building at the north portal is completed. The GMI/12 overbridge is nearing completion and it is hoped to make use of this soon. Construction continues on the green box section of the Leather Lane overbridge. Wendover green tunnel is also still under construction.

3. Community Engagement – Further drop in sessions are planned at Great Missenden Memorial Centre on 16th September & 18th November 5-7pm.

Open Spaces and Lighting

2026/178 Open Spaces Committee – **Minutes of meeting 13th May 2026** – these were approved and will be signed at a later date.

2026/179 **Annual Play Equipment Inspection** – The annual safety inspection reports were discussed and the required actions relating to the moderate-risk items were noted. The quotation received for repairs to Buryfield Skate Park, totalling £3,336.53, was considered. The quotation had been obtained via a third-party contractor; however, they advised that they were unable to undertake the works within a reasonable timeframe and recommended that the Parish Council contact Lightmain directly.
It was resolved to approve the expenditure of £3,336.53 for the Buryfield Skate Park repairs, subject to confirmation of the quotation and arrangements for the works being undertaken directly with Lightmain.
The Parish Warden will contact Lightmain to discuss the repairs and progressing the works directly with the Parish Council.

1. Ballinger wooden pig – it was noted that some of the wood is now rotten and the quote for £185 + VAT by Graham Sexton to remove the pig was approved by resolution. It was agreed to retain the pig in order to see if it is possible to repair/replace the damage section, perhaps with resin or investigate if a replacement to be made.

2. Gryms Dyke – the quote from Graham Sexton for £865 + VAT to replace two swings was approved by resolution. Both these swings were highlighted as moderate risk in the annual safety report.

2026/180 **Buryfield Tennis Courts –**the council agreed the colour for the bonding & coating of the two tennis court as two shades of green.

2026/181 **Request to Use Buryfield – Great Missenden Football Club** – the continuing use of Buryfield was approved by resolution.

2026/182 **Request for memorial tree – Prestwood Common** – the council considered the request for a memorial cherry tree on Prestwood Common in memory of Cllr Steve Humphreys. This is instead of the previous memorial bench agreed. A location on Prestwood Common was also approved.

2026/183 **Buryfield Benches –** following the vandalism and removal of two wooden benches the council approved the following replacement quotes:-
- Blueton – supply and deliver 2 x green metal benches - £1,694 + VAT
- G Sexton – Concrete installation of 2 benches - £450 + VAT
This will be taken from the earmarked reserve for replacement benches.

2026/184 **MVAS Replacement Battery** – the quote for £320 + VAT from Tracer Power for a replacement battery was approved by resolution.

2026/185 **Gryms Dyke hedge** – the draft letter for adjacent residents to Prestwood Recreation Ground regarding the proposed hedge to replace the knee rail fence was approved.

2026/186 **Streetlighting – Electricity Contract renewal** – as the quote wasn't available for the meeting the council approved a maximum of £10,500 for a one year contract.

2026/187 **Request to use Buryfield 2027** – **Lighthouse** – the dates between Monday 19th July 2027 – Monday 2nd August 2027 was agreed with the terms of the agreement to be agreed nearer the time.

2026/188 **Allotment Competition – Judging** – all councillors were invited to take part in the annual judging of all allotments, scoring sheets are available from the clerk and judging should be completed by the end of July.

Finance and General Purposes

2026/189 **Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 –** the parish council considered the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2026.

1. The **Annual Accounts & Earmarked Reserves** as at 31st March 2026 were received and resolved. The following additional earmarked reserves were also resolved; an increased refurbishment reserve for Prestwood Community Centre, streetlight electricity & column survey reserve and Prestwood Community Centre cleaning & rates reserve.
2. The **Internal Auditor's Report** for the year ended 31st March 2026 was received and it was noted that the report contained no matters of concern.
3. The Council read and considered the **Annual Governance Statement** (Section 1). Having reviewed the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control, it was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026.
4. The Council considered the **Accounting Statements** (Section 2) for the year ended 31 March 2026 and it was resolved to approve the Accounting Statements.
5. The dates for the **exercise of public rights** in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 were noted.
6. It was resolved that the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return on behalf of the Council.

2026/190 **Insurance –** the additional insurance premium from Zurich of £74.19 to cover additional assets and surfacing was resolved.

2026/191 **Data Audit**

1. The audit report from Breakthrough Communications was noted. All audited areas carried a green weighting (strongest indication of compliance).
2. The subscription renewal for Breakthrough Communications of £595 + VAT was approved. This is included in the budget. It was noted that this price includes a £100 discount which may not be available the following year.

2026/192 **Mileage Allowance – Increase** – the recent HMRC increase in mileage claims for staff to 55p/mile was noted. It was resolved to adopt the revised rate for parish council employees with effect from 1st June 2026. It was noted that this constitutes a variation to the contracts of employment of the clerk, deputy clerk & parish warden.

2026/193 **Complaints Procedure** – this procedure was adopted by resolution.

2026/194 **Request for Grant – GMVA/Parkrun** – it was resolved to award a grant of £500 towards the set up costs of a junior parkrun on Buryfield. The funding will be taken from general reserves. The council noted that the funds will be paid to GMVA who will act as the administering body on behalf of the local organisers.

2026/195 **Request for Grant – Prestwood School** – the council considered a grant application for £10,000 towards a replacement playground at Prestwood School. It was noted that the budget has already been set for 26/27 and the council is currently prioritising fundraising towards the replacement of the Buryfield skate park. It was also noted that there may be limitations on the statutory powers to provide this funding. The request for a grant was therefore not approved.

2026/196 Payment of accounts for **June 2026** numbers **56-81** for the sum of **£26,553.99** (inc VAT) were agreed and sundry items of **£27.55** ratified.

Editorial Working Party

2026/197 'The Source' – Cllr Allan reminded all of articles due for the next edition and also to send through any ideas for articles for future issues.

2026/198 **Reports from Representatives to outside Groups**

GMVA – Mending the Misbourne – it was agreed that Cllr Johnstone should represent the parish council on this working party.

2026/199 **Clerk's Report –** noted.

- Upcoming staff holidays and possible parish office reduced hours were noted.

2026/200 **Matters for information -** none

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Future Meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 6th July 2026 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre

b) Parish Council Meeting– 7.30pm Monday 13th July 2026 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre