



PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 February 2020 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Cllrs P Orme (Mayor), B Burn, A Cropper, J Cropper, T Johnson, K Nicholls, N Patrick, A Tarpey-Black, D Williams, L Woodhouse, K Woods.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council; 2 members of the public.

208a(1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Drobny.

208b(1) Absent without apology

None

209(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Woods – item 8

Cllr Johnson - union interest (employment matters).

210(3) Minutes of the last meeting

Councillors **resolved** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020.

211(4) Public participation

*At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting at 7.05pm to allow non-councillors to speak.*

Members of the public raised the following:

-the problem of inconsiderate parking on Plantation Avenue, with residents being blocked in by vehicles. It was also reported that a member of the public had slipped on the mud churned up by vehicles parking on the grass.

In response: Cllr Williams to raise an agenda item for March.

-A proposed new sports hall at St Aidan's.

In response: Civic events committee agenda item re letter of support.

Update from County Cllr Matthew Salter:

-Coniston sink hole – United Utilities has conducted investigations and concluded that it is not an issue with the sewer. Lancashire County Council (LCC) is conducting further investigations.

-20mph signs on Pilling Lane – Will chase this up again.

-Resurfacing work on Pilling Lane through to Green Dicks Lane – Inconsistency in mapping software regarding start of Green Dicks Lane has meant the resurfacing

work will end at Little Tongues Lane. Unlikely that the remainder will be completed as would be classed as a new job. No problem with council writing directly to LCC.
-Zebra crossing installation – This is in hand with an allocated budget, will seek substantive information.

-Road condition near Shirley's Pies – LCC has accepted there is an issue, both he and County Cllr Shedwick are keeping the pressure on.

-Possibility of a priority sign near the Round House in Preesall, as traffic is entering the area marked for pedestrians – LCC has put a line in directing traffic to centre of road. LCC has concluded that placing priority signage at that location could make it more dangerous.

-Sink hole on Rosslyn Avenue – Cllr Cropper reports that it has been looked at and is considered safe at present.

*At the conclusion of the public participation and at the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting at 7.25pm.*

212(5) Finance

Councillors **resolved**:

a) To note receipts in January	150.00
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b) To approve the following payment:	Payment type	
Payroll	BACS	3455.13
Clerk's expenses on behalf of council	BACS	63.85
848 Services Ltd (INV. 9002)	BACS	9.48
Viking (INV. 884523) overpayment of £5 on last invoice means actual payment will be £96.21	BACS	101.21
In Bloom (Partial balance of funds in council's accounts to Unity, resolution 177(19/20)), leaving £10 funds to cover bank charges prior to closure of account.	Chq 0052	2502.87

c) To note cheques signed outside of the meeting:	Payment type	
Cllr Nicola Pattrick - 14 May, Planning £25.00 Cllr Anne Tarpey-Black - 13 and 27 June, New Councillors and Clerks £63.00 Cllr Tony Johnson - 10 September, Community Engagement £25.00	Chq 300021	113.00

d) To note the following payments by direct debit	
Easy Web Sites (hosting fee, SSL certificate)	46.80
O2 (mobile phone contract)	10.20
LCC (contributions)	981.07
LCC (deficit)	8.33

e) To note the statement of accounts for month ending 31 January 2020	
RBS current account	£59027.79
Unity current account	£42,777.87
Hampshire Trust Bank	£35,000.00
In Bloom	£2512.87

213(6) Action plan

Councillors noted the contents of the council’s Action Plan updated to reflect quarter four activity.

214(7) Signage

i) Jubilee Garden

The possibility of placing a fingerpost near the end of Plantation Avenue at its junction with Lancaster Road was discussed. Councillors to peruse the locality and be prepared to make suggestions at the next meeting.

Resolved: that the clerk should obtain a quotation from LCC for a three fingered post.

ii) Warning Signs.

Resolved: that the clerk should purchase two ‘litter picking’ road signs and five cones at a cost of £150.00 inc VAT and delivery.

215(8) Trophy

Resolved: that the clerk should purchase the following trophies to be presented at the gala for the Gordon McCann scarecrow competition: a shield at a cost of £140.24 to be awarded to the best business scarecrow and five glass shields (one for each of the next five years) at a cost of £20.50 each, to be awarded for the best family scarecrow.

216(9) Bench

Resolved: that the clerk should purchase a Phoenix bench from Glasdon, counter sunk ready to receive a plaque to be sited near the ramp leading from Coniston Avenue.

217(10) Fordstone seating area

Councillors discussed the quotations available for the creation of a flagged area with planter and placing of a WWI memorial bench and bollards in Preesall, at the junction of Fordstone Avenue and Sandy Lane.

Resolved: that the contract to undertake the hard landscaping be awarded at a cost of £1,680 and that no further quotations be obtained as four prices had already been sought.

218(11) Noticeboard at Fordstone Avenue

Resolved: that (1) the noticeboard should be plastic/composite; (2) the decision on the style and size of board to be made by the civic events committee; (3) the clerk to seek other funding streams; (4) the clerk to put a notice in the press advising the council’s intention to place the noticeboard.

219(12) Pothole repairs

Resolved: that Cllr Patrick would write a letter to Mark O'Donnell at LCC inviting him to meet with her, Cllr Salter and the mayor to discuss the township's potholes. The letter to be shared with the clerk prior to being sent.

220(13) Best Kept Village Competition

Cllr Cropper to attend the village representatives meeting at Samlesbury Hall.

Resolved: that the council would take part in this year's competition. Cllr Orme to complete the forms and determine the outstanding features in the village for entry.

221(14) Tourist attraction for Barton Square

Further information was passed to the clerk regarding a Viking re-enactment group.

Resolved: Not to purchase the suggested 'Viking'.

222(15) Mayor for the civic year 2020/21

Councillors are asked **to consider** nominations for the office of Mayor for the civic year 2020/21.

Cllr Woods proposed and Cllr Tarpey-Black seconded Cllr Woodhouse.

Resolved: to nominate Cllr Lynda Woodhouse as the mayor elect of Preesall Town Council for the civic year 2020/21.

223(16) Arrangements for Civic Sunday 2020

The mayor-elect to make contact with church representatives re a suitable date – possibly 14 June.

224(17) Arrangements for Annual Town Meeting 2020

It was explained that the meeting is not a town council meeting and will not be set up as such. It will be convened by the mayor and the clerk will take minutes; councillors will not be present in their official capacity.

Resolved: that the Annual Town Meeting take place at 6pm on 20 April at Preesall Youth and Community Centre.

ITEMS 18 to 23 and ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

225(18) Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

FOKEL - The group will be holding four events in February.

KE light railway - It was pointed out that contrary to the report provided (copy in minutes folder) by the group, Harold Elletson wasn't present at the meeting.

Halite/Brine watch – Proving very difficult to make contact with the group.

Health (all aspects) – VE Day event proposals – will liaise with civic events committee. Mental health support group moving from Church to the Working Men's Club. The mental health facility in Blackpool is to close. Cllr Johnson attending a conference re training community members on blood pressure monitoring.

Housing – Contact has been attempted re the problem near Fordstone Avenue.

Preesall Youth and Community Association – AGM on 27 January poorly attended.

Accounts had been scrutinised and were in order.

Tourism – Coastal footpath is out for consultation. Meeting with Blackpool Transport planned for next week. RSPCA dog show likely to be 30 August.

Wyre Flood Forum - Flood prevention measures are being planned for Preesall Hill, with tree planting and Leaky dams. A very good response from the fire brigade with two pumps in position within position in less than an hour.

Christmas Community Events committee – Eleven people had attended the meeting, Anne Tarpey-Black elected chair, Karen Woods is secretary. Next meeting is on 8 March at Youth and Community Centre. Christmas Fair will be 28 November 2020. Youth – Child and adolescent response team looking at Front Room, association will try and support them and may do DBS checks.

Cllr Williams left the meeting at 9.30pm

226(19) Verbal reports from Wyre councillors

It was reported that tickets would go on sale for the Wyre Lottery on 18 February. A roadshow regarding the new bins would visit on Tuesday 25 February and be parked outside the wet fish shop in Knott End.

Query re the increase in cost of the green bin if non-direct debit payment made. Was advised that this was because of the additional admin cost and this is the first increase since charges began.

Query re safety of garage on St Bernard's Avenue and whether this could be investigated.

Cllr Burn left the room at 9.45pm

227(20) Clerk's report Lengthsman's report

No report available

Banking

In Bloom

The In Bloom group has now set up its new bank account. An initial payment of the funds held in the council's accounts will be made in February with monies being retained to cover expenditure already committed. Once those cheques have cleared the final payment will be made and the account will be closed.

PTC

RBS has acknowledged that its level of service has fallen below that which could be expected. As a result, it has credited the council's bank account with £150 compensation.

Councillor training

Training workshops have been booked for:

Cllr Nicola Pattrick - 14 May, Planning

Cllr Anne Tarpey-Black - 13 and 27 June, New Councillors and Clerks

Cllr Tony Johnson - 10 September, Community Engagement

Bench siting on sea wall

A suitable location for the bench purchased last year has been identified near the top of the ramp leading from Hawkshead Avenue. This will be put in position shortly.

Flying flag with Preesall Coat of Arms

A response has been received from the Rouge Dragon Pursuivant at the College of Arms stating that the council may fly a flag displaying its own coat of arms from the council's own property.

Container

The clerk is to meet the contractor carrying out the groundworks to ascertain the methodology and machinery to be used. This will then enable the application for the groundworks licence to be completed.

Planter

The council has borrowed one of the planters from the In Bloom group to cover the hole in the pavement left by the Christmas tree. A more permanent solution is to be discussed at the Civic Events Committee meeting and the proposal brought back to the council.

Website accessibility

The clerk attended the website accessibility training course run by SLCC. Representatives from Easy Web were also present. A number of disability-friendly tools were used on the site and it (along with other non-Easy Websites were found wanting). Easy Web is developing an accessibility-friendly website for another client and believes that it will be easier and more cost-effective to replace the existing Preesall TC website with the newly developed one. Information gleaned from the meeting is to be built into this new website. Approximately ten other local councils using Easy Web software are affected by these changes. Once a fully working product is available, the company will work with clerks to provide information that can be brought back to the council.

Joint meeting

The joint meeting of Over Wyre parishes to discuss common issues is to be held at 7.00pm on 24 February at the Youth and Community Centre, Preesall.

NALC news

Review of Councillor Code of Conduct

Over the last couple of weeks, colleagues from NALC and county associations have attended workshops convened by the Local Government Association (LGA) on developing a new model code of conduct. The sessions were attended by representatives from bodies across local government, including monitoring officers, who considered types of codes and what the content of the recommended new code should be, by way of case studies, plus consideration of the role of social media. Issues raised included sanctions, training and interests. In terms of next steps, a draft model code, to be consulted upon in coming months, is expected, as the LGA is aiming to publish the new code at its conference in July.

NALC Spring Conference 2020, 17 March, London

NALC Spring Conference 2020 is an essential event for the local government sector, bringing local (parish and town) councils together with other sectors to share, celebrate and advance the crucial work local councils do to build stronger communities.

The conference will focus on one of NALC's key campaigns for 2020, health and wellbeing, and how local councils can create healthier communities.

The conference will include speakers on the latest health and wellbeing policy issues, interactive panels, dedicated time for a Q&A to ask your questions, promoting good practice and an expanded sector-specific exhibition showcasing products and services that can support your council's needs. In addition, there will be a range of sessions to help answer some critical issues, such as:

- what are the health challenges communities are facing?
- how are different tiers of local government collaborating?

- reaching out to help local councils tackle hidden disabilities.
- how can the public and private sectors work together?

To find out more and to get your tickets go to www.nalc.gov.uk/springconference .
Late rates will begin on 2 March - prices start from £260.

Lancashire County Council news

To partners and stakeholders

We are seeking the opinion of partners and stakeholders on Lancashire County Council's proposed budget for 2020/21.

We are consulting on Cabinet's budget proposals for the coming financial year, which are contained within "Money Matters" Cabinet reports and can be viewed here. We apologise that this is later than in previous years as the timing of the consultation has been impacted by the General Election, however unlike recent years we are proposing a budget for 2020/21 which will not require the use of reserves to support any funding gap and we are not proposing any specific savings proposals for Cabinet and Full Council to consider as part of the budget setting process. This reflects that we are implementing and delivering a significant savings programme running over several financial years, which has been agreed in previous years' budget processes, and the impact of the one-year finance settlement which has recognised the significant pressures on social care, particularly with additional funding for social care and the temporary continuation of the revenue support grant. One aspect of this additional funding is the continuing flexibility granted on council tax for adult social care and we are proposing to apply a 3.99% council tax increase with 2% of this to be used for adult social care.

We would like to hear your thoughts on this proposal.

Feedback will be considered and reported to our Full Council meeting on 13 February when the budget is set.

County Cllr Salter was asked for an update on the tree cutting on Park Lane. He agreed to chase this again.

228(21) Mayor's report

The mayor reported that he had attended the Candlemas service at Blackburn Cathedral.

229(22) Questions to councillors

Cllr Johnson said he may be able to provide advertising for VE Day.

230(23) Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be held on 9 March 2020 at 7.00pm - councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and provide updates from working groups by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 27 February 2020** at the latest. The item should specify the business which it is proposed be transacted, in such a way that the members who receive it can identify the matters which they will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify either what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 10.00pm.