



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1 June 2020 at 10.30am via Zoom video conference

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

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council.

1a(1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Drobny, Cllr Patrick, Cllr Williams

1b(1) Absent without apology

None

2(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Johnson - union interest (employment matters).

3(3) Minutes of the last meeting

Councillors approved as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 2 March and 23 March 2020.

4(4) Public participation

*At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** not to adjourn the meeting as no members of the public were present.*

5(5) Dates of future meetings

Resolved: to hold meetings on the second Monday of each month in line with Government guidelines.

6(6) Finance

a) 2019/2020 Budget Outturn and Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Councillors were talked through the recommendations of the finance committee which had undertaken a full review of the audit documentation.

Councillors:

- i) **Resolved:** To approve Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 and agreed questions 1 to 8 could be answered yes and question 9 as not applicable.
- ii) **Resolved:** To approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20. Councillors acknowledged that it had been prepared and signed by the

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Signature.....

Responsible Financial Officer (RFO/Clerk) as confirmation that the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They also **resolved** to accept the figures as presented and for the Mayor to sign and date the form to confirm that the accounts had been approved by the council at the 1 June meeting.

- iii) **Resolved:** To accept the Internal Audit report as presented and approve the response and planned actions prepared by the clerk.

b) Effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit report

Resolved: to accept the report.

Councillors thanked the clerk for the effort she had put in to ensure a positive audit.

7(7) Grant applications

Councillors considered the applications from each of the following:

- a) **Knott End writing group – Resolved:** to provide a grant of £110 to the group.
- b) **Lyrics and lunch – Resolved:** to provide a grant of £200. In future years councillors would wish to see that applications had been made for funding to other local councils whose residents benefit from attending.
- c) **Preesall and Knott End In Bloom team – Resolved:** to provide a grant of £500 to the team.

8(8) Public rights of way grant

Resolved: To accept the grant of £500 Lancashire County Council to undertake maintenance of paths and signage within the parish.

9(9) Questions to councillors

- What can the council do about the increase in building without planning permission within the village? It was acknowledged that this was on the increase and that local borough councillors had visited a number of alleged breaches and reported these to Wyre Council's enforcement team. Where a nuisance is being caused it would be helpful if neighbours would also report this to enable joint action with other Wyre departments such as Health and Safety.
- Two councillors had attended the Halite panel meeting prior to lock down. The intention now is to store hydrogen gas within the caverns. Wyre councillors were aware of the plans.
- Councillor activity on social media. Councillors were reminded of the need to use discretion when posting on public websites. In recent weeks a number of posts had been made, some of which were totally unacceptable. Councillors are allowed to post in a personal capacity, however, they need to be aware of public perception and need to ensure that it is clear that any comments made are their personal views and not those of the council. Even then, they should not be making defamatory comments as the public rarely differentiates between a councillor as a councillor and a councillor as an individual.

PART 2

10(10) Exclusion of the press and public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) and 1(3) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council may resolve to exclude the press and public to discuss the long-term sickness absence of a member of staff.

Resolved: to exclude the press and public.

Resolved: to accept the proposals of the personnel committee and for a letter to be sent to the lengthsman informing him of the council's position following its receipt of the occupational health report in May.

Resolved: to return to open session.

The next meeting of the council to be held on 13 July at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 11.25am.