

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 April 2014 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

**Present:** Councillors R Drobny (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, P Moon, J Mutch and P Orme.

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council.

### **(13-14)222 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Nicholls and Taylor and the reasons accepted.

### **(13-14)223 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11 Proposed Transfer of Monies to In Bloom Account) and Item 12 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Mutch declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11 Proposed Transfer of Monies to In Bloom Account as she volunteers with the group.

### **(13-14)224 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2014 be agreed as a true record.

### **(13-14)225 Public Participation (Including a Verbal Police Report)**

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

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk gave a short report on crime and anti-social behaviour. In March 2014 there had been 10 crimes compared to 7 in March last year and 11 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 8 in the same period last year.

Cllr Mutch reported that a resident had concerns at the height of the birch trees on the perimeter of the playing field and Cllr Orme agreed to consult Wyre Council's Tree and Woodland Officer on what might be done.

Cllr Greenhough reported that a resident who is a wheelchair user felt that the ferry was not appropriate for wheelchair users. Councillors agreed that there were problems at the Fleetwood side if the tide was low and advised her to contact Carl Green at Wyre Council.

Councillors expressed concern at the badly cracked paver in the Jubilee Garden and it was agreed that this would be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Hudson reported that skateboarders were using School Lane/Smithy Lane and he was concerned that there could be fatalities if skateboarders were unable to stop in time. He asked that the Police keep a close eye on the situation particularly during school holidays. Councillors agreed that it would be helpful to make the schools aware of the situation so that they could talk to pupils. Cllr Orme reported that PC Gary Cross will try to help obtain a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner for the skatepark.

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

### **(13-14)226 Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme**

Councillors considered an invitation from LCC to undertake public rights of way maintenance work on

their behalf. The scheme provides for an up-front payment of £200 for administration, assessing work and some minor strimming jobs and pays a rate for each job accepted. Councillors **resolved** to accept the invitation for a further year.

**(13-14)227 Proposed Double Yellow Lines, Ash Grove, Preesall**

Councillors considered a proposal by LCC to introduce a new no waiting restriction on Ash Grove, Preesall. Councillors **resolved** to support the proposal.

**(13-14)228 New Notice Board for Barton Square**

The Council had made budget provision for a new notice board in Barton Square and **resolved** to purchase a new notice board from Greenbarnes in “man made wood”. Councillors further **resolved** to purchase the largest notice board available and to delegate that decision to the Clerk.

**(13-14)229 Moles on the Playing Field**

Cllr Orme reported that there had been a recent problem with moles on the playing field and councillors **resolved** that the various options be investigated and considered at the next meeting.

**(13-14)230 Spring Newsletter**

Councillors **resolved** that the spring newsletter include articles on what the public would like to see in the villages, the new sea defence work, the new notice board and an update on the playing field development.

**(13-14)231 Planning Applications**

**14/00211/FUL**

**Proposal:** Relocation of existing vehicle access and remodelling of existing front boundary wall

**Location:** Mill View Cottages, 255 Park Lane, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

**14/00257/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey front and two storey rear extensions and erection of front, side and rear dormers

**Location:** Knowsley, Lancaster Road, Knott End

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

**14/00051/FUL**

**Proposal:** Proposed replacement and extension to existing stable block, new horse walker and new entrance gate, brick piers and walls to access

**Location:** Blueberry Stables, Lancaster Road, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the development is too large for the site, the site suffers from flooding and further development will exacerbate the problem and the development is likely to contaminate local waterways and impact on wildlife.

**(13-14)232 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

Donations (In Bloom)	£560.00
Carphone Warehouse Business	£200.00
One Stop Stores	£300.00
LCC	£207.00
Reserve account interest	£2.48

Wyre Council £51,683.00

**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£1960.56
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£18.66
HMRC	£287.34
Lancashire Association of Local Councils	£568.75
Society of Local Council Clerks	£184.00
Viking	£55.49
Wyre Council	£15.00
Wyre Building Supplies	£10.20
Myerscough College	£195.00
Mrs E Parry	£100.00

**Transfer to be approved:**

Transfer £975.52 from the current account to the In Bloom account.

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.58
LCC Pension	£417.74

**c) Statement of Accounts - March 2014**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for March which shows:

Current account	£9332.82
Reserve account	£20,150.31
Mayor's Charity Account	£240.00
In Bloom Account	£917.12

**d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 4**

The Q4 Budget Monitoring statement is **enclosed**.

Councillors **resolved** to note the receipts, the payments by standing order/direct debit, the statement of accounts and the budget monitoring statement and to approve the accounts for payment and transfer.

**(13-14)233 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

**Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that nothing relating to the parish had been raised at the last meeting.

**Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that, following the decision of the High Court, the Minister now had to re-determine the application. PWG is concerned that the Minister is notifying interested parties that he considers further representations are required on five matters. PWG believes that he should consider what facts were available at the time he made his determination. The Clerk will write to the Minister supporting this view.

**LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that a meeting had recently been held but he had not attended. Garry Payne had represented Wyre Council and talked about the Local Plan.

### **Planning Ambassador**

Cllr Orme reported that the meeting on 24 March had been well attended. There had been a presentation on the Local Plan and why it was being reassessed. There will be a further meeting in the summer. Councillors expressed concern that the change in the planning rules could lead to more housing land availability being allocated in rural areas.

### **Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that the work on Phase 1 was well underway and it was hoped that the tarmac would be laid immediately after Easter. There will be a "launch" event and he hoped Eric Ollerenshaw MP would cut the ribbon. There will be a Chocolate Tombola fundraising event on Easter Saturday.

### **Preesall Youth and Community Association**

Cllr Orme reported that the Centre just about breaks even and needs more hirers. The Association is looking to have a different entrance for the Youth Club to avoid problems in the porch.

### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that the Bloomers have measured the new borders at the corner of Grasmere Avenue and are discussing planting for the coming season. They have collected £640 in sponsorship and donations and £352 had been raised at a coffee morning. Cllr Mutch showed councillors a certificate from North West In Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Level 4 Award for St Oswald's Church.

### **(13-14)234 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr McCann reported that there had been a notice of motion at Wyre Council expressing concern to Blackpool on the removal of concessionary fares from trams. He reported that the Coastal Communities Fund had provided £1.55 million for Fleetwood and he hoped to put bids in for Knott End. £150,000 had been received for a Revive and Thrive Fund to help small businesses across the borough.

Cllr Moon reported that the Community Payback Team could be engaged to give the Esplanade a spring clean. In his view there is already plenty of land identified for housing without land in the rural areas being required.

In the absence of Cllr Taylor, Cllr Orme reported that he had attended the recent 3 Tier Forum and a number of documents will be coming out to parishes. Park Lane resurfacing will begin shortly. Forum members supported the County Councillor with responsibility for health's proposal for alcohol minimum unit pricing.

### **(13-14)235 Clerk's Report (information only)**

Councillors noted the information contained in the Clerk's report in respect of:

#### **Lengthsman's Report**

The Lengthsman has successfully completed LANTRA 12D Traffic Management Static Work T1 course (Registered Traffic Management Operative Single Carriageways). He has completed two of the outstanding public rights of way projects for which LCC have paid and is in the process of repairing the bench near the Bourne Arms. In addition he is in the process of repairing the windows in the notice board.

#### **Vandalism to the Notice Board**

This has been reported to the Police.

#### **Localised Council Tax Support**

Following the negative responsive from Wyre Council, a letter has been sent to the Minister, Brandon Lewis, urging him to look at the number of billing authorities, like Wyre, who have disregarded his expectation that the money be passported to town and parish councils and to take steps to prevent such authorities from acting in the same way in future years.

### **Knott End Beach Clean**

The Wyre Catchment Partnership organised beach clean at Knott End on 18 March removed 20 bags of litter from the beach. A further beach clean takes place on 9 April between 11:00 and 13:00.

### **Grants Available**

Two grant sources are available:

**People's Postcode Trust Small Grants Programme** provides grants for not for profit organisations of between £500 and £20,000. There are four funding rounds in 2014 and eligible projects are as follows: prevention of poverty, improvement of health, promotion of community development, advance participation in sport, promotion of human rights and promotion of environmental protection.

**The Moon Charitable Trust** provides grants in the Pilling, Stalmine, Preesall, Hambleton and surrounding areas to local charitable groups. Grants are generally between £500 and £1000 although larger sums may be awarded. Applications should be made by 1 May 2014.

### **Updated Street Party Guidance**

An interactive "Can Do" guide is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-do-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events>

### **Local Audit and Accountability**

The Local Audit and Accountability Act is now law. It will bring about the abolition of the Audit Commission and introduce a new framework for local audit. This means that town and parish councils will be able to secure their own audit services from 2017. Smaller authorities with a turnover not exceeding £25,000 will be exempt from the annual audit but will be asked to introduce a new transparency code which government is currently consulting on. The new act also introduces changes to parish polls. Introduces new transparency measures including giving the right to local people and the press to film and tweet using social media from any local authority meeting and strengthens the legal status of the Local Authority Publicity Code. More detail on what this means for town and parish councils will follow.

### **Footpath 51**

LCC has agreed to construct ramps at the footbridge and the works were due for completion in mid-March.

### **Repeal of Two Signature Rule**

S150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 required town and parish councils to have all payments authorised by two signatures and this has made internet banking difficult. This provision was repealed on 13 March 2014 and opens the way for town and parish council banking to be modernised. Audit requirements require that any council wishing to take advantage of this change "must formally put in place effective systems and arrangements compliant with proper practices" before removing the two signature requirement. Once the end of year work is completed the Clerk will investigate the issues and report to the Council.

### **Wyre Together Awards**

The Wyre Together Awards have been developed to acknowledge contributions and achievements made by local people and are open to all individuals and groups in Wyre. There are 4 categories of Awards and an individual nominee can be put forward for one category only. The categories are Best Adult Volunteer, Best Young Volunteer (Under 18), Best Community Group and Best Environmental Group. The closing date for nominations is 9 May and forms are available from Jane Williams, Wyre Together Manager e/mail – [jane.williams@cvsbwf.org.uk](mailto:jane.williams@cvsbwf.org.uk) or Telephone – 01253 887437, 07932 335268

**Wyre's I-Bus**

Anyone wishing to learn more about volunteering can visit Wyre Council's i-bus which will be on the Quailholme Road Car Park on Monday 14 April AM and Monday 28 April AM. It will also be on the Shovel's Car Park at Hambleton on Tuesday 15 April PM and Tuesday 22 April PM and Tuesday 29 April PM and Lancaster Road opposite the Elletson Arms, Pilling on Wednesday 30 April AM.

**LCC Commissioning Plan for Wyre 2014-15**

The Commissioning Plan has now been published and has forwarded to councillors by email. If anyone would like a hard copy please contact the Clerk.

**Parish Champion/Moon Trust Grant Application**

An application has been made to LCC's Parish Champion and to the Moon Trust for a grant towards the cost of the new notice board.

**(13-14)236 Mayor's Report (information only)**

The Mayor had nothing to report.

**(13-14)237 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Moon asked Cllr Drobny whether his report to the Annual Town Meeting should have been on what the Town Council had done over the year. Cllr Drobny replied that he felt it important to comment on what had been going on in the villages.

Cllr Black asked Cllr McCann whether there were powers to stop vehicles parking on the footpath. Cllr McCann advised him to ring 101.

Cllr Hudson asked Cllrs Moon and McCann whether a sign preventing overnight parking was needed before action was taken against those parking overnight. Cllr Hudson asked that this matter be placed on the next agenda.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.45pm.