

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 December 2017
at 6.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

Present: Councillors T Reilly (Mayor), R Black, B Burn, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, P Orme, L Woodhouse.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 5 members of the public.

168a(17-18)1 Apologies for absence

None

168b(17-18)1 Absent without apology

None

169(17-18)2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Reilly – agenda item 4; Cllr Woodhouse – agenda item 9.

170(17-18)3 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: 1).That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November in open session be agreed as a true record. 2).That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November be agreed as a true record. 3). To move the minutes of the meeting on 13 November, held in closed session, to agenda item 6 to allow Cllr Drobny to comment.

171(17-18)4 Public participation

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

- A member of the public stated that the mayor had not responded in October to a query she had raised in June regarding a possible lantern event.
In response: the item was discussed and minuted at the July and August meeting of the council and the mayor apologised for any confusion caused.

Cllr Greenhough arrived at 6.23pm.

- The council was asked what progress was being made in respect of additional signage in the village.
In response: planned signage had been put on hold until a decision regarding the future of the ferry was made. Now that more information is available it was proposed that an item be put on the January agenda to consider appropriate signage.
- The council was asked whether it would be possible for Preesall and Knott End to have its own flood forum.
In response: an attempt had been made to establish one on the sea front but there had been a lack of take-up, however, the Sunnyside Terrace group had been quite successful. Cllr Orme said that anyone wishing to establish a flood forum could contact him, as he would be able to advise on how best to approach the task.
- A member of the public had asked Cllr Drobny about councillor attendance at a recent Halite meeting.
In response: Cllr Reilly stated that he had spoken with the individual and his wife regarding their concerns and asked the council to accept that the matter had now been dealt with.
- A member of the public asked what progress was being made with the proposed zebra crossing and raised concern re speeding in the village.
In response: The matter is now with Lancashire County Council which is carrying out post-public consultation work. The Town Council will continue to monitor events and will request an update

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from LCC highways if progress is delayed. The Mayor reported he had received three emails in respect of speeding and that he would be asking for an item on the February agenda to discuss the problem.

- A member of the public mentioned the siting of the zebra crossing and its adverse impact on parking and delivery vehicle turning space.

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

172(17-18)5 Planning applications

17/01017/FUL

Proposal: Front dormer, new front entrance door and creation of a pitched roof to existing rear extension.

Location: 115 Pilling Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde FY6 0HG.

Resolved: to unanimously approve the planning application

17/01047/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and front and rear dormers

Location: 18 Sandicroft Place Preesall Poulton le Fylde FY6 0PB.

Resolved: to unanimously approve the planning application

16/00978/OUTMAJ – notification of an appeal regarding the proposal for up to 70 dwellings on land south of Rosslyn Avenue and the right to modify/withdraw any previous representations.

Resolved: for the clerk to submit previously agreed comments to the planning inspectorate, revised to show the boundary line of the local settlement and recent flooding issues.

173(17-18)6 Exclusion of the press and public

Resolved: Pursuant to Section 1(2) and 1(3) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the press and public to:

- a) discuss a response from the monitoring officer.
- b) update the council on the recent court action.

Resolved: to invite the press and public back in.

174(17-18)7 Finance

Councillors **noted** that the finance working party met at 6.00pm to review December's monthly payments and the statement of accounts and:

a) Councillors approved the following receipts:	
Current account	3420.00
Reserve account	1.39

b) Councillors approved the following payments:		Cheque
Payroll	224,225,226	2602.04
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	224	27.80
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	225	40.00
Preesall Auto Discount Centre (inv.)	227	37.29

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Wyre Building Supplies (inv. 146186,146280,146658,148459,148604)	228	184.66
Wyre Council planning	229	97.50
Broomheads re Xmas lights electricity	230	20.00
Ben Curtiss re Xmas lights electricity	231	16.00
A May re (NMC2676209) newspaper advert for land ownership	232	58.50

c) Councillors noted the following payments by standing order/direct debit	
Easy Websites (hosting fee)	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.28
LCC (contributions)	749.09
LCC (deficit) October	8.33

d) Councillors noted the statement of accounts for 30 November 2017	
Current account	71072.04
Reserve account	30680.13
In Bloom account	3879.31

175(17-18)8 RAF centenary – dedication of flagpole

Resolved: to dedicate the proposed flagpole at the Battle of Britain memorial to the RAF and to invite a representative from RAF Spadeadam to raise the first flag in a ceremony to mark the occasion.

176(17-18)9 Council contact with outside body

Resolved: that Cllr Black, Cllr Woodhouse and Cllr Drobny act as the council's representatives with the Garstang and Knott End Light Railway Society.

177(17-18)10 Councillor attendance on training courses

Resolved: to approve Cllr Hudson's attendance on the following courses: - 8 March chairmanship and 10 May planning and Cllr Woodhouse's attendance on the 8 March chairmanship course, both of which will be held at Howick House, Penwortham.

178(17-18)11 Invitation to Environment Agency

Resolved: Cllr McCann would like to propose that councillors invite the Environment Agency to give an overview of flooding in the area and the Wheelfoot watercourse pumping station at a meeting of the council. Councillors are asked **to approve** the invitation.

179(17-18)12 Message of thanks

Resolved: for a message of grateful thanks to be passed on to the lengthsman and Wyre Council for the prompt help given to residents of Sunnyside Terrace in the latest flooding event and for the clerk to write a letter of thanks to the fire service in Preesall for its assistance.

180(17-18)13 Remediation works – Elmwood Avenue

Resolved: for a letter of invitation, to meet with Preesall Town Council, to be sent to Wyre Council's private sector housing & housing options manager, its enforcement officer and environmental health, to address the issue of ensuring the property on Elmwood Avenue is brought to a safe and habitable standard.

181(17-18)14 Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only) URGENT items only

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr McCann reported that he had attended the committee and had been informed by LCC highways that it was possible for the department to be paid by a third party for road repairs.

Cllr Orme reported that the first Advocacy meeting had been arranged for 23 January from 1-4pm.

182(17-18)15 Verbal report from Wyre councillors (information only)

None

183(17-18)16 Clerk’s report (information only)

Lengthsman’s report

In November the lengthsman continued to clear away fallen leaves and to tidy up generally in preparation for the Christmas Fair and lights switch-on. He assisted in putting up the trees and with the road closure on 2 December. He has also assisted residents affected by flooding and installed road closure barriers with the Wyre and Environment Agency teams in an attempt to stop the ‘wash’ created by vehicles passing through the floodwater causing further damage.

Christmas lights

Additional mini Christmas trees have been put up in Preesall and Knott End along with new festoon lighting in Preesall and in the trees outside the library in Knott End. The clerk has also worked with the volunteers arranging the Christmas Fair to ensure risk assessments and insurance are in place.

Vacancy on Preesall Town Council

Notices of the casual vacancy on the council have been posted on the council’s noticeboards and web page. There is also information on how to apply for the vacancy within the Green Book and in the library.

Response to drink-driving concerns

Inspector Jonathon Smith has responded, on behalf of the Chief Constable, to the council’s letter expressing concern in respect of drink-driving within the township. He has stated that over the Christmas period officers will be specifically tasked with breath test-related activities to combat drink driving and Preesall and Knott End will be very much at the forefront of the tasking and co-ordinating work for the Christmas campaign against drink-driving (which is how officers are put into the place they need to be to be most effective). He has also asked for councillors and the public to report offenders to the police.

Fly the Red Ensign certificate

This year the ‘Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day’ campaign was a huge success, with the British Merchant Navy’s official flag flown at more than 650 locations ashore around the UK - see the impressive ‘Roll of Honour’ at www.merchantnavyday.uk.

Grateful thanks have been passed to the council on behalf of Seafarers UK for its support of this important initiative to raise public awareness of our island nation’s dependence on past, present and future Merchant Navy seafarers.

The council has been provided with a ‘certificate of commemoration’ and it is hoped this will be framed and displayed in a public place.

Next year Merchant Navy Day, 3 September, falls on a Monday. There are no restrictions on when a Red Ensign can be flown ashore in the UK. Seafarers UK hopes that the council will be able to organise a flag-hoisting ceremony on the Monday - and have it flying all week.

Updated register of electors

A revised version of the full register of electors is available for inspection at the Civic Centre, libraries and sub-post offices from 1 December 2017.

PAYE changes

HM Revenue and Customs has announced that from 15 December 2017 it will no longer be possible to make payments to HMRC at the Post Office. The only other option currently available to the council is payment by cheque through the post.

Smaller authorities audit

Under powers set out in Regulation 3 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) was appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as "a person specified to appoint local auditors" and as the Sector Led Body (SLB) for smaller authorities. Smaller authorities are those whose gross annual income or expenditure is less than £6.5 million.

Under the regulations, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. During 2016 various communications outlined that smaller authorities would be 'opted-in' to the new central procurement regime managed by SAAA unless they expressly decided to 'opt out' and correctly followed the various procedures required under statute to appoint their own external auditors.

Preesall Town Council is opted-in to the central procurement process and therefore an external auditor - PKF Littlejohn LLP - has been appointed for the five year period commencing with the financial year 2017/18.

The clerk also reported that the payback team was scheduled to clear the path from Rosslyn Avenue to Beechfield Avenue on Saturday 16 December.

184(17-18)17 Mayor’s report (information only)

The Mayor reported that he had attended a number of events including the choir and been asked to judge the best festive window display with the Mayoress, all of which had been extremely enjoyable.

185(17-18)18 Questions to councillors

None.

186(17-18)19 Items for next agenda

Signage provision within the village.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 January 2018. Councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda by notifying the clerk **in writing** by Thursday 28 December at the latest. A summary of the reason for raising the matter should be provided.

The Mayor reminded councillors that the January meeting would be chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gordon McCann.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 7.50pm.