

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 January 2015 at 6.30pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors P Orme (Mayor), R Black, B Campbell, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch and K Nicholls

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and 4 members of the public

(14-15)161 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Reilly and V Taylor and the reasons accepted.

(14-15)162 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 18 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 (Shop Preesall) as he has a business in the village. The Clerk reminded councillors that they all had a pecuniary interest in item 6 (draft budget for 2015/16) as they were all council tax payers. Councillors noted that those in office at this time last year had all been granted a dispensation by the Council which allowed them to discuss and vote on the precept. Councillors considered a request from Cllr Campbell for a dispensation to allow him to discuss and vote on the precept and the Council **resolved** to grant the dispensation until the next elections in May 2015.

(14-15)163 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2014 be agreed as a true record.

(14-15)164 Public Participation (Including a Verbal Police Report)

The Clerk had circulated the crime figures and narrative provided by Sgt Freaney which showed that, in December 2014, there had been 6 crimes compared to 11 in December last year and 7 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 15 in the same period last year. Annual figures for 2014 had also been circulated and councillors noted the high level of crime and anti-social behavior in the township last year with concern.

Cllr Drobny referred to a response from Sgt Freaney relating to the issue of crimes detected raised at the December meeting. Sgt Freaney had explained that the higher detection rates shown for November 2013 compared to November 2014 was because they had had a year of trying to detect crimes shown in November 2013 but only a month for those in November 2014 and that detection rates were not linked to resources. Cllr Drobny expressed the view that the explanation was not satisfactory and the detection rates were abysmal.

Cllr Hudson referred to the annual figures which showed a reduction in crime rates except burglary in Garstang in 2014 and felt that this related to the fact that Garstang had a police presence where Preesall and Knott End did not. He referred to the increase in crimes last year in the township and felt that this would only get worse. Councillors agreed to ask the Clerk to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and outline the Town Council's concern at the increase in 2014.

Cllr Orme reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable would attend a "hot seat" event in Fleetwood at the end of January and encouraged all councillors to attend and raise their concerns.

Cllr Campbell indicated that the actual figures were probably worse than the figures shown as people do not always report crimes or they are not being recorded.

(14-15)165 Lancashire Landings

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

At the October 2014 meeting councillors resolved to invite a representative of Lancashire Landings to a future meeting to ask how the Town Council could support next year's centenary event. Three representatives of the Landings event attended the meeting and gave a short presentation on the event and its history. Councillors discussed with them how the Town Council could get involved this year and support the centenary event and **resolved** to set up a Working Group to formulate proposals for discussion by the Council.

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

(14-15)166 Budget 2015/16

Councillors considered the draft budget options and **resolved** to set a precept for 2015/16 of £58,601.

(14-15)167 Brown Tourism Signs

Councillors noted that, in order for LCC to make a decision on the provision of signs, the Town Council will need to prepare a proposal to include a completed tourist information form for the attractions, their visitor numbers, hours of opening with leaflets, internet links and any special events held at the attractions to support the application. Councillors **resolved** that each councillor should provide what information they had or could discover on the various attractions so that it could be used to complete the form.

(14-15)168 Rural House Numbering - update

Councillors considered Wyre Council's request for specific examples where the lack of a house number had caused delays to emergency services responses and **resolved** to provide such examples. Councillors further noted Wyre Council's confirmation that, while it would not impose a requirement on residents to have a house number it would make any necessary changes free of charge should any property owners have any concerns and councillors **resolved** to publicise this fact.

(14-15)169 Pillar Clock

Councillors noted the problems experienced by the clockmakers to access the clock to service it and the fact that the lock would have to be broken and replaced as it was seized tight and **resolved** to accept the quotation for the lock replacement and service.

(14-15)170 Shop Preesall

Cllr Drobny reported that he had put an article in the Over Wyre Focus inviting shops who want to join the scheme to contact him. He will then arrange a meeting to discuss the scheme. He has also provided information to local businesses. Councillors **resolved** to discuss the scheme further at the next meeting.

(14-15)171 Bus Shelter (Saracen's Head)

Cllr Hudson reported that the public footpath at this location does not conform to legal width requirements and asked that this be brought to the attention of LCC so that the bus shelter could be safely replaced. An alternative would be for it to be set further back but this would need the permission of the Saracen's Head developer. Councillors **resolved** to pursue both avenues.

(14-15)172 Withdrawal of Paper Planning Applications

Councillors noted Wyre Council's intention to stop sending full paper copies of planning applications to town and parish councils. Councillors resolved that, as an interim measure, paper copies of the plans but not the accompanying reports be requested. Councillors further **resolved** to investigate the possibility of a ceiling mounted projector so that plans could be viewed at the meeting.

(14-15)173 Update on Social Housing Issues

Councillors considered the information provided by Great Places Housing in response to the meeting they attended. Councillors concluded that it does not appear that the system for the allocation of affordable housing is operating as it should and **resolved** to invite Mark Broadhurst, Head of Housing Services at Wyre Council, to meet them to discuss the issues.

(14-15)174 Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

Councillors noted that the Commonwealth Flag for the event on Monday 9th March 2015 had arrived and **resolved** that the event be held at NatWest corner, that the Mayor raise the flag and read the Commonwealth Affirmation, that the churches and schools be invited and that the event be publicised in the Over Wyre Focus.

(14-15)175 Playing Field Lease

Councillors **resolved** that this item be deferred to the February agenda.

(14-15)176 Footpath No 1

Cllr Orme reported on a possible diversion route to avoid the privately owned grass areas. The Clerk reported that Cllr Taylor, in her role as a County Councillor, had been investigating the issue and discussing it with the residents concerned. Councillors therefore **resolved** to defer discussion until the next meeting when Cllr Taylor was present.

(14-15)177 Planning Applications

14/00981/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from hardware shop into hot food takeaway

Location: 6 Wyre View, Knott End

Councillors objected to this proposal on the grounds that the village needs a mixed economy of shops. It already has a significant number of take away food premises and would not benefit from yet another take away. In addition councillors felt that the change of use could lead to both parking problems in an already often congested area and disturbance to the residents in the vicinity. The Town Council noted that the application states that the hardware shop has ceased trading but was still open.

14/00940/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and part conversion of garage into living accommodation

Location: Hawthorn Cottage, Rosslyn Ave, Preesall

Councillors noted this application but were unable to consider it as Wyre Council had been unable to extend the deadline for responses (24 December) to allow it to be considered at this meeting. Cllr Hudson asked that enquiries be made with Wyre Council as to why it arrived too late to be included on the December agenda.

(14-15)178 Finance

a) Payments received:

Christmas Fair cheques	£60.00
Friends of Preesall Park (Inv 14/010) (bench)	£387.71
War Memorials Trust	£600.00

b) Payments to be approved:

Staff Costs	£2073.13
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£50.66

HMRC	£319.92
Fordstone General Store	£80.75
Mr R Drobny (reimbursement)	£8.40
Viking	£41.98
PRS Electrical Contractors Ltd	£900.00
<u>Festive Lights*</u>	
H Patel	£15.00
The Black Bull	£15.00
One Stop	£15.00
Petals	£15.00
Julie Jenkinson	£15.00
Broomheads Estate Agents	£20.00
Claire Bradley	£30.00
Peerless Fencing Ltd (Jubilee Garden fencing)	£3,386.02

*Redmans, Preesall Auto Discount and Jubilee Garage have declined a donation. No response has been received from Cumin Restaurant to a letter asking if they wanted a donation and, if so, to whom the cheque should be made out.

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.58
LCC pension	£634.49

c) Statement of Accounts – December 2014

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for December which shows:

Current account	£28,685.39
Reserve account	£20,156.99
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil
In Bloom Account	£1,460.63

Councillors **resolved** to note the payments by standing order/direct debit and the statement of accounts and to approve the accounts for payment. Councillors further **resolved** to write to Redmans, Preesall Auto Discount, Jubilee Garage and Cumin Restaurant to thank them for their contribution to the community.

(14-15)179 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)

Wyre Flood Forum

Wyre Council has agreed to pursue Willow Grove Park to clear the dyke running along their boundary.

Friends of Preesall Park

Some money was raised at the Christmas Fair. A BMX track is still planned before Easter.

Wyre in Bloom

The Bloomers have been working in the afternoons given the dark evenings.

(14-15)180 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

None.

(14-15)181 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

Through December the Lengthsman has continued to tidy up the village and has cleared and tidied some of the more out of the way footpaths.

Parish Councils Urged to Become Freeze Fighters

United Utilities has launched its WinterWise campaign which aims to help householders avoid the misery of a burst frozen pipe. They are encouraging everyone to protect the pipes in their homes from freezing up and bursting as temperatures drop. They have formed a partnership with the charity Contact the Elderly which seeks to end isolation for older people. Further information can be found at <http://www.unitedutilities.com/winterwise> , including videos on how to lag pipes and how to locate and turn off your stop tap/stop cock.

Lancashire County Training Partnership

The Partnership is running a Chairmanship Workshop on 12 March 2015 from 7pm to 9pm at Howick House, Penwortham. The cost is £25. If any councillor is interested in attending please contact the Clerk.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils

The Association's Annual Report for 2013/14 has been received.

Keep Britain Tidy posters on Shelters

Wyre Council has given permission to site laminated posters on the shelters along the sea front.

Beach Access

Natural England has inspected the problem and has suggested that the access be moved to both protect the beach and to enable safer access. Information is being sought on who is responsible for the access so that this matter can be pursued.

Parish Poll Consultation

The Government has opened an eight week consultation on the modernisation of the parish poll process. A parish poll allows for a ballot of local government electors in the parish to be called on any question arising at a parish meeting. The consultation seeks the views of the public, local authorities and the parish sector on: the trigger (the number or proportion of electors required to demand a poll); the voting arrangements for parish polls; the questions on which a poll can be held; consequential related matters. The consultation ends on 30 January 2015.

(14-15)182 Mayor's Report (information only)

None.

(14-15)183 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Greenhough asked whether the Council would write to the Family History Group who had worked hard on the WW1 display in the library last year. Cllr McCann confirmed that he had taken a video of the event and given the group a copy.

Cllr Hudson asked if councillors were aware of the proposals relating to the 2C, 87 and 89 bus services. Cllr Orme responded that, as far as he was aware, LCC had withdrawn the proposals. Councillors agreed to write to LCC to ask if any cuts were proposed to these services.

Cllr Nicholls asked Cllr Orme what had happened to the summer, autumn and winter newsletters. Cllr Orme responded that he had not yet written his Mayor's report and other councillors have not yet submitted their articles to the Clerk. Cllr Orme reported that the newsletters had originally been published to meet one of the Quality Council criteria but the scheme had recently changed.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.10pm.