

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 January 2016 at 7.00pm 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, T Reilly, V Taylor and L Woodhouse.

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

(15-16)174 Apologies for Absence

None.

(15-16)175 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Councillors considered requests from all councillors for a dispensation to allow them to discuss and vote on the precept and the Council **resolved** to grant the dispensations until the next elections in May 2019. Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group.

(15-16)176 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Mayor pointed out that there was a word missing from the end of paragraph three of minute (15-16)160 where Cllr Campbell had agreed that it would make sense to have resources in different locations. With this amendment councillors **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 14 December 2015 be agreed as a true record.

(15-16)177 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.

Councillors noted the police report which showed that there had been 17 crimes in December compared with 8 in the same period in 2014 and 6 incidents of anti social behavior compared with 7 in December 2014

A member of the public had asked why some of the Christmas lights had been off during the festive period and Cllr Orme explained that they had been adversely affected by the weather and the Council had decided, at the December meeting, that the broken lights would not be replaced until next year and that the electricians being called out to try to repair others affected by water would have to be limited.

Cllr Hudson asked whether there had been any progress with arranging the site meeting with LCC Highways Officers in respect of the parking problems around Mill Street and the former Saracen's Head and Cllr Taylor responded that the officers' time was being spent on surveying areas where flooding occurred and this was the priority at the moment.

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

(15-16)178 Royal British Legion and Remembrance Sunday Parade

Councillors considered information provided by Mr Bill Burn, the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Organiser who organises the parade, on some of the problems he encountered when organising the parade last November. Councillors **resolved** that

- a) Cllr Taylor take up the issues with Wyre Council and check whether Wyre Council's public liability insurance covered the parade

- b) If it does not cover the parade the Clerk make enquiries with the Council's own insurers
- c) The Clerk provide Mr Burn with all the documentation prepared for the annual Civic Sunday parade as this was the same parade as takes place on Remembrance Sunday and help in relation to signage and marshalling and
- d) Cllr Reilly act as liaison between the Town Council and the Royal British Legion to ensure that any problems be resolved

Cllr Orme reported that he had received one complaint relating to the fact that the parade did not stop at the war memorial given the heavy rain and councillors agreed that, even if the band continued on in order to protect musical instruments, the rest of the parade should stop at the war memorial to pay their respects.

Councillors noted that only individuals can join the Royal British Legion and it was not therefore possible for the Town Council to become a corporate member.

(15-16)179 Budget 2016/17

Councillors considered the draft budget options and agreed to include a sum of £10,000 as an earmarked reserve to allow the Council to contribute to local services which may be under threat. Councillors also agreed that, if this sum was not used for the purpose for which it was identified, it would be used to offset the precept in the following financial year. With that addition councillors **resolved** to set a precept for 2016/17 of £75,412.

(15-16)180 LCC Proposed Cuts

Councillors discussed the cuts to services proposed by the County Council which include withdrawing funding from the Knott End to Fleetwood Ferry, the closure of Knott End library and the withdrawal of bus subsidies and support for the Young People's Service. Councillors referred to the well attended public meeting on 16 December 2015 and the problems which both individuals and the community would face if those services were lost. Cllr Hudson reported that there had been a judicial review into the proposed withdrawal of bus subsidies by Cornwall County Council some years ago and councillors **resolved** that these points be included in the Council's response to the Leader of Lancashire County Council.

Councillors considered whether a joint meeting with Garstang Town Council with a view to looking at the possibility of keeping both libraries open on a part time basis would be useful but **resolved** not to seek such a meeting. Cllr Woodhouse proposed that the library be listed as an asset of community value with Wyre Council and councillors **resolved** to take such a step if the decision in February was to close the library.

(15-16)181 Possible Rerouting of Bus Service 2C

Councillors noted an email from Blackpool Transport in response to the Council's request that the 2C be rerouted to incorporate the medical centre and the response from LCC's public transport team to Cllr Taylor which referred to the proposed withdrawal of bus subsidies which would affect whether the 2C ran to Preesall and Knott End in the future. Councillors noted that Cllr Taylor had attempted to contact the officer concerned but, given the workloads involved with the proposed withdrawal of bus subsidies, she had not yet had a response. Councillors **resolved** to await further developments and for Cllr Taylor to report back.

(15-16)182 Procurement of External Audit Services

Councillors noted that, from the start of the 2017/18 financial year, smaller authorities, including town and parish councils, can choose to have an auditor appointed to them by a new sector led body (the Smaller Authority Audit Appointment Authority Ltd) or they can decide to procure their own. Councillors **resolved** that the Council not opt out of the arrangement and noted that the arrangement would cover a period of five years.

(15-16)183 CCTV

Cllr Greenhough suggested that, given the budget situation at LCC and Wyre Council, this be put on hold for the next few months. Cllr Orme reported that the Working Group had met and had invited an expert from Lancashire Constabulary to help the Working Group identify what would be the best scheme for the village but he was still waiting for a response from the new Inspector. Councillors further noted that grant funding might be available from the Walney Extension Community Fund and **resolved** to await a response from the Inspector and seek funding opportunities which might be available.

(15-16)184 Planning Applications

None received.

(15-16)185 Finance

a) Payments received:

Cllr R Black (donation for seat)	£475.00
Reserve account interest (December)	£0.80
Refund (credited in error but not to be cancelled following complaint)	£4.83
Receipt from NatWest account (In Bloom)	£1922.24

b) Payments to be approved:

18/19 Staff Costs	£2237.58
18 Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£45.76
20 HMRC	£373.90
21 Fordstone General Store	£76.00
22 PRS Electrical Contractors Ltd	£2,108.40
23 The Grosvenor Estate	£360.00
<u>Festive Lights*</u>	
24 Jake Rigby	£10.00
25 H Patel	£15.00
26 The Black Bull	£15.00
27 Mr Green's Fruit & Veg	£15.00
28 Julie Jenkinson	£15.00
29 Broomheads Estate Agents	£20.00
30 Claire Bradley	£30.00

*Preesall Auto Discount and Jubilee Garage have declined a donation. No response has been received from Cumin Restaurant or Ben Curtis (One Stop) 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)	£13.80
LCC pension	£694.66

c) Statement of Accounts – December 2015

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for December which shows:

Current account (Natwest)	£0 (account now closed)
Current account (RBS)	£17,036.54
Reserve account (RBS)	£23,666.96
In Bloom Account (NatWest)	£0 (account now closed)
In Bloom account (RBS)	£2,147.49

d) Bank Account Update

Councillors noted that all NatWest accounts had now been closed and the ongoing problems with RBS charging for the In Bloom account which had resulted in compensation of £25 being awarded following complaints by the Clerk.

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

(15-16)186 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Housing

Cllr Hudson reported that there are likely to be a number of Regenda properties at Hambleton and he will ensure that the local lettings policy is applied. Cllr Reilly reported on developments on Park Lane and that he would ensure promises are adhered to.

Health

Cllr Greenhough reported that medical centre staff were disappointed about the decision on the 2C bus and that the Clinical Commissioning Group would support the proposal for the 2C to run to the medical centre.

Tourism

Cllr Black reported on the effect on tourism of the proposed withdrawal of funding for the ferry and bus subsidies and the new restrictions on fishing for sea bass. Cllr Hudson reported that he had ensured that Cat Smith MP was aware of the new restrictions and the anticipated effect.

Youth

Cllr Taylor reported that she is fighting for retention of funding for youth provision.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting is on 13 January.

Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reported that there had been a presentation on the proposed Wyre Barrage at the last meeting and councillors agreed that, if the Managing Director agreed to speak at a public meeting, it should be held at St Aidan's.

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme reported on the recent article in the Over Wyre Focus by PWG on concerns about the validity of information contained in the "Northern Powerhouse Investment Pitchbook".

Wyre Festive Lights Committee

Cllr Reilly reported that this committee only meets twice a year to ensure that funding for festive lights continues.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the beds had been checked and those at the ferry slip had been covered by the tide but there were still buds on the plants and only time would tell of the plants would survive. She reported that one of the long standing judges had recently died and also that the judges' reports were still awaited.

(15-16)187 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

No further reports.

(15-16)188 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

In December the Lengthsman has been continuing together up wet leaves from around the village. He has planted trees on the playing field to replace some that had died or been damaged. He has investigated the work required to carry out two public rights of way jobs and has taken advantage of the Christmas period to take some leave.

Pay Award Offer to Local Government Staff

Council staff have been offered a 1% pay increase from April 2016 and a further 1% the following year. The National Employers have made the two-year deal to unions, which would also see employees on lower salaries be given higher rises to take into account the new National Living Wage. Trade unions Unison, Unite and GMB are to consult with members on the pay offer and will meet in February to decide their next steps. Any agreement reached will apply to all local council staff on NJC Terms and Conditions and those employed under the model SLCC/NALC model contract.

Government Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Planning System

The Government has announced a consultation on proposed changes to the planning system to support the delivery of new homes, including low cost homes for first time buyers. This includes asking whether local communities, including town and parish councils, will have the opportunity to allocate sites for small scale 'starter home' developments including in the Green Belt through neighbourhood plans. The closing date is 25th January.

Bus Shelter

A price for the legal work has been obtained and Harrison Drury instructed in respect of the legal work required. The owner of the Saracen's Head has been approached for the required information and confirmation on the style of bus shelter and supplier awaited from Cllr Hudson.

Walney Extension Community Fund

The next stage of the consultation process has now been announced and public exhibitions will be held at Gregson Community & Arts Centre, 33 Moorgate, Lancaster between 2pm and 7pm on Tuesday 23rd February and at Fleetwood Town Football Club, Park Avenue, Fleetwood from 12-5pm on Wednesday 24th February. All members of the community are invited to attend to find out more about the Fund and to further share their views on where and who should benefit. There is no need to book a space, just come along to the venue nearest to you and meet the GrantScape team. The current timeframe for applications is that the Fund will open in approximately March / April 2016 and the first round decisions will be made by approximately September / October 2016. If you have any questions relating to the Fund or would like to register your interest and receive updates about the consultation process, please call GrantScape on 01908 247634 or email wecf@grantscape.org.uk

Lancashire LEADER Programme

Lancashire County Council has announced that the Lancashire LEADER programme is now officially open for business. The LEADER scheme is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The aim of LEADER is to create jobs and help businesses grow, which will then benefit the rural economy. The first round of funding is aimed at Enterprises and Farming businesses and the focus is very much on job creation and growth of the business. Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found on our [Rural Development Fund website](#) in the relevant [applicant handbook](#),

The Enterprise fund provides support for micro and small businesses (less than 49 full-time equivalent employees and non-agricultural) and farm diversification. The grants are for both new and existing

businesses and all types of businesses, including social enterprises can apply. Find out more about [funding for Enterprises](#) including what types of projects can be funded.

Farming grants support a wide range of farm investments. They are particularly for businesses that want to invest in innovative business practices and new technologies to help them become more sustainable and productive. Find out more about [funding for Farming](#) including what types of projects can be funded.

The application process is competitive and therefore there are no guarantees that an application for funding will be successful. Applications will be appraised and assessed against a broad range of criteria but the primary focus will be the creation of jobs, how the business will grow and the impact upon the local rural community. The first applications will be considered at the end of April 2016 and an outline application needs to be submitted by 31 January 2016.

Tourism

The tourism funding programme is likely to be launched some time in Spring / Summer 2016 but is dependent on the publication of the Destination Management Plan from Marketing Lancashire which should provide more detailed information regarding the current accommodation / attraction stock in Lancashire. The type of projects which might be funded is not available yet but if you have a tourism project in mind it would be helpful if you could complete an initial register of interest [form](#).

Cultural and Heritage

These projects have not previously been funded but could include the construction and restoration of sites and buildings. If you have a potential project idea please complete an initial register of interest [form](#).

Basic Services

The previous programme funded a range of projects via this particular theme including village hall developments, play areas, financial outreach work and the training of volunteers to provide essential rural services. Funding for Basic Services in the 2015-2020 programme is quite limited. The LAG Executive group need to decide what type of projects they want to fund. If you have a community project in mind, please complete an initial register of interest [form](#) as this will inform us what types of funding communities are looking for.

Forestry

Forestry businesses may be able to apply for funding via the Enterprise theme. Each LAG has a very small allocation of funding for specific forestry projects. Decisions regarding the call for projects have yet to be made. If you have a forestry project idea please complete the initial register of interest [form](#)

Tiles

Cllr Orme confirmed that he had not yet had an opportunity to meet with Adrian Cross of Pilling Pottery to discuss the delays with the tiles in Barton Square.

Road Safety Audit

Cllr Reilly confirmed that he had contacted LCC to carry out a road safety audit and, whilst such an audit may be carried out in due course, the Town Council would have to pay if it required one sooner.

(15-16)189 Mayor's Report (information only)

Nothing to report.

(15-16)190 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Hudson reported that Fleetwood and Garstang Town Councils' websites showed large receipts other than the precept. He asked Cllr Taylor whether this could have come from Wyre Council and Cllr Taylor reported that it hadn't.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.05pm.