

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 January 2019
at 6.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

Present: Cllrs L Woodhouse (Mayor), B Burn, R Drobny, R Lawson, J Mutch, P Orme,
N Pattrick,

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 9 members of the public.

188a(1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Greenhough, Cllr McCann, Cllr Reilly.

188b(1) Absent without apology

Cllr Black

189(2) Declarations of interests and dispensations

Councillors resolved for Cllr Pattrick to be granted a dispensation until the next election in May 2019 to allow her to participate in setting the budget and the precept.

190(3) Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December were approved as a correct record of the meeting subject to the In Bloom report being amended to read that Cllr Mutch had said the In Bloom award should have been shown to the council prior to it being displayed in the library.

191(4) Questions to councillors

Cllr Woodhouse said that she had intended to ask a question of Cllr Greenhough in respect of the previous month's agenda item in respect of possible parking at the BT site on Lancaster Road. She explained that although the December minutes (para 175(8)) were a factual representation of what had been said at that meeting by Cllr Greenhough, they did not accurately reflect the truth of what had happened as the mayor had been informed that the post office did not approach Cllr Greenhough regarding parking on the site and this needed to be made clear in the minutes. Cllr Woodhouse also stated that at the February meeting she would be raising the issue of Cllr Greenhough's breach of the code of conduct from two years ago for which the council was still waiting for an apology.

192(5) Public participation

*At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting at 7.07pm to allow non-councillors to speak.*

- A member of the public spoke in respect of planning application 18/01183/FUL and explained that it had been re-submitted to allow for a more cost effective property to be built - following the results of surveys after the original application was approved that revealed issues with the ground.
- A member of the public read out a paper he had asked to be circulated to councillors. This contained suggestions for a community event, to be held in the period between the Gala and Christmas, he asked for this to be made into an agenda item at a subsequent meeting.

In response: Cllr Drobny asked for this to be put on the February agenda.

At the conclusion of the public participation (7.18pm) and at the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

193(6) 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 **resolved** to exclude the press and public at 7.18pm to discuss staff salaries for the financial year 2019/20.

Resolved: the salaries of the Clerk and the lengthsman to be uprated in line with National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales as published by NALC in December 2018. The council **resolved** to re-admit the public at 7.27pm

194(7) Finance

Councillors **resolved:**

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| a) To note receipts at the meeting | |
| Current account | 11.83 |
| Reserve account | 5.22 |

| | | |
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| b) To approve the following payments: | Cheque | |
| Payroll | 361,363,365 | 2841.65 |
| Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council) | 362 | 67.80 |
| Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council) | 364 | 40.00 |
| FH & M Davies and son (inv 05264) | 366 | 408.00 |
| Fordstone General store (inv 72) | 367 | 120.00 |
| Wyre Building Supplies Ltd (inv 191207,190886) | 368 | 61.99 |
| Viking (863195) | 369 | 129.25 |
| Blachere Illumination (SI50566) | 370 | 42.00 |
| The RHS (In Bloom insurance) | 033 | 75.00 |

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| c) To note the following payments by direct debit | |
| Easy Web Sites (hosting fee, 10 x councillor email, SSL certificate) | 51.60 |
| O2 (mobile phone contract) | 14.35 |
| LCC (contributions) | 815.10 |
| LCC (deficit) | 8.33 |

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| d) To note the statement of accounts for December 2018 | |
| Current account - £77955.28 | |
| Reserve account - £30708.26 | |
| In Bloom account - £4301.34 | |

195(8) Finalisation of budget 2019/20

The revised budget and a paper explaining the changes made and the effect on the precept was presented to the council by the clerk. Cllr Drobny asked for an agenda item in February to

discuss the cost of the Christmas lights given that many had not been working for extended periods throughout Christmas.

Resolved: to set a precept of £97,560 for 2019/20.

196(9) Handrail to sea wall

As Cllr Greenhough had tendered her apologies this item was deferred until the February meeting.

197(10) Best Kept Village plaque location

After having resolved at the December meeting that the plaque be placed in a central location between Preesall and Knott End it was suggested that it be placed near the notice board adjacent to the playing field car park.

Resolved: That a single pole, with a suitable framework onto which the plaque could be bolted, be erected by the notice board at the playing field car park.

198(11) Signage at village entrance

Cllr Drobny provided photographs showing the signs put up by other council's reflecting success in the In Bloom competitions and suggested that the council should ask LCC and Wyre whether they would be willing to make a financial contribute to the signage. Cllr Orme mentioned that Great Eccleston had erected a wooden structure which held more than one award.

Resolved: for the clerk to make further enquiries regarding the possibility of external funding for the signs and to speak with the clerk at Great Eccleston regarding its signs.

199(12) Civic events committee

Resolved: that the council would set up a civic events committee, members appointed at the meeting were Cllr Burn, Cllr Orme, Cllr Woodhouse.

Resolved: to adopt the terms of reference as presented.

200(13) Annual meeting room hire

It was explained that as this is an election year and the Annual meeting will take place shortly after the election – 13 May – it will not be known for certain until 3 May who the elected councillors will be. The library needs to be booked at least six weeks in advance.

Resolved: the council will, as a one off, meet the cost of the library hire in 2019.

201(14) Flag flying

Resolved: to approve the 2018 flag flying diary.

202(15) Review of Community Engagement Strategy

Resolved: to approve the Community Engagement Strategy including amendments to make it accessibility compliant.

203(16) New accessibility regulations

Resolved: for the clerk to work with Cllr Pattrick regarding the new arrangements, given their shared central government background in achieving accessibility compliance.

204(17) Election

Councillors discussed the information provided by NALC to encourage residents to stand in local elections who will be representative of the communities they serve.

Resolved: that election information would be put on the council's notice boards and web site, in the library and in the Focus magazine.

205(18) Councillor training

Cllr Pattrick expressed an interest in attending the community engagement workshop on 5 September at Howick House, Howick Park Ave, Penwortham, Preston, at a cost of £25.

Resolved: to approve her attendance.

206(19) Councillor surgery

Resolved: that for a trial period of six months councillors will take it in turn to hold a council surgery on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12am, starting in February. Cllr Pattrick will be present in February and Cllr Burn in March. The clerk and Cllr Orme will continue to run their monthly surgeries. Councillors to volunteer for the remaining months by notifying the clerk.

207(20) Planning applications

Application Number: 18/01183/FUL

Proposal: Erection of three-storey dwelling with new access on to Back Lane (resubmission of 17/00529/FUL)

Location: Rear of Green Close 214 Park Lane Preesall Lancashire FY6 0NW

Resolved: the council was unanimous in having no objections to the application based on the evidence presented by the applicant.

Application Number: 18/01145/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single-storey rear extension

Location: Silver Ash Little Tongues Lane Preesall Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire

Resolved: the council was unanimous in having no objections to the application.

208(21) Gala and housing representation

Although absent from the meeting Cllr Reilly and Cllr Greenhough had expressed an interest in being the council's subject lead for the gala. Cllr Burn, who was present at the meeting, also expressed an interest.

Resolved: that Cllr Burn be appointed as the subject lead for the gala

Cllr Orme said that he was willing to be the subject lead for housing until the election.

Resolved: that Cllr Orme be appointed as the subject lead for housing.

209(22) Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

Co-op – Cllr Woodhouse reported that they had attended Carter's Xmas Fair and continued to support the local community

Best Kept Village – Cllr Orme reported that new rules had been proposed and there would be a meeting in about a month for representatives from each parish to attend and learn more. He also reported that he had been nominated as LALC's representative on the BKV committee and

would be attending the committee meeting on Thursday. When questioned as to whether this would cause a conflict of interest he said that as the judges were independent that it wouldn't.

G & KE light railway – Cllr Drobny reported that he was the spokesman. Saturday's meeting had not been held as the 2c bus wasn't running so he would provide an update next month.

Halite – Cllr Woodhouse had been updated by the chair of the meeting at the golf club and that she had been in contact with Keith Budinger regarding the January community liaison panel meeting which she would be attending so was now up to speed. Cllr Orme reported that the project to store energy in Cheshire would be complete this year, thereby reducing the requirement for storage.

Highways – Cllr Patrick reported that the works on Park Lane would start tomorrow, followed on 28/29 January with Fordstone Avenue and the Crescent. Work on patching of Lancaster Road would follow after that.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr Orme reported that the next LALC executive meeting would be on Saturday and Wyre area meeting would be on Wednesday 30 January.

Tourism – Cllr Woodhouse stated that the ferry was out of the water for two weeks for her regular check up and that the buses are back running. She also reported that the ferry cafe in Fleetwood has now closed.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme reported that he would attend the upper/middle river Wyre asset management briefing on Wednesday, with a Preesall FLAG meeting on the following Monday. Cllr Patrick and Cllr Orme given free tickets for a flood resilience conference on 5 February and the next flood meeting would be in March. Work on Sunnyside dredging was done in late summer and outstanding issues will be pursued over the coming months. Cllr Patrick reported that 'New Ground' had undertaken an assessment of each property for flood resilience. Once that information and the potential costs are made available by each resident the group can proceed with applying for funding.

Wyre In Bloom – Cllr Mutch reported that the group was hoping to attend the steering group meeting on Wednesday at Wyre and would also meet this week to look at the colours, types and blooms for the coming year. Cllr Orme reported that he had secured a boat from Stanley park and hoped the lengthsman would be able to assist with collecting it.

Youth – Cllr Patrick reported that the year groups had been split with years six and seven on Tuesday and year eight on Thursday. Tuesday night the community lads from Fleetwood come, but there is no access to the sports hall at the moment as it is bowling season. Once gain access to the sports hall it will be advertised with the junior schools for year 6's.

210(23) Verbal report from Wyre Councillor (information only)

None

211(24) Clerk's report (information only)

Councillors noted:

Lengthsman's report

In December the lengthsman has assisted with the Christmas tree placements and the Christmas lights switch-on. He has painted the flags around the remembrance bench and has dealt with a number of 'heavy' litterings left by drivers.

Councillor resignation

As of 1 January there is a vacancy on the council created by the resignation of Cllr Hudson. As there is less than six months between this date and the elections on 2 May the vacancy does not need to be advertised and will be included in the election vacancies.

LALC workshops for 2019

Feb 7th Finance

March 7th Chairmanship

April 11th Certificate in Local Council Administration (Session 1 of 6)

May 9th Planning

June 13th Effective Meetings

July 6th New Councillors and Clerks – Module 1

July 20th New Councillors and Clerks – Module 2

Sept 5th Community Engagement

Oct 10th Chairmanship

Nov 14th Finance

Increased electricity charges

Eon has advised that its charges for the unmetered electricity for the Christmas tree will increase from 17.9p per kwh to 22.1p per kwh from 21 January 2019. This doesn't impact on this year's bill so comparisons will be made with other suppliers before the 2019 Xmas season.

Commissioner seeks the public's views over proposals to recruit extra officers to support policing

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a survey asking council tax payers across Lancashire if they are willing to pay more to support the recruitment of 80 police officers and increase proactive policing in their community.

The consultation follows the budget announcement, where the Government has once again passed the burden of the cost of policing on to council tax payers.

The latest financial settlement for Lancashire sees it increase by £6.8m and while the Commissioner welcomes any additional grant, it does not even cover the increase to employer pension contributions for policing, announced in September.

The real world consequences of dealing with this pensions deficit alone, is forecast to cost Lancashire Constabulary around £7.1m per year from 19/20 – the equivalent to more than 150 police officers.

However, since 2010 Lancashire Constabulary has had to make over £84m of savings as a direct result of the Government cutting £50m of central funding during the same period, with an additional £18m of savings required by 2022. In the same period Lancashire has lost 800 police officer posts and 350 support staff, meaning there are increasingly fewer places where savings can be made. Despite the cuts, the Constabulary is still deemed to be efficient and effective by external inspectors.

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, said:

"I strongly believe that more funding should come from the Government and I will continue to lobby the Home Secretary and Policing Minister.

"The current funding for policing isn't sufficient to deal with growing demands on the police and the financial settlement allows me to raise further funds but only through passing this burden on to council tax payers. This isn't fair and it isn't sustainable."

"However, raising funds through council tax contributions is the only option the Government have given me to protect and bolster policing and if I did not consider this, it would mean a cut to our budget. There are over a million calls for service every year to Lancashire Police and investment is needed to keep up with ever increasing demands on policing and to deliver a service the public expect. Police officers and staff are working round the clock to keep people safe but, they are overstretched."

The public are being asked if they would be prepared to pay an extra **46 pence per week for a Band D** property to invest in policing services in their area. Three quarters of Lancashire residents are in lower bands and so would pay less, and this would raise over £10m for policing in Lancashire."

Increased revenue raised through council tax would help to deal with the changing nature of crime and provide more local, visible and accessible policing that is more responsive to local issues.

Mr Grunshaw explained, "Across the county residents tell me that they want to see better investment in policing. More detectives are also being recruited by the force following public feedback asking to prioritise investigations around major crimes, child exploitation and domestic abuse but they want more police officers, and they want to see them out on the streets, tackling crime and keeping us safe.

"The reality is the ability to invest in our policing teams and meet the pressures on the service is completely reliant on raising council tax by the highest amount we can. With rising demands, increasing costs through inflation and growing crime we cannot accept a further reduction in our police budget.

"Asking for more money, the public quite rightly expect to get something in return and need to feel the difference, which is why if the proposals go ahead, it would be spent on 80 extra police officers.

"These officers would form task forces in every district in Lancashire to support neighbourhood policing teams to solve problems in communities, focusing on reducing and preventing crime, anti-social behaviour, public order and supporting public events. This would include three officers dedicated to tackling rural crime in each of the county's policing divisions.

"Specialist target teams would be increased to strengthen the force's ability to tackle cross border crime and criminality, focusing on burglary and robbery 24/7 to ensure police are making an impact around the issues that really matter to people and cause the biggest misery and concern.

"These extra officers would also work alongside drones funded by proceeds of crime to locate and track offenders and support searches for missing people."

Residents can have their say on the proposals by completing the [online survey](#) and the Commissioner's office will be conducting a telephone survey with a sample of residents from every part of the county in the coming weeks.

A series of engagement events are also planned at locations across the county. Anyone who wants to receive a paper copy of the survey can telephone 01772 533587 and one will be posted out.

Monday 7th January 10am – 12pm Sainsbury's St Annes

Monday 7th January 2pm – 4pm St Nicolas Arcade Lancaster

Tuesday 8th January 2pm – 4pm Sainsbury's Clitheroe

Wednesday 9th January 10am – 12pm Concourse, Skelmersdale

More dates to be added.

Cllr Orme asked for an update on permissions to site the memorial bench in Fleetwood. The clerk said that she would chase the response.

212(25) Mayor's report (information only)

The Mayor had attended the Over Wyre Community Choir event at St. Oswalds, she also attended the Christmas concert at the Marine Hall and Carter's school for their celebration assembly which was lovely. At the assembly she presented a prize and certificate to the winner of the Christmas card competition. She also visited Kepplegate Care home just before Christmas and had a chat to staff and relatives.

213(26) Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be held on February 11 2019. Councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda by notifying the Clerk **in writing by Thursday 31 January 2019** at the latest. A summary of the reason for raising the matter needs to be provided.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.40pm.