

PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 June 2017 at 7.00pm at Presall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Presall

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

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 10 members of the public.

25a(17-18)1 Apologies for absence

Cllr Greenhough, Cllr D Hudson

25b(17-18)1 Absent without apology

26(17-18)2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr McCann item 17 finance re In Bloom cheques; Cllr Orme item 16, planning application 00472 and item 17 finance cheque for £44; Cllr Drobny item 5.

27(17-18)3 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: 1) That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 May and
2) 17 May be agreed as a true record.

28(17-18)4 Public participation

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

Members of the public raised the following items:

- Parking on the pavement on Park Lane and Cartgate. Two speakers stated that vehicles were blocking pedestrian access to the pavement and at times the only way to pass them was to go on to the road. The lack of police interest in the problem (through lack of resources) was voiced and the council was asked what it could do to help overcome the problem.
In response: Pressure was being maintained on the police to take action on this matter. Photographic evidence had been supplied and the police had requested a log be kept of the offending vehicles. The matter had been raised as part of the annual report by the Mayor, and pressure would be maintained to try to resolve the problem.
- Litter thrown from vehicles on Park Lane into gardens.
In response: The council wasn't sure how this could be resolved unless photographic evidence of the perpetrator/s was available.
- Parking on the pavement on Pilling Lane. The clerk had been handed a letter from a resident detailing a similar problem to that raised re Park Lane.
In response: The council would continue to put pressure on the appropriate authorities to try to resolve the matter.
- Requirement for the police to observe the speed limit.
In response: It was confirmed that the police should observe the speed limit.
- Possibility of signage from the ferry to the village.
In response: This is already being looked at by the council.
- Use of the Christmas tree brackets for flags.
In response: The brackets are multi-use and using them for flags is a possibility.

- Electricity cost of festive lights.

In response: Contributions/donations are received from businesses/individuals for the cost of electricity.

- Possible torchlight procession at Christmas lights switch on.

In response: Suggested that the speaker attend the Christmas fair planning meeting to put ideas forward.

- Request for volunteers to 'sit in the stocks' on the Sunday of gala weekend.
- Objections to planning application 17/00472/FUL. Two speakers raised concerns that this retrospective application did little to address the concerns previously raised. The majority of issues – height, footprint, screening, detrimental impact on neighbours' ability to use/enjoy their properties - still existed. There were now further concerns in respect of inappropriate drainage and lack of detail as to how this would be resolved, inconsistent measurements on the plan and a general lack of information. The speakers requested that the council consider this application carefully and again request its refusal.

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

29(17-18)5 Crime clear-up rate

Cllr Drobny presented the council with statistical analysis he had carried out on the crime figures provided by the police and a comparison with last year's crime resolution figures. These revealed that crime had increased since the decline in police presence in the village and the crime resolution figures for Garstang, Great Ecclestone and Catterall were all greater than those for Preesall and Knott End. Cllr Reilly also presented figures comparing crime within the township against the national average (in response to a question from a member of the public at the May meeting). While the latter showed that the risk of crime in rural areas is much lower than in towns, it also showed that investigation was needed to reveal 'the bigger picture'. Councillors expressed their concerns that the police were responding only to major crime and felt more needed to be done to respond to/resolve the smaller issues before something serious occurs. Cllr Drobny underlined the importance of crime being reported on the police website so that the true extent of the problem would be logged and a more accurate crime rate revealed.

RESOLVED: that the clerk write to the police and crime commissioner and the police superintendent, inviting them to meet with the council as soon as possible to discuss what can be done to ensure the police better serve and protect the community.

Cllr Taylor stated that she would write in her official capacity as she believed the lack of policing constituted a health and welfare issue for the council.

Councillors resolved to bring item 16 on the agenda forward.

30(17-18)16 Planning applications

17/00413/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings into a cafe and retail plant nursery. Change of use of existing bale base to car park

Location: Parrox Hall Farm Park Lane Preesall Poulton-le Fylde

RESOLVED: to approve the application (9 in favour, 1 abstained).

17/00472/FUL

Proposal: Part retrospective application for the erection of a detached dwelling

Location: Rear of former Saracen's Head Hotel 200 Park Lane Preesall Poulton-le Fylde

RESOLVED: to object to the application on the grounds of it being overbearing, lack of amenity for neighbours, incomplete documentation and drainage issues (8 against, 2 abstained).

17/00477/FUL

Proposal: Change of use to installation and operation of gas powered electricity generators and associated development

Location: The Old Coal Yard Hall Gate Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde

RESOLVED: further information required before a decision could be made (4 in favour, 6 abstained).

17/00488/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Location: 39 Coniston Avenue Knott-end-on-Sea

RESOLVED: to approve the application (8 in favour, 2 abstained).

31(17-18)6 Proposal for siting of wreaths at war memorial

RESOLVED: for Cllr Burn (with the help of the lengthsman) to investigate the feasibility of installing four posts to hold the additional wreaths and to report back to council with an estimated cost. It was further

RESOLVED that wreaths should remain at the war memorial until the last day of November and then be removed.

32(17-18)7 Attendance at effective meetings workshop

RESOLVED: that Cllr McCann and Cllr Woodhouse attend the effective meetings workshop on 15 June in Penwortham at a cost to the council of £25 each.

33(17-18)8 Training policy

RESOLVED: to adopt the training policy presented at the meeting.

34(17-18)9 Media policy

RESOLVED: to adopt the media policy presented at the meeting.

35(17-18)10 Internal audit

RESOLVED: to note the internal audit comments and make adjustments as per the internal audit response document.

36(17-18)11 Audit report

RESOLVED: to change the figure for 2015/16 in box 9 section 2 to include the additional £3,386 for the Jubilee Garden railings missed off from last year's asset register. The total box to now read £103,664.

37(17-18)12 Financial monitoring

RESOLVED: to set up a finance committee to meet monthly if required, with authority to approve expenditure, monitor the administration of finances by the RFO and make financial recommendations to council. Members of the committee are to be the existing cheque signatories – Cllr McCann, Cllr Orme, Cllr Mutch and Cllr Taylor.

38(17-18)13 Website update

RESOLVED: to approve the update of the website to include a 12 month calendar at a net cost of up to £100.

39(17-18)14 Fly the Red Ensign

Cllr Orme kindly provided two 'Red Ensigns', one for the flagpole at the war memorial and the other for the flagpole at the RAF memorial. The clerk was asked to add an agenda item for July's meeting to discuss the purchase of a permanent flagpole at the RAF memorial.

RESOLVED: to fly the Red Ensign on 3 September 2017.

40(17-18)15 Assets held at Wyre

RESOLVED: that Preesall Town Council's assets held at Wyre should be removed and for an extraordinary meeting to be held to view them and decide on the course of action to be taken.

41(17-18)17 Finance

a) It was <u>resolved</u> to note the following receipts:	
Wyre payment re In Bloom	915.00
Reserve account interest	0.21
Donation from Mayor (voucher 12)	30.00
Barrage meeting collection (voucher 13)	11.75
HMRC	4989.91

b) It was <u>resolved</u> to pay the following:	Cheque	
Payroll	170,171,172	2253.82
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	170	21.70
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	171	40.00
Cllr P Orme (re invoice 50)	173	44.00
Preesall Auto Discount centre Ltd (inv.703)	174	18.48
Fordstone General Store (inv. 05)	175	216.00
Smith of Derby (inv.99264)	176	236.40
Wyre Building Supplies (inv. 123460,126185,126143)	177	86.80
Kath Coleman (inv. KAC 10)	178	150.00
LALC (Training Cllr Burn)	179	30.00
LALC (Training Cllr McCann)	179	25.00
LALC (Training Cllr Woodhouse)	179	25.00
Mrs Y McCann (In Bloom)	13	10.78
Mrs S Barlow (In Bloom)	14	93.50
Wyre council (inv. 1111088319)	180	1680.00
Preesall and Knott End Gala	181	4500.00

c) It was <u>resolved</u> to note the following payments by standing order/direct Debit	
Easy Websites (hosting fee)	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.33
LCC (contributions)	651.94
LCC (deficit) April	8.33
LCC (deficit) May	8.33

d) It was <u>resolved</u> to accept the Statement of Accounts for May 2017 showing balances of:	
Current account	105760.72
Reserve account	23677.80
In Bloom account	5710.68

42(17-18)18 Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

Tourism – Cllrs Black and Woodhouse – a final decision on whether the Lancashire Landings would take place on 17 June would be announced on Thursday 15 June. Cllr Taylor also confirmed that the ferry had now been saved and that the detail as to the length of time would be agreed once discussions had taken place and contracts had been produced, she hoped this would be for an eight-year period. Cllr Black stated that decisions on signage could now be made,

Youth – Cllrs Taylor and Orme - 60 youngsters are taking part in the London Academy of Youth and Drama.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre area committee) – Cllrs Orme and McCann – it was reported that concerns have been raised that the infrastructure levy is not being passed on to local councils. NALC is to produce a report on the 2015 local elections and is looking for comments in respect of costings and the running of the election.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllrs Orme and Reilly – the next meeting would be held in two weeks time.

Friends of Preesall Park – Cllr Orme – the AGM would be held on Wednesday 14 June at the Youth and Community Centre.

Wyre Festive Lights Committee – Cllr Reilly – next meeting would be later in the year, both he and the clerk would attend given that the clerk prepares the grant application documentation.

Wyre in Bloom – Cllr Mutch – the In Bloomers were busy planting and carrying out repairs following the recent bad weather.

Preesall Youth and Community Association – Cllr Reilly – The Youth and Community Association along with the RNLi would be the Mayor's charities for this financial year. Cllr Orme - the AGM would be held on Wednesday 28 June at the Youth and Community Centre. An application for funds had been made to the Swallowdale Trust and the outcome was awaited.

Planning Ambassador – Cllr McCann – The application for 70 houses at the end of Rosslyn Avenue had been rejected by Wyre. Details of the Local Plan were now expected in November.

43(17-18)19 Verbal report from Wyre and Lancashire county councillors (information only).

Cllr Taylor reported that she was now the health and wellbeing portfolio holder within LCC. She also reported that a number of potholes around Park Lane, Sandy Lane and Cartgate were scheduled to be fixed.

44(17-18)20 Clerk's report (information only)

Lengthsman's report

In May the lengthsman has started to clear pathways and around stiles that are becoming overgrown as part of the public rights of way delivery scheme and has started clearing the dead growth from earlier weed spraying. He has provided compost for the planting beds in preparation for the In Bloom planting and assisted with the watering of the spring displays.

Extension of the right to inspect accounting records

For many years 'persons interested' have had a right to inspect accounting records, including 'all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records', during (now) a statutory inspection period of 30 working days including the first 10 working days in July. The Local Audit (Public Access to Documents) Act 2017, enacted in the dying days of the last Parliament, extends this right to 'any journalist'. 'Journalist' is defined as 'any person who produces for publication journalistic material (whether paid to do so or otherwise)' and so includes (in the Government's opinion) a 'citizen journalist' who blogs without payment. The Act comes into force on 27 June 2017 and so will be in force for the compulsory inspection period of the first 10 working days in July 2017.

Website update

Changes have been made to the council's website to enable agendas to be stored by year in addition to the minutes and within the 'documents' tab there is a new entry for 'policies and procedures'. The latter is to make the site more user friendly with information and guidance being separated from the 'rules' of operation of the council.

Pension auto-enrolment

The Pensions Regulator has written to confirm that Preesall Town Council is compliant with Pensions Act 2008 from 26.05.17.

In addition the clerk updated councillors as to the letter and information pack produced by Cllr Hudson in respect of the need for permit parking on Mill Street and Smithy Lane.

Councillors were also made aware of correspondence from Adrian Cross relating to his inability to commence work on restoring the tiles in Barton Square until October at the earliest.

45(17-18)21 Mayor's report (information only)

The Mayor informed councillors that he would be attending the fire cadets' passing out parade on 23 June at St. Aidan's school and Civic Sunday on 25 June.

46(17-18)22 Questions to councillors

None

47(17-18)23 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 to discuss:

- a) an employment matter
- b) an employment matter

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 21.25.