

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 March 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, J Mutch, and L Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and 8 members of the public.

(15-16)209 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs McCann, Reilly and Taylor and the reasons accepted.

(15-16)210 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 (Playing Field – Maintenance of Improvements) as Chairman of the Friends of Preesall Park.

(15-16)211 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 February 2016 be agreed as a true record.

(15-16)212 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.

Two members of the public spoke of problems they were having with a neighbor who had received planning permission for a building but was not complying with planning approval given. They had reported the non-compliance to Wyre Council but had not received a satisfactory response. Cllr Orme explained that Wyre Council was unlikely to pursue a matter of non-compliance if the change was likely to have been approved if the applicant had submitted it. Cllr Hudson confirmed that he had discussed the issue with the Head of Planning and written to the Leader of Wyre Council, Cllr Gibson, and had lodged an official complaint. Councillors agreed to ask the Clerk to write to Wyre's Chief Executive on the subject and to ask that non-compliance with planning approvals be raised at the Wyre Area Committee as this affected many parishes.

Councillors noted the police report which showed that there had been 16 crimes in February compared with 14 in the same period in 2015 and 5 incidents of anti social behavior compared with 12 in February 2015.

Cllr Hudson reported that he had been trying to get the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a meeting of the Town Council to discuss policing levels and the Commissioner had agreed to attend the meeting on 11 April.

Cllr Hudson further outlined the issue of a housing association property where drugs had been found but the housing association was unable to pursue an eviction until the Police had confirmed who was responsible for the drugs. Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to the Police to find out the latest position.

Cllr Greenhough referred to the break in at the electricity substation when many properties were left without power and the Co-op was broken into. She had been in touch with the Police and Electricity Northwest and security is to be improved.

Cllr Orme reported that he had been approached by a horse rider over the lack of consideration given by some drivers. He confirmed that posters asking drivers to be more considerate would be displayed in the Sandy Lane area.

Cllr Mutch reported that a resident had asked if benches could be placed on the sea wall towards Pilling and Cllr Orme confirmed that two benches were in stock and would be placed once suitable locations had been found and permission to place them obtained.

At the conclusion of the public participation and at the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting and to change the order of the agenda by taking Item 8 (Playing Field – Maintenance of Improvements) before Item 6 (Annual Governance Review) as decisions at Item 8 might affect items considered under Item 6.

(15-16)213 Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2016/17

The Clerk confirmed that the Mayor Elect, Cllr Reilly, had invited Cllr McCann to be Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2016/17 and that Cllr McCann had accepted.

(15-16)214 Playing Field – Maintenance of Improvements

Councillors considered a letter from Wyre Council seeking the Council's assurance that it will continue to be responsible for the developments which have already taken place such as the MUGA and the youth shelter and prohibiting any further development from taking place unless the Council confirms that it will assume the maintenance responsibility for such development once the lease expires in February 2017.

Councillors noted previous Council decisions relating to ongoing responsibility for the future care and maintenance of the equipment but felt that these were taken in the context of entering into a new 30 year lease. As a result councillors **resolved** not to provide any such assurance to Wyre Council.

(15-16)215 Annual Governance Review

Having considered a number of internal control documents, councillors **resolved**:

- a) that the minor changes proposed to Standing Orders, the Financial Regulations and the Risk Management Plan and Risk Register be approved
- b) that no changes be made to the Annual Town Meeting Standing Orders
- c) that the Schedule of Assets as at March 2016 be approved and
- d) that reference to the MUGA and the youth shelter be removed from the asset register and the Risk Management Plan and reference to the playing field be removed from the Risk Management Register when the playing field lease expires in February 2017

(15-16)216 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

Councillors **resolved** to make one application for both villages and to make ten certificate of merit entries of various premises subject to the owners/managers agreeing.

(15-16)217 Millennium Tiles Chronology of Events

Cllr Campbell reported that he had been to see Adrian Cross and had been told that the concerns of residents who had paid for tiles had been satisfied. He further reported that Mr Cross had assured him that, as soon as the weather improved he would put the tiles down as long as the temperature was such that the tiles would not lift. Councillors **resolved** that, if the tiles had not been put down within a two week period, Cllrs Greenhough, Campbell and Woodhouse would go to see Mr Cross again.

(15-16)218 Brown Tourism Sign

Councillors noted there is an eligibility assessment process before LCC will make a decision on whether a brown tourism sign can be provided in a particular location and that the fee for the initial assessment is £125. Councillors **resolved** to agree to pay the fee and submit the online assessment form.

(15-16)219 State of Main Roads

Cllr Hudson raised the poor state of Lancaster Road, Sandy Lane, Park Lane and Fordstone Ave and councillors **resolved** that a strongly worded letter be sent to LCC outlining the effect on vehicles and tourism and the likelihood of an accident occurring.

(15-16)220 Date of the May Meeting

Cllr Hudson raised the issue of the decision take at the last meeting to change the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to accommodate the Mayor Elect. He proposed, and councillors **resolved**, that the ordinary meeting in May be held on the second Monday in May (9th).

(15-16)221 LCC Budget Cuts

Cllr Hudson raised the subject of the cuts in relation to subsidised bus services and the 2C service in particular. He stressed that the limited service offered would mean that those without transport would not be able to access local hospitals on Sundays and, despite emails to the Chief Executive, the Leader and County Councillor Paul Hayhurst (who had chaired the public transport group looking into subsidised bus services) he had received no reply. Councillors noted that the 2C is a commercial service as far as Poulton and **resolved** that a letter be sent to Blackpool Transport and copied to County Cllr Hayhurst pointing out the effect on the elderly and infirm and asking for the matter to be reconsidered.

(15-16)222 Zebra Crossing

Cllr Greenhough reported that LCC had assessed traffic in Knott End and agreed that a zebra crossing is required with the likely location being close to Clarence Avenue. Councillors noted that, while this would help some it would also mean a loss of parking spaces. Cllr Orme reported that LCC has set money aside in the next financial year for the works and the next step would be for the engineers to draw up the detailed plan which would then be sent out for stakeholder consultation. He proposed that the Council should consider how the lost spaces might be reclaimed elsewhere.

(15-16)223 Knott End Library

Cllr Greenhough reported that the library fails on the provision of a disabled parking space which means it loses points under the scoring system being used. Councillors **resolved** to set up a working group of Cllrs Greenhough, Drobny and Woodhouse to consider how the Council can support the library.

(15-16)224 Walney Extension Community Benefit Fund

Cllr Greenhough reported that she had attended the exhibition and put forward various projects with the grant administrators seeming keen to support the ferry and councillors noted that Wyre Council is setting up a working group to which both affected town councils should be invited. Councillors further noted that there will be in the region of £600,000 per annum for 20 years.

(15-16)225 Planning Applications

16/00100/OUT

Proposal: Outline application for residential development of up to 9 dwellings, with demolition of existing house to form new access road

Location: Land at 4 Rosslyn Avenue, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the area is already subject to flooding and is in Flood Zone 2 and the road is not suitable for the additional traffic that would be generated. Councillors also expressed concern over the affordable housing provision linked to this proposal.

16/00174/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a replacement biomass building and wood store

Location: Fluke Hall, Fluke Hall Lane, Pilling

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

16/00165/LAWE

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of building for manufacture of decorative garden ornaments, fencing and garden furniture

Location: Land Adjacent Gaulters Cottage, Gaulters Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

(15-16)226 Finance

a) Payments received:

LCC PROW (report 108480)	£15.00
Sponsorship (In Bloom)	£480.00
Reserve account interest (February)	£0.80

b) Payments to be approved:

36/37 Staff Costs	£2230.38
36 Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£29.47
33 HMRC	£373.90
34 Smith of Derby	£229.20
35 Wyre Building Supplies	£15.58
36 Eon (Invoice)	£9.62
37 Preesall Auto Discount	£28.47
38 Thornton Facilities Management Ltd	£11.05
39 Zurich Municipal	£612.63
40 The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition	£25.00
41 Viking	£36.17
1 F H & M Davies & Son (In Bloom)	£28.80

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£14.05
LCC pension	£694.66

c) Statement of Accounts – February 2016

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for February which shows:

Current account (RBS)	£7,558.60
Reserve account (RBS)	£23,668.51
In Bloom account (RBS)	£2,172.49

Councillors **resolved** to note the payments by standing order/direct debit and the statement of accounts and to approve the accounts for payment.

(15-16)227 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Tourism

Cllr Black reported that the potential loss of the ferry would have a detrimental impact on tourism.

Youth

Cllrs Orme reported that the youth centre will remain open at least until this time next year and the Young People's Service is consulting on future service provision.

Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reported that the Forum had received a presentation from a Cumbrian company who supply flood resilience products. UU had been criticised for stating that they have no objections to a particular planning application which was compromising the Planning Committee's ability to make proper judgements on the application.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that the money was available and the contractor waiting to start work on the BMX track but it required the permission of Wyre Council.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the Bloomers had been collecting sponsorship money for this year's display and continued to plant and deadhead. Given the uncertainty of the library's future they planned to hold off on their project of a reading area in the Jubilee Garden.

Cllr Hudson asked whether the Council should have a representative to the Gala Committee and agreed to ask the Committee if they would find it useful.

(15-16)228 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

Cllr Orme reported on the change to the rules on public speaking at the Planning Committee.

(15-16)229 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

In February the Lengthsman has loosened the bands to accommodate the growing trees on the playing field. He has continued cleaning gullies to ensure the free flow of water and reclaiming pathways where soil has encroached. He has spring cleaned litter from hedgerows and put the memorial benches on the sea wall and the Esplanade.

Bus Service 89

County Councillor Paul Heyhurst who chaired the bus service group has confirmed that this service will continue. He said 'You will I am sure be aware that the decision of the LCC Cabinet was to stop all subsidised bus services in the County on 1st April. I lobbied hard for this decision to be reversed and after four meetings with the Leader of the Council she relented and asked me to chair a bus committee to which a £2 million budget was allocated. The committee has since met on two occasions and I have some good news for you. At its meeting last Friday the committee agreed to recommend the continuation of the 89 service between Knott End and Lancaster on a 90 minute frequency. A timetable is being prepared for approval at a meeting which is scheduled for week commencing 7th March with a view to getting the service operational by 1st April.'

Fylde and Wyre Directory of Services

Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Council for Voluntary Service and Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group are working to put together a Directory of Services that will be used by GPs and other health professionals to refer patients to not for profit services / community activities. The Directory will help promote community activities, increase attendances and also most importantly help improve health and wellbeing – including addressing loneliness that unfortunately affects many in our rural parishes. Individuals and groups are being urged to register the many and varied community events and activities taking place across the District. Activities can be registered on the CVS website(www.cvsbwf.org) or by contacting Angela Glass angela.glass@cvsbwf.org.uk Telephone 01253 624505.

Town Guide

The publisher was informed, after the February meeting, that the content of the Town Guide had been agreed and the publisher has advised that he will try to secure advertising later in the year.

New Bus Shelter

The owner has agreed to the style of bus shelter and the legal work required to transfer the land will begin shortly.

Natural England Northwest Coastal Access Consultation

Natural England is consulting on coastal access between Silecroft and Cleveleys and is gathering information on significant issues or opportunities and the identification of significant land management issues that may be relevant when the route is planned.

Green Dicks Lane

Green Dicks Lane is to be surface dressed between 16 May and 20 May and will be closed to traffic between 0800 and 1800 hours. The alternative route is via Pilling Lane and Sandy Lane.

(15-16)230 Mayor's Report (information only)

The Mayor reported that the Commonwealth Flag had been raised that morning but there had not been as much support as last year.

(15-16)231 Questions to Councillors

None.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.35pm.