

PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 October 2016 at 7.00pm at Presall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Presall

Present: Councillors T Reilly (Mayor), B Campbell, R Drobny, D Hudson, P Greenhough, G McCann, J Mutch, P Orme and L Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Alison May, Clerk to the Town Council, and members of the public.

1(16-17)129a Apologies for absence

Cllr Taylor – away from home; Cllr Lawson – holiday; Cllr Black – bereavement.

1(16-17)129b Absent without apology

None.

2(16-17)130 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Orme – items 6,7,12,13 on the agenda; Cllr Reilly – item 12.

3(16-17)131 Minutes of the Last Meetings

RESOLVED: 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September be agreed as a true record subject to item 112 being amended to include Cllr Hudson's observations on the EWG.

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September be agreed as a true record.

4(16-17)132 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.*

Members of the public raised the following items:

- Councillors were asked what progress had been made regarding the provision of a zebra crossing within the village.
In response: Cllr Orme stated that the situation was the same as at the August meeting in that LCC officers have completed their survey and would be preparing a report soon. Cllr Greenhough confirmed this and said that the next stage - a public consultation - exercise wouldn't take place until funding was confirmed, perhaps later in the year.
- Cllr McCann shared a copy of the Wyre Local Plan Evidence Base and confirmed that it could be shared via the website.
- The Clerk reported that she had been asked by a Mr James McLaren for the Council to do more for the elderly of the community. He suggested that benches be placed along Lancaster Road at strategic intervals to allow residents with mobility issues to rest when moving between the shops. In response: Councillors commented on the space available on the pavements given that some of the width is part of the shops' frontage. Cllr McCann suggested that if a suitable place were to be found it may be made available to someone wishing to donate a seat or an approach could be made to Wyre Council by the Clerk.
- The Clerk read out a response from Sgt Danielle Freaney to the concerns raised during public participation in September. Sgt Freaney confirmed that the PCSO initially planned for the township had been successful in a job application nearer to her home, hence the need for a new recruit to be trained. She also stated that if the volunteer who collates the crime statistics has time she would ask them to develop the summary a little more.
In response: Cllr Drobny said that a new police recruitment campaign was taking place this month and suggested that the police be asked to target recruitment in the village.

Councillors noted the police report which showed there had been 12 crimes in September of which 2 had positive outcomes, the same as in September 2015 and 5 incidents of anti-social behaviour compared with 4 in the same period in 2015.

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

5(16-17)133 Invitation to Police Inspector to speak with council

Councillors discussed incorporating the request for targeted recruitment in an invitation to the local Inspector. Cllr Hudson stated that he had a number of ideas he wished to put before the Inspector.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Inspector Jon (Jonathon) Smith inviting him to address the council in respect of the policing in Knott End and Preesall.

6(16-17)134 Playing field lease

Cllr Drobny informed the Council that this type of lease can automatically renew if notice isn't given to the landlord explaining that we do wish to relinquish the lease. Cllr Reilly updated the Council on the contact that had already been made with Wyre Council and the appointment of Paul Noble who would be overseeing the transfer. It was expected that he would be in contact with the Mayor or Clerk to arrange a site visit for assessment purposes along with another Wyre representative.

RESOLVED: That Preesall Town Council sends a s27(1) letter under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 formally relinquishing the lease on 4 February, 3 months before the end of the term.

7(16-17)135 Playing field usage by football teams

Cllr Orme made the Council aware of problems experienced by football clubs when the referee has allowed multiple matches to be played on the field when the ground is waterlogged. Only the referee can cancel a match and the club had asked for Council support to stop matches in the interests of preserving the pitch. The Councillors discussed the ramifications and practicalities of such a letter.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk send a letter of support to the football club, to be used if it makes the decision that the pitches are unsuitable for playing, that they have the authority of the Council to cancel the match. That further if they are in need of assistance the Council is on the end of the phone – list of councillors to be included.

8(16-17)136 Review of 2016/17 Budgeted Projects

Councillors considered the list of projects that they had looked to fund from this year's budget and noted that there were a number of projects where no progress had been made and others where the scope could be expanded.

RESOLVED: That the 2017/18 budgeted projects list be updated as per the full council discussion on each of the projects.

9(16-17)137 Projects for 2017/18

Councillors identified potential projects for 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk include the projects identified in the first draft of the budget for 2017/18.

10(16-17)138 Audit for year ended 31 March 2016

Councillors noted that the external audit has now been completed and the relevant notices have been posted on the notice boards.

RESOLVED: To accept and approve the annual return.

11(16-17)139 Alternative investment for reserve monies

Cllr Orme explained that he had been at a LALC meeting where there had been a presentation from CCLA. Councillors discussed the low return on the Council's investments and the possibility of looking at other areas of investment offering a better return.

RESOLVED: To invite a representative from CCLA Fund Managers Ltd to an extraordinary meeting.

12(16-17)140 Preesall Youth and Community Centre funding

The Council discussed at length the implications of funding not being available for the Youth Centre post March 2017. This included the implications of providing such a grant, the precedent this set and the requirement for due diligence on the part of the council in respect of public monies being used for this purpose. The Council acknowledged the requirement for a business case and provision of financial information by the Youth and Community Association in order that councillors could make an informed decision to make such a payment.

RESOLVED: To agree in principle to:

- 1. Cover the shortfall in grant funding from LCC (effectively £5000)**
- 2. Provide a package to repair the building – the figure to be determined at the November meeting once the figures are known.**

13(16-17)141 Lighting at the Youth and Community Centre car park

Cllr Orme made the Council aware that the bill for running the lights in the car park is paid by the Youth and Community Association with no contribution from others who benefit from them being lit. He explained that funds were not available to run the lights 7 days a week, he had agreed with Mr Barry Banks for the lights to be on for the users of the sports hall and they would be on when the Youth and Community Centre was being used. He would approach Mr Banks to see if they were willing to make a contribution to the cost of running the lights.

14(16-17)142 BT's proposed removal of public payphones

The Council, as part of BT's formal consultation process, was given an opportunity to purchase an underused red phone box.

RESOLVED: That the Council would not adopt the phone box opposite no. 12 Cartgate

15(16-17)143 Beach Access Signage

The Clerk made councillors aware of the responses received from the police, LCC, WBC and the Environment Agency regarding responsibility for signage at the access points to the beach.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Orme would take the lead in trying to secure signage

16(16-17)144 Festive Light Grant

The Clerk made councillors aware of the grant funding approval from Wyre Council and the need to decide on the type/extent of lighting over the festive period.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk and the Mayor would look at the types of lighting on offer and make proposals to councillors on which to buy/lease.

17(16-17)145 Arrangements for December meeting

RESOLVED: That the Clerk work with the Mayor to arrange the supper after the December meeting and that the In Bloom volunteers should be invited as a thank you for their hard work throughout the year.

18(16-17)146 Civic Christmas cards

RESOLVED: That the Clerk work with the Mayor to agree the provision of Christmas cards

19(16-17)147 Planning Applications

16/00824/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural building to B2 (car repairs) in association with existing on-site business

Location: Park Lane Garage 400 Park Lane Preesall Lancashire FY6 0LU

Grid Ref: SD336929 446221

RESOLVED: To unanimously approve the planning application

16/00833/FUL

Proposal: Two-storey side extension, single-storey rear extension and dormer.

Location: 1 Rosemount Avenue Preesall Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire FY6 0EY

Grid Ref: SD336053 448359

RESOLVED: By a majority (8 councillors voted against and 2 abstained) to reject the planning application

20(16-17)148 Finance

a) It was **resolved to note** the following receipts:

Reserve account interest (September)	£0.97
Current account interest (September)	£7.91

b) It was **resolved to pay** the following:

Clerk's salary	£ 706.74)	
Clerk's expenses	£ 42.92)	£ 749.66
Lengthsman's salary	£ 1038.65)	
Lengthsman's expenses	£ 40.00)	£ 1078.65
HMRC		£ 210.12
Preesall Auto Discount (inv.604)		£ 60.36
Wyre Building Supplies (inv.SI0099222)		£ 87.00
PM Groundworks (inv. 1030)		£ 14340.00*

*cheque to be released only when outstanding grant funding received from FOPP

It was **resolved to note** the following payments:

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)		£ 24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)		£ 13.97
LCC (employer contribution)	£ 418.06)	
LCC (employee contributions)	£ 112.64)	£ 530.70

c) It was **resolved to accept** the Statement of Accounts for September 2016 showing balances of:

Cash book	£61069.05
Reserve	£23675.24
In Bloom	£8278.70

21(16-17)149 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Housing – Cllr Hudson

The need for resident only parking on Smithy Lane as there had been a number of altercations between residents and customers at the Black Bull public house over parking. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to LCC.

Tourism – Cllr Woodhouse

The Lancashire landings did not go ahead owing to adverse weather.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr McCann

Appointed as LALC representative for the Campaign for Rural England.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllrs Orme and Reilly

They attended the meeting and had a presentation on the canal flood basins and how they work. Letters sent to the engineer to promulgate draining of the Pinewood/Rosemount area. Conference on flood issues to be held in early January at Myerscough College. Sunnyside Terrace flood alleviation scheme should be going ahead shortly.

Friends of Preesall Park – Cllr Orme

BMX track up and running. Now starting the skateboard facility.

Wyre Festive Lights Committee – Cllr Reilly

Mayor to attend meeting later this month.

Wyre in Bloom – Cllr Mutch

Beds have been cleared and planted with wallflowers and spring bulbs. Two planters are to be sited by the ferry. Five volunteers are attending the presentation at Southport this month.

Planning Ambassador – Cllr McCann

Provided councillors with a copy of Wyre Local Plan Evidence Base.

Christmas Fair – Cllr Orme

First planning meeting has been held and everything is now in place. Opening time has been changed to 14.00 giving three straight hours of trading.

Gala – Cllr Hudson

AGM to be held on 24 October at 19.00.

22(16-17)150 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

A6 corridor planning consents still causing problems.

23(16-17)151 Clerk's Report (information only)**Lengthsman's report**

In September the Lengthsman has cut back trees and undergrowth in the corner of the playing field and installed a bench facing the football pitch. He is working his way round the playing field, generally cutting back and tidying and to date is approximately half way round. He is also keeping on top of footpath weeds on paths to the sea wall and had commented on the increased amount of dog dirt he has had to remove especially on the esplanade.

Keep Britain Tidy campaign

I have recently contacted 'Keep Britain Tidy' with regards to one of its most successful dog fouling campaigns. The 'We're Watching You' campaign has been used by a number of councils and has proved to be one of the most successful to date. There are two levels of membership, one for County/Borough councils and the other for Parish/Town councils. I have sent a letter to Wyre Council asking whether it has considered/would consider joining the campaign in respect of the Borough. If not, then the option would still be open for us to join at a cost of £300 for the starter pack.

Saracen's Head yellow lines

At the September meeting the Council expressed concern re the timescales for the provision of yellow lines on Park Lane outside the former Saracen's Head public house and resolved for the Clerk to write to Lancashire County Council to try to expedite the works. LCC has responded that:

'The relevant officers here at the county council have been made aware of the concerns you have outlined and I can confirm that we will endeavour to prioritise this scheme proposal and progress the works as best we can where resources are permitted. However, please note that even with our best intentions, any scheme in this area is likely to take at least nine months to complete owing to the legal process that is required before any yellow lines can be installed.'

Wyre Voice

Feedback has been sought about the residents' magazine Wyre Voice in recent months. Following publication of the autumn edition, there is now a public survey online and focus group planned for next month to help inform future editions.

The survey, which closes on 31 October and asks about the content, look and other aspects of the publication, takes only a few minutes to complete and can be found at www.wyre.gov.uk/wyrevoicesurvey.

Parish precepts 2016/17

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published council tax statistics for town and parish councils in England: 2016/17. The average Band D precept is £57.40, an increase of £3.28 (or 6.1%) on 2015/16; total precepts are now £445 million, £36 million more than in 2015/16 (£409 million).

These figures illustrate quite powerfully how local councils are continuing to invest in local communities, with increases in many cases attributable to making up for a shortfall in council tax support funding, a general expansion of their role and use of powers, and in particular delivering new services, often taken on from principal councils. Parishes are encouraged to inform local MPs about the use of the parish precept; explaining the reasons behind any increases and how the community will benefit as a result.

County council elections 2017 - information evenings for prospective candidates

Clerks have been asked to bring the following message to the attention of Councils and the public:
'Could you be a Councillor and stand for what you believe in?'

If you care about the area that you live or work in and the issues facing local people, we need you. Lancashire County Council is holding its county council elections in May 2017 and we need new candidates to represent their areas. Information events will be held on 10 and 25 October at County Hall, Preston where you can come along, find out what's involved and the process to become a county councillor.

Both events start at 5.30pm and there will be presentations on a day in the life of a councillor, support available and the process of becoming a councillor. There will also be the opportunity to speak informally to council officers, District Electoral Officers and the Local Government Association. Register your interest in attending an event by visiting www.beacouncillor.co.uk/lancashire

Posters have also been distributed and are on the Noticeboards in Knott End and Preesall.

Bright Ideas Fund

A new funding opportunity, the Bright Ideas Fund, opened on Friday 30 September. It aims to give community groups, including town and parish councils, the support and tools to set up a community business. Grants of to £20,000 are available.

Conference on Flooding

A conference on flooding is to take place at Myerscough College early next year. Organised by Siriol Hogg, vice-chairman of Churchtown Flood Defence Group, it aims to bring together those affected by or at risk of flooding and will feature speakers who will talk about flooding issues. Anyone interested in attending should email hoggontheweb@hotmail.co.uk to reserve a place for the event on January 28.

The clerk was asked to expedite a response re resident only parking on Smithy Lane.

The clerk was asked to investigate the implications of 'Assisted Area Status' as reported by Wyre on 11.08.14.

24(16-17)152 Mayor's Report (information only)

Spoke with solicitor in Swansea on Friday who is now closing the account as time lines have been exceeded and a full copy of the file has been requested to be sent to the Town Clerk.

Meeting with Rev. Dawn on 11 October to discuss Armistice day arrangements

25(16-17)153 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Orme made an apology to Cllr Hudson re comments he had made to Cllr Drobny earlier in the year which he now knows were incorrect.

26(16-17)154 Items for next agenda

Preesall Youth and Community Association funding

Future of EWG

Update re ex Clerk.