



PINESALL TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Mayor's Report

It has been wonderful and a great honour to be the Mayor of Preesall this past year 2018/2019. Thank you to all the residents, and community groups who invited me to events – it is fantastic that we have so many social and activity groups in our village.

In June we celebrated Armed Forces Day with a raising of the RAF flag on our new flagpole, which was installed earlier in 2018 at the Battle of Britain memorial corner. Warrant Officer Neil Abbott attended from RAF Spadeadam to salute the flag. It was lovely to see so many residents turn out to support this event.

The introduction of GDPR meant our town clerk had to work hard to ensure that we were compliant. All Councillors now have their own council web address and are aware of the restrictions of GDPR and how it impacts on our day-to-day interaction with residents.

Our Civic Sunday service was slightly different this year, as we combined it with St Oswald's Thanksgiving for Volunteers service. We found it worked very well, and we saw an increase in the congregation. The format will be similar in 2019.

Our In Bloom team surpassed themselves this year and having gained Silver Gilt medals for the past few years, we were delighted when they came away with a Gold medal this year at the North West In Bloom Awards. Many thanks to Yvonne McCann and the In Bloom Team for all their hard work throughout the year.

We had been entered for the Lancashire Best Kept Village awards, and, together with the Deputy Mayor, Bill Burn, I attended the awards ceremony at Wrea Green. We were delighted to be named the winner of the Large Village category. We have entered for 2019 – it would be wonderful if we won again!

I must say that I think that there has been much more activity this past year with litter picks, beach cleans, and picking up of dog waste. We have a lovely village and it is heartening to see so many people taking pride in it, and joining in to keep it tidy.

Potholes became a regular issue brought up by residents, and Cllr Nicola Patrick worked closely with County Cllr Matthew Salter to respond to reports of potholes, measuring them, and reporting them. There has also been some resurfacing works on roads in Preesall so we are seeing some improvements to the state of the local roads.

Gala Day went well, with good weather. The Late Cllr Viv Taylor was remembered with a memorial trophy, which this year was won by Pilling Lane WI for their suffragette costumes at the Gala.

The tiles around the Millennium Clock had worked loose and some were becoming broken. Adrian Cross from Pilling Pottery has lifted the tiles, and will be resetting them. You may have noticed that the tiles by the brick planter have already been done.

The gas storage plans were once again in focus late in 2018 as Halite was taken over by Cheshire Energy (an NPL group). Councillors have attended the various meetings

organised by No Gas Storage, and also the community liaison panel organised to give information on current and forthcoming progress.

2018 was the centenary of the end of World War I and commemorating this event and ensuring everyone could join in if they wanted was very important. The council formed a "Battle's Over" committee, to make arrangements for our village to join in the nationwide commemoration. Our Remembrance Service was moved this year from the afternoon to the morning to bring it in line with Remembrance services around the country and the silence at 11.00 hours. A special plaque commemorating the centenary had been organised by Cllr McCann, and this was unveiled. In the early evening we had the "Battle's Over" community event. Voluntary and activity groups joined us at the car park near the estuary, to remember and to commemorate with song, music, theatre and poetry, culminating in the lighting of a beacon. We were taken aback at how many people turned out to the event. Thank you to everyone who participated and joined us. The Council also purchased two "Lest We Forget" WWI Remembrance benches for Preesall/Knott End residents to use.

This year I invited the pupils from Fleetwood Charity, and Carter's Charity Schools to enter a competition to draw the Mayor's Christmas Card. The winner came from Carter's, and was presented with a framed copy of her drawing printed up, and a gift token.

We continue to support the community with grants/donations – this year a grant was given to the Youth & Community Association of £6,000, a grant to the Over Wyre Social and Activities Club of £250, and a donation of £250 to the North West Air Ambulance.

During the year we have had concerns over policing and crime (both Co-ops being targeted on several occasions), parking, potholes, public transport, planning applications, litter, flooding etc. – please be assured that your council listens to your concerns – regular surgeries are held at the library with the town clerk, a town councillor, and also a borough councillor – dates are given in the Green Book. We continue to lobby on your behalf to improve services, and to ensure we do not lose any. Residents are welcome to attend council meetings, and at each there is a public session where questions can be asked. Please do not forget that our council website contains agendas, minutes, etc. as well as contact details for councillors.

I would like to thank my Mayoress, Emelye Woodhouse, and my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Bill Burn, and Deputy Mayoress, Jackie Burn, for their support over the past year.

A big thank you to our town clerk, Alison May, and to our lengthsman, Brian Hutchinson, for all their hard work over the past year.

And, of course, thank you to my fellow councillors. Cllr Derek Hudson resigned from the Council in January this year, and Cllr Pat Greenhough resigned in February. Thanks go to them for their hard work as Councillors over the past years.

The ending of this Civic Year is also the end of our four year term as town councillors as we finish our terms of office on May 7 – a new council will be formed at our May council meeting when newly elected councillors sign their declarations of acceptance of office. Some of us intend to stand again as councillors, however there are those who are now

standing down and will not be up for re-election - so I would like to thank Cllr Jean Mutch, Cllr Rosina Lawson, Cllr Rodney Black, and Cllr Tom Reilly for all their hard work, commitment, and dedication, and wish them all the best for the future.

I must add a special thank-you to three Councillors, all previously Mayors, who gave me advice and support during my year in office: Cllr Robert Drobny, Cllr Phil Orme, and Cllr Gordon McCann.

It is with great sadness that I have to say that Cllr McCann passed away in March. He was a well respected councillor, and Honorary Alderman, who loved Preesall. He was our Planning Ambassador on the council, and had a lot of knowledge and experience – we will miss him greatly. May he Rest in Peace.

Councillor Lynda Woodhouse
Mayor 2018/2019

The Mayor's Charities

I had chosen the following as my charities for my Mayoral year: Fleetwood RNLI, RSPCA Longview Rescue Centre, and The Boys' Brigade. Unfortunately The Boys' Brigade Company here in Preesall disbanded. Donations will be presented to Fleetwood RNLI and the RSPCA. Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who donated monies, and items for raffle/auction, and to those who attended my fundraising events.

The Mayor's Activities

May 2018

1st Anniversary of Over Wyre Social and Activity Club
Walk to School with Carter's Charity School
Afternoon Tea with Fleetwood Charity School
Charity Garden Party in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind
Garstang Mayor Making

June 2018

Over Wyre Community Choir's Century of Song
RAF flag raising at Battle of Britain memorial
Lancashire Landings on Knott End beach
Garstang Civic Sunday
Wyre Civic Sunday
Preesall Fire Cadets' Award Ceremony at St Aiden's

July 2018

Preesall & Knott End Gala
Sea Swallows exhibition at Carter's Charity School
Year 6's Leaving Production at Carter's Charity School
RNLI Fleetwood Open Day
Pilling Lane WI Centenary Afternoon Tea
Preesall Civic Sunday/Thanksgiving for Volunteers service at St Oswald's

September 2018

Lancashire Best Kept Village awards

November 2018

Charity Evening in aid of Fleetwood RNLI

Preesall Remembrance Sunday

Battle's Over Event at Knott End

Northern Festival of Remembrance

St Aidan's School Senior Awards Ceremony

Preesall & Knott End Co-ops' Cheque Presentations

December 2018

BBC Radio Lancashire Christmas Concert

Opening of Knott End Christmas Fair

Attending Christmas Lights switch on by Gala Queen Brooke

Visit to Kepplegate Care Home

Over Wyre Community Choir's "Songs for Christmas"

Carter's Charity School Celebration Assembly/presentation to winner of "Mayor's Christmas Card" competition

Meeting of Creative Writing Group

February 2019

"Songs for Epiphany and Candlemass" at Blackburn Cathedral

March 2019

Unveiling of public access defibrillator at Carter's Charity School

Attending Celebration Assembly at Carter's Charity School

May 2019

Afternoon Tea in aid of RSPCA Longview Rescue Centre

Councillor Lynda Woodhouse

Mayor 2018/2019

Finance

The Town Council is responsible for proper accounting records, safeguarding the assets and taking steps to prevent fraud and other irregularities and a prudent level of reserves. There are accounting policies and procedures in place to mitigate exposure to major risk, which are reviewed annually. Councillors believe they make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates. The accounts are a matter of public information and can be viewed at any time.

Receipts and Payments Account for Preesall Town Council

Receipts	2018/2019		Payments
Balances brought forward (including reserves)	£83538	£44763	Staff costs
Precept	£84101	£791	Mayor/Civic
Grants/donations	£4255	£24475	Community Expenditure
VAT Refund	£2273	£118	Training
Recharges	£78	£2415	Parish maintenance
Other	£130	£2030	Office costs
In Bloom	£1160	£3387	Governance
	-	£2203	In Bloom
	-	-	Contingency
	175535	£80182	

Balance to carry forward as at 31st March 2019 - £95353

The Town Council accounts are due to be audited in June 2019.

The Parish Precept

The Parish Precept is the amount of money which the Town Council receives from Wyre Council to pay for the services it provides. This amount is raised by Wyre Council as that part of your Council Tax relating directly to the Town Council area. In other words, Wyre Council collects this on our behalf.

The way we calculate the precept is as follows:

Each year, just before Christmas, the Town Council produces an estimate of its likely **expenditure** for the forthcoming year (eg. staff costs, parish maintenance, community projects). This will also include an amount to cover the costs of any urgent projects that may be required in the area.

We also estimate our likely **income** for the same period (eg the VAT refund, Festive Lighting Grant). The difference between the two figures forms the basis of our precept calculation, which we submit to Wyre Council. In 2018/19 our precept was £84,101.

Alison May, Responsible Financial Officer

Your Councillors

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