

PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 9 January 2012 at 7pm at St Aidan's C of E Technology College, Cartgate, Presall

Present: Councillors; V Taylor (Mayor) C Lamb (Deputy Mayor), G Carter, R Drobny, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, D Nuttall, K Nicholls, P Orme,

In Attendance: Lionel Marr, outgoing Clerk to the Town Council and Jan Finch, new Clerk to the Town Council

One member of the public

Prayers: Reverend Dawn Banks gave short reading and said prayers.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given by Cllr P Moon and the reason accepted.

54. POLICE MATTERS

In December 2010 14 crimes had been reported and 2 detected. In contrast 16 crimes had been reported in December 2011 and 6 detected. The majority related to vehicle crime including theft from vehicles. Following a letter drop seeking information from residents, an arrest was made.

There had been 9 incidents of anti-social behaviour in the month compared with 21 incidents in the same period last year.

Councillors commented on some of the issues caused by the introduction by Lancashire County Council of 20mph zones including intimidation of drivers driving at the speed limit, the variability of the speed limit on Pilling Lane and the inappropriate nature of the limits on some roads. Cllr Tim Ashton, Portfolio Holder at Lancashire County Council, will attend the February meeting to discuss the 20mph limits.

These limits are not yet enforceable and councillors were assured that both the Town Council and the public would be informed before enforcement being introduced.

55. LENGSTHMAN'S REPORT

The Lengsthman reported that he was in the process of clearing up litter, including a significant number of plastic bottles and cans, following the gale force winds the previous week. The can bank on the car park had been taken away again as the wind had blown cans out of the bank causing damage to vehicles and injuring an individual. Cllr McCann advised that such bring sites had predated kerbside recycling and may be removed permanently. Councillors agreed that, if this were to be the case, publicity was required to alert the public to the fact.

The Christmas tree was still to be taken down and Cllr Moon had agreed to assist with this. The outgoing Clerk assured the Council that the barriers loaned by the Jacinta would continue to be made available.

Cllr Drobny advised that the fence on Park Lane, Preesall had blown down and been tied up with blue plastic rope. Lancashire County Council will be informed.

56. OPEN QUESTION TIME

A member of the public attended to raise concerns about the new 20mph speed limits. He had raised this at the last meeting when councillors had resolved to send a strong letter to Lancashire County Council asking for the speed limits to be reconsidered. Cllr Tim Ashton, Portfolio Holder at Lancashire County Council, will attend the February meeting to hear concerns.

Councillors discussed the appearance of the surroundings of the Millenium Clock. The Clerk will investigate what work is required to restore it to good order.

57. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 December 2011 having been circulated to members were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

58. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES

Cllr Orme had asked at the last meeting for an internal audit to be carried out prior to the handover to the new Clerk and it had not been minuted. The Clerk assured Cllr Orme that an internal audit had been completed and accounts found to be in good order.

59. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment;

1. Staff costs and travel expenses	£1,717.05
2. Petty Cash*	£55.66
3. Wyre Building Supplies Ltd	£15.99
4. PRS Ltd	£5,724.00
5. D Nuttall (lights expenses)	£240.00
6. B D Rowe (audit)	£25.00
7. Over Wyre Vintners	£46.52
8. Preesall Auto Discount	£79.75
9. Knott End Café	£173.95

* Petty cash = expenses incurred by the Clerk on behalf of the Town Council

Income

The Clerk reported that he had received a cheque for £800 in respect of the cancellation of a late filing penalty by HM Revenue and Customs.

Councillors Drobny and Lamb had disagreed with the Town Council paying for the buffet following the December meeting and had made a contribution towards the cost.

Other Financial Matters

The Clerk reported that National Insurance contributions had been overpaid by staff and he had calculated the refund due through salary. Members were provided with the amounts involved and asked for written confirmation by HM Revenue and Customs.

60. CLERKS REPORT/UPDATE

Wyre Council had removed the bush shelter outside the Black Bull owing to its poor state and will be replacing it. They will also affix a new notice board to the replacement shelter and were currently storing it at the Chatsworth Avenue depot. This will be stored by the Lengthman.

LALC had provided details of a Finance workshop to be held on 8 February 2012 at the cost of £25. Councillors resolved that the new Clerk and Councillor Lamb would attend but that the Town Council would only pay for the cost of the Clerk attending.

The Wyre Area Committee of LALC was to meet on 10 January 2012 at 7.30 pm. The agenda and minutes were on the website if any councillor wished to attend.

NALC had written to town and parish councils asking for them to complete a survey on Play Areas which had resulted from a Freedom of Information request.

Resolved: that the Council would respond to the survey.

Letters had been sent to the Co-op and the Spar shop concerning deliveries at busy times and the impact on road safety. In his response the owner of the Spar shop informed the Council that deliveries take place at a time when there is little traffic but councillors pointed out that other deliveries take place during the day. No response had been received from the Co-op to date.

A letter had been sent to Wyre Council in respect of leases on the playing field. A response is awaited.

A letter had been received from a resident asking that the Town Council purchase a bench in memory of her husband on her behalf and confirming that she would reimburse the cost.

Resolved: that the Council purchase a bench and plaque bearing the inscription outlined in the letter of request subject to the full cost being reimbursed by the resident and that a second bench be purchased and stored until required.

Leaflets from CVS on the subject of training, advice and guidance had been received and were circulated for information.

Following discussion at the last meeting valuations had been sought for the laptop. The Clerk made an offer of £30.

Resolved: that the Clerk's offer of £30 to purchase the laptop be accepted.

The Clerk reported that this was his last meeting and gave a short speech on his 11 years as Town Clerk. On presenting him with a gift councillors thanked him for his hard work and commitment over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement.

61. HAND OVER TO THE NEW CLERK

Councillors welcomed the new Clerk to the Town Council. The Mayor had sought a quotation for a new laptop and colour printer which could be purchased for around £400. A separate hard drive would ensure the security of information for business continuity purposes.

Resolved: that a new laptop, colour printer and hard drive be purchased for use by the Clerk.

Methods of contacting the Town Council were discussed including a dedicated mobile phone number, email address and website. The costs associated with both pay as you go and contract mobile phones were discussed.

Resolved: a) that a mobile phone be purchased on a pay as you go basis b) that a Gmail email account be set up and c) that a website for the Town Council be developed in due course.

A revised bank mandate removing the former Clerk and including the new Clerk was signed, councillors having resolved "That the authorised signatories in the current Mandate for the Accounts details in Section 2 be changed in accordance with Section 5 and the current Mandate will continue as amended".

62. CONTRACT OF SERVICE

Members noted that this item should read "Contract of Employment". Cllrs Taylor, Orme and Drobny had been tasked with looking at a contract of employment for the new Clerk. LALC had informed councillors that a new model contract of employment would shortly be issued and they would look at it as soon as it was available.

63. RESIDENTS' ACCESS – UNSWORTH AVENUE

Cllr McCann outlined the issues affecting resident's access. It appears that visitors to the Premier store on Sandy Lane were using Unsworth Avenue as a "rat run", with some driving faster than the conditions allowed given cars parked at the side of the road and children playing.

Resolved: that methods of restricting access be investigated

64. QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Ways of celebrating the Queen's forthcoming Diamond Jubilee were discussed and councillors put forward and discussed a number of ideas.

Resolved: a) that the Town Council investigate a memorial road sign similar to the one at Little Eccleston to be placed at the junction of Sandy Lane and Park Lane b) that the availability of grant funding be explored and c) that Cllr Carter write a short piece for the "Green Book" seeking suggestions from the community and from schools

65. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application had been received:

Application Number 11/00878/FUL

Proposal: Formation of an additional 6no flats which includes the change of use of offices to two residential units (resulting in a total of 40no flats at the site).

Location: Land adjacent Bourne Arms Hotel, Bourne May Road, Knott End

Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest on the basis that she has a relative with property close by and Cllr Orme declared a personal interest on the basis that he has a business adjacent to the site.

Resolved: That the Town Council objects to this proposal on the grounds of visual amenity and detrimental impact on the area, the possibility of interference with viewing access by the coastguard and the possibility of the obstruction of the slipway by car parking.

66. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Friends of the Park

The next meeting will take place on 11 January 2012 at 7 pm.

Wyre Flood Forum

There was some concern at the last meeting over attendance and representation. Cllr Orme will raise this at the Wyre Area Committee of LALC on 10 January 2012 where the issue of all parishes being represented may be raised. Should that be the case Cllr Orme will continue to represent the Town Council.

Protect Wyre Group (PWG)

The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) has accepted, for examination, Halite's planning application. PWG will represent constituent bodies such as the Town Council or individual representations may be made through registering with the IPC. The Town Council will register as an organisation and use PWG's reasons in providing representations.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.50pm.