

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 16 April 2012 at 7pm at St Aidan's C of E Technology College, Cartgate, Preesall

Present: Councillors; V Taylor (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, R Drobny, P Moon, J Mutch, K Nicholls, D Nuttall, P Orme

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council, PC Stuart Thompson (Agenda Item 4) and Adrian Cross (Agenda Item 16)

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Lamb (Deputy Mayor), R Lawson and G McCann and the reasons accepted.

117. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Nicholls declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 12/00204/FUL on the basis that she knows the applicant and Cllr Black declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 12/0221/FUL on the same basis. Cllr Drobny declared a personal interest in relation to Item 4 as a member of a Lancashire Police Authority panel.

118. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported that she had received apologies from Cllr Drobny for the meeting of 12 March but the email had only arrived after she had left for the meeting despite him sending it in good time. With this amendment

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 12 March 2012 and 21 March 2012 be agreed as a true record.

119. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING A VERBAL POLICE REPORT)

The Mayor had received an anonymous letter from citizens who were concerned about speeding in Knott End and Preesall including speeding by buses. The letter identified that speed bumps would slow traffic and pointed out that there were no speed cameras in the area. The Mayor reported that the Council had raised the issue of speed bumps previously but had been advised that they could hinder emergency vehicles and had not therefore pursued the matter. The issue of buses speeding will be raised with the appropriate bus companies.

Rev Shaun Baldwin had emailed the Mayor on the subject of confusion on the part of the police over enforcement of the 20mph speed limits. He had spoken to three different police officers and received three different opinions. PC Thompson stated that the limits cannot be enforced until they are ratified as enforceable. As they have not yet been ratified they cannot yet be enforced.

The Mayor reported, in her role as County Councillor, that Lancashire County Council's Design team is redesigning the 20mph scheme in Preesall and Knott End for discussion at an officer meeting on 20 April 2012. She will receive the revised plans for her initial consideration and the plans will subsequently go out for public consultation.

Cllr Carter raised the issue of speeding on Lancaster Road and PC Thompson confirmed that the police were aware of the problem of speeding not only on this road but on rural roads generally. He

reported that the police helicopter had been used to check the speeds of motor bikes on Head Dyke Lane last Wednesday and a number of speeding tickets had been issued as a result.

In March 2012 16 crimes had been committed and 6 detected with a further 3 known offenders identified for arrest. This compared with 15 crimes in the same period last year with only 1 detected. There were 13 instances of anti-social behaviour in March this year, including 6 relating to youth nuisance compared to 14 instances of anti-social behaviour in the same period last year.

The Mayor left the meeting for a short time during this item and Cllr Drobny took the chair in her absence.

120. LANCASHIRE & MERSEYSIDE COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

Councillors noted that Cllr Nicholls had provisionally booked to attend the 2nd module of the workshop for new councillors and clerks on 21 July 2012 at a cost of £30.

Resolved: that the cost of Cllr Nicholls attending the module be met by the Council on the basis that it is required training.

121. COUNCILLOR EXPENSES POLICY

The Clerk had noted that there was no written policy relating to the claiming of expenses by councillors.

Resolved: That the Clerk seeks information on the policies or practices of other Town and Parish Councils in relation to claiming travel and other expenses by councillors and by the Mayor or Chairman.

122. SOCIETY OF LOCAL CLERKS' CONFERENCE - KENDAL

The Clerk asked that this item be withdrawn on the basis that she could no longer attend the conference.

Resolved: that this item be withdrawn.

123. QUALITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Councillors noted that the workshop will take place on 30 April 2012 at 7.30pm at the Preesall Youth and Community Centre.

124. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Councillors noted that the Mayor has convened the Annual Town Meeting on 18 April 2012 at 7pm at the Preesall Youth and Community Centre.

125. CIVIC SUNDAY

Councillors noted that Civic Sunday will take place on 3 June 2012 and that the procession will leave the Youth and Community Centre Car Park at 10am en route for St Oswald's and the service at 10.30am. Following the service, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their personal guests and councillors are invited to join parishioners at the Big Lunch and councillors are asked to confirm with the Clerk whether they wish to take up the invitation to lunch by Sunday 20 May.

126. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Clerk reported that she had now clarified all the issues relating to planting a small wood on the land behind the library and the planting can proceed if councillors wish to do so. Barton Grange

Landscapes had looked at the land and identified that the Bird Cherry, a native tree, would be suitable for the location and the cost for 6 12-14 cm girth heavy standard trees (one for each decade of the Diamond Jubilee) would be £660 + VAT.

The Clerk reported that Lancashire County Council saw no difficulties in placing a planter on the triangle of land opposite Preesall Fire Station as long as it did not block the view of motorists and had suggested a site visit. Councillors agreed that the vandalised telephone box would need to be removed prior to a planter being installed and the Clerk will report back to a future meeting.

In the absence of Cllr Lamb there was no information available on the use of St Oswald's Church Hall for the slideshow by Mr Stringfellow.

Resolved: that the Council seeks sponsorship from local businesses for the purchase of the trees, that Cllr Orme submits an article to that effect in the "Green Book" and that planting be deferred until the autumn.

127. WAR MEMORIAL HANDRAIL

Cllr Moon reported that he had looked at the visual impact of the handrail being in the centre and asked councillors to not only consider moving the existing handrail to one side but also purchasing a second handrail so that there is one to each side of the steps. The Clerk reported that the War Memorials Trust had confirmed that the original grant would still be available and that a second grant application could be made for a second handrail.

Resolved: that the existing handrail be moved to one side, that a second handrail be installed at the other side of the steps and that a second grant application be made to the War Memorials Trust.

128. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYRE

Councillors noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission is to undertake a review of electoral arrangements in Wyre with any changes to be implemented before the next Borough and Parish elections in May 2015. The review will consider the total number of councillors on Wyre Council and the number, names and boundaries of Borough wards. Changes could also be proposed to parish wards if they are affected by the changes to Wyre wards. However, the Commission has no power to create or abolish parishes or to amend parish boundaries. Representatives of the Commission will make a presentation to the next meeting of Wyre Council on 26 April and representatives of Town and Parish Councils are invited to attend the presentation.

Resolved: that, as the Town Council numbers amongst its members three Wyre councillors, no further representatives are required.

129. SPORTS PITCH MAINTENANCE 2012/13

Barton Grange Landscapes had provided a price for the maintenance of the sports pitches for the coming year as follows:

To carry out grass cutting from April to October, to remove and install the goalposts and to initial mark 3 football pitches - £2,150.00 + VAT

To overmark 3 pitches - £95.00 + VAT per occasion

To apply fertiliser and weed killer to the whole site on one occasion - £640.00 + VAT

Resolved:

- a) that the Council accepts the quotation in relation to grass cutting, removing and installing the goalposts and initial marking of the 3 football pitches at a cost of £2,150.00

- b) that Cllr Orme convenes a meeting of interested parties in relation to the regular overmarking of the pitches in order to identify a more cost effective method
- c) that the Council seeks an alternative, more cost effective, method of applying fertiliser and weedkiller
- d) that Barton Grange Landscapes be notified accordingly

130. RESTORATION OF TILING – MILLENNIUM CLOCK

Councillors noted the work carried out by Adrian Cross and Brian Hutchinson in removing the tiles from outside the butcher's and relaying the cement to provide a solid foundation and the fact that the process would have to be repeated around the Clock.

Resolved:

- a) that the Council meets the cost of replacing the cement around the Clock as it had done on the area outside the butcher's
- b) that as many of the tiles relating to the Millennium as possible be relaid around the Clock with the others being relaid outside the butcher's
- c) that the Council considers, at a future meeting, whether to mark the Diamond Jubilee with a tiled area outside the butcher's

131. PURCHASE OF CLERK'S MANUAL AND LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Councillors noted the reduced prices for these publications available to members of the Society of Local Council Clerks

Resolved: that the Council purchases the Clerk's Manual (£45 + p&p) and Local Council Administration £58.80 + p&p) at a saving of £34.70 on non-member prices.

132. MOBILE PHONE

The Clerk provided details of alternative options to reduce the cost of the mobile phone including contract options and other Pay As You Go provider costs.

Resolved: that the Council retains the mobile phone on the current basis for receiving incoming calls, for use when the Clerk is not in the office or to make calls to mobiles and pays the Clerk an allowance of £10 per month towards the cost of using her home phone for outgoing calls.

133. PREESALL AND KNOTT END GALA

The Council considered whether to make a charge or to require a bond from the Gala Committee in the light of the financial information provided by the Gala Committee.

Resolved:

- a) that a bond of £500 be required with the full amount being returned as long as the playing field is undamaged and in good order
- b) That the costs of any work required to reinstate the playing field or to return it to good order be deducted from the bond
- c) That councillors and a representative of the Gala Committee inspect the playing field immediately before and after the Gala to determine whether the bond should be returned in full or in part

134. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr Nuttall advised that a number of lamps had been broken or damaged as a result of the weather

and the contractors had provided a price (£1608.75 + VAT) for replacing all existing lamps with LED lamps.

Resolved: that Cllr Nuttall be asked to check the cost of replacing the broken bulbs to inform further discussion at a future meeting.

135. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER

Councillors noted that Lancashire County Council is refreshing the Charter and participated in completing a short questionnaire to aid the refresh process.

136. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications had been received:

12/00198/FUL

Proposal: Single storey side extension
Location: Broadmeadow, 14 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

12/00204/FUL

Proposal: Creation of wildlife pond with associated landscaping
Location: The Hill, Mill Street, Preesall

Cllr Nicholls, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application, left the room.

By a majority (one councillor was against the proposal) it was agreed that the Town Council has no objections to the proposal as long as it was of a non-commercial nature.

12/00210/FUL

Proposal: Single storey side/rear extension
Location: 5 Holmefield Road, Knott End

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

12/00130/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension with flat roof
Location: Newlands, 241 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

12/00221/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Location: 16 Lune View, Knott End

Cllr Black, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application, left the room.

By a majority (one councillor was against the proposal) it was agreed that the Town Council has no objections to the proposal.

137. FINANCE

a) Income

Mrs V Harker (donation to purchase bench)	£388.80
WBC Grant and Precept	£30,844.00

The Clerk reported that she had submitted a VAT reclaim for the 2011/12 financial year (excluding those larger items already claimed by the former Clerk) amounting to £2939.21)

b) Accounts for Payments

The following accounts were approved for payment

Staff costs and travel expenses	£1530.99
HMRC	£275.61
Barton Grange Landscapes (pitch maintenance)	£3516.00
Wyre Building Supplies Ltd	£268.25
Wyre Council (playing field rent)	£15.00
Colin Cross Printers (invitations)	£116.64
Fleetwood High School (printing)	£19.39
Garstang Timber (Perspex)	£58.80
Towers and Gornall (end of year payroll)	£168.00

For noting

Wyre Council (Poll expenses) (deducted from precept/grant total) £362.00

c) Statement of Accounts – March 2012

Councillors noted the Statement of Accounts as at 31 March 2012 which shows

Current Account	£ 5,111.87
Reserve Account	£6,092.58
Capital Reserve	£45.43
Mayor's Charity Account	£85.10

Budget Outturn 2011/12

Councillors considered the projected and actual income and expenditure for the 2011/12 financial year, the bank reconciliation and the bank balances. Members noted that the level of balances at the end of the year was significantly less than projected when the budget for 2012/13 was set and further noted the requirement for prudent spending in this financial year.

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2011/12

Councillors considered the detailed analysis of expenditure against budget headings for 2011/12 and noted that the 2011/12 and 2012/13 LALC Subscription and the 2011/12 and 2012/13 insurance payment to Zurich Municipal had fallen in the same financial year as a result of the timing of meetings.

138. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)

Friends of Preesall Park

The AGM will be held on 25 April 2012.

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme will attend the Preliminary Meeting to be held on 24 April 2012 at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood. Leaflets and questionnaires will be circulated in the first week in May.

Over Wyre Seniors' Forum

Cllr Carter reported that the last meeting had concentrated on transport issues. Lancashire County Council has a fleet of buses used to transport special needs pupils which can be used between 10 am and 2 pm in school term time at a small charge.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that she had attended the third meeting of representatives and plans were progressing accordingly.

139. CLERK'S REPORT (FOR INFORMATION)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Resident's Access – Unsworth Avenue - discussed at the February meeting of the Wyre Road Safety Group where it was noted that there is a good safety record and it has recently been included within the 20mph speed limit scheme. The introduction of an access-only restriction was not supported by the Police due to enforcement difficulties and the decision of the Group was therefore that no action could be justified at the present time. The police will discuss carrying out a traffic volume and speed count with LCC.

Website - The Town and Parish Council champion at Lancashire County Council has confirmed that he has reserved an amount up to £500 towards the cost of a website.

Purchase of Benches - The two benches have been delivered with one installed and one in storage.

Playing Field Lease - A site meeting took place in March.

Old Notice Board - The old notice board has still not been returned and further contact has been made with the Streetscene team to arrange its immediate return.

Brown Tourism Signs - Meeting held with Wyre's tourism team to establish the requirements for a tourist information point as opposed to a tourist information centre. Further enquires are now being made with Lancashire County Council as to whether a tourist information point would qualify in terms of the requirements for a brown tourism sign.

Lengthsman's Pay Rate/Grade - The research has been concluded and a report will be put to the June meeting for discussion.

Lengthsman Contract of Employment - A contract of employment has been drafted for signature by the Lengthsman.

Preesall Bowling Club - An invitation was received from Preesall Bowling Club to attend the opening of the newly renovated clubhouse on Saturday 17 March 2012 at 2pm.

Prayers - "Eligible" parish councils will be able to use the new General Power of Competence in relation to including prayers on the agenda and that an eligible parish council is defined as one where two thirds of councillors are elected rather than co-opted and where the Clerk has undertaken suitable training so that s/he understands and is able to advise councillors on how to apply the power. Marion Gelder of LALC is attending a training session so that she can provide training to Clerks in due course.

Public Right of Way Footpath 51 - The problems reported at the last meeting have been reported to Lancashire County Council and the Public Rights of Way Team have responded that, although the footpath shows signs of use by heavy farm machinery it is accessible in appropriate footwear and on the day of inspection..

Letter to Clerks – Local Training - The Clerk to Catterall Parish Council confirmed that the former Clerk had written to Clerks on this subject relatively recently and a further letter has not therefore been sent.

Lancashire Record Office - Minutes from April 1992 to April 2005 inclusive and audited accounts for the financial years 1996/97 to 2004/05 inclusive have been lodged with the Lancashire Record Office in Preston for safe keeping.

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations - The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations agreed as part of the Annual Governance Review have been circulated to councillors.

Lengthsman's Report - The Lengthsman has spent a considerable amount of time on the refurbishment of the tiled area in Barton Square under the direction of Adrian Cross as well as his day to day work. He has plans to adapt a tank which will fit on his trailer and will allow him to water plants in the summer and will give him the water needed to power wash the tiles around the Millennium Clock. The SPiD has not yet been returned from the manufacturer.

Civic Regalia -

The Civic regalia has been valued for insurance purposes by Carr's of Garstang and will be insured on a Compensation Value basis which will provide for replacement by a different but no better article to compensate for the loss.

Proposed Bus Stop and Markings, Pilling Lane, Preesall - Lancashire County Council is considering introducing a bus stop and two sets of bus bay road markings outside Carter's Charity Primary School to safeguard children boarding and alighting from the school bus.

140. QUESTIONS TO COUNICLLORS

None.

141. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Town Council either at this meeting or by notifying the Clerk at least 10 days prior to the next meeting. A summary of the reason for raising the matter should be provided.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.05 pm