

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 April 2019
at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

Present: Cllrs L Woodhouse (Mayor), B Burn, R Drobny, R Lawson, J Mutch, P Orme, N Pattrick, T Reilly.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council; 7 members of the public.

259a(1) Apologies for absence

None

259b(1) Absent without apology

R Black.

260(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Reilly – planning application 19/00189/FUL.

261(3) Minutes of the last meeting

Councillors **resolved** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on:

4 March 2019,

11 March 2019,

and noted the finance committee meeting minutes of 11 February, which had been approved by the 8 April finance committee.

262(4) Public participation

*At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting at 7.07pm to allow non-councillors to speak.*

- A member of the public suggested that limiting the public session to items on the agenda may deter some people from speaking.

In response: the Mayor said that discretion has been used in the past to allow members of the public to speak. It is better if an item is already on the agenda as this allows councillors to make a decision, otherwise the matter has to be deferred to a later meeting.

*At the conclusion of the public participation (7.10pm) and at the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.*

263(5) Planning applications

Application Number: 19/00109/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of private workshop/storage area to create additional, ancillary living accommodation

Location: Ranch House, Head Dyke Lane, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire

Resolved: that the council had no objections to the proposal, however, it wished to register its concern regarding the proposal to use a neighbour's septic tank as there appeared to have been no approach made to the neighbour in respect of this. The council expressed a wish to see

suitable drainage proposals (foul and surface water) in place prior to any approval being granted. (7 in favour, 1 abstention).

Application Number: 19/00159/FUL

Proposal: Front dormer

Location: Westways, 40 St Bernards Road, Knott End-On-Sea, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire

Resolved: unanimously that the council had no objections to the proposal.

Application Number: 19/00175/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of dwelling to form two self-contained flats and two-storey side extension (following demolition of existing garage)

Location: St Bernards House 1 Promenade Knott End-On-Sea Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire.

Resolved: that the council had no objections to the proposal (7 in favour, 1 against)

Application Number: 19/00181/FUL

Proposal: Single Storey side extension with front dormer

Location: 52 Meadow Avenue Preesall Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire FY6 0HA.

Resolved: unanimously that the council had no objections to the proposal.

Application Number: 19/00189/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of part of building from parking and storage of motor vehicles (as required by condition 02 of 16/00994/FUL) to B8 (storage) and erection of extension for storage (B8) use.

Location: Park Lane Garage, 400 Park Lane, Preesall, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire.

Resolved: unanimously that the council had no objections to the proposal.

Application Number: 19/00253/OUTMAJ

Proposal: Outline application for up to 11 new residential dwellings with access applied for off Cart Gate (all other matters reserved) (resubmission of 17/00933/OUTMAJ)

Location: Springfield Cottage Farm, Cart Gate, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

Councillors were informed that this application had been withdrawn.

264(6) North West Air Ambulance Service donation

Resolved: that the council would once again support the service offered to the community by the North West Air Ambulance by donating £250. This would be an annual standing amount approved by the Finance Committee.

265(7) Reports from committees and working groups

i) Finance committee

Councillors heard that the finance committee met on 25 March and had resolved to recommend:

a) the purchase of Microsoft Office Business 365 at a cost of £7.90 per month.

Resolved: to accept the recommendation and approve the purchase. The clerk was authorised to set up a monthly direct debit.

b) the transfer of the council’s banking to Clydesdale/Yorkshire Bank to take advantage of the £1,050 transfer payment and, in order to ensure that the council does not keep more than £85,000 in any one bank, for an account to be opened with Metro Bank.

Resolved: to accept the recommendation and approve the transfer of the council’s banking from RBS. The clerk was authorised to proceed with the changes.

c) Cllr Burn be appointed to the finance committee and be set up as a cheque signatory.

Resolved: to accept and approve the recommendation.

d) the RBS bank mandate to be updated to remove the late Cllr McCann from the signatory list.

Resolved: to accept and approve the recommendation.

e) Councillors were provided with a verbal update from the finance committee held at 6pm on 8 April and:

Resolved: to note the previously circulated monthly expenditure for April, and to approve the payments listed at (c). Councillors also noted that the finance committee had reviewed and accepted the quarter four budget review which included year end reporting.

Current account	£8.85
Reserve account	£4.88
In Bloom account	£0.00

	Cheque	
Payroll	396,398,400	2841.65
Clerk’s expenses (on behalf of council)	397	93.29
Lengthsman’s expenses (on behalf of council)	399	40.00
LALC (Inv. 2064)	401	753.54
Wyre Building Supplies (Inv. 0197843 - £32.10; 0198118 - £9.50; 0198337 - £22.80; 0200428 - £60.10)	402	124.50
E-on (inv H16E2A1EBC)	404	12.10
North West Air Ambulance	410	250.00

<p>Transfers for approval</p> <p>i) Preesall & Knott End Youth and Community Association – chq 403 (£6,000) Resolved: to recommend to council that the donation be made</p> <p>ii) In Bloom – (£799.68) Resolved: to recommend to council that the donation and transfer be made. This, if</p>	
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Signature.....

possible prior to April 29, would be made by a councillor/clerk visiting a branch of RBS. If not, then payment would be made by cheque at a cost of 0.70p	
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Easy Web Sites (hosting fee, 7 x councillor email, SSL certificate)	44.40
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.35
LCC (contributions)	815.10
LCC (deficit)	8.33

Current account	£60,460.15	
Reserve account	£30,723.07	
In Bloom account	£4,169.93	

ii) Civic events committee

Councillors noted that the civic events committee met on 25 March and resolved to elect Cllr Orme as the chairman. They were informed of the arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the council on 13 May, Annual Town meeting on 20 May and Civic Sunday on 26 May. Timescales prohibited the organisation of a volunteers ‘thank you’ event on 26 May, but would be discussed further at another meeting of the committee.

In addition, Cllr Orme reported that he and Cllr Patrick, as part of the handrail working group, had walked the sea wall and identified areas in need of attention. Councillors were shown photographs, some of which identified health and safety issues.

Resolved: for the clerk to write to Lancashire County Council Public Rights of Way team to make it aware of the findings.

266(8) PTC action plan

Resolved: that the plan is a useful document both for councillors and members of the public which, as a living document, focuses the mind. Councillors wished to maintain a plan in 2019/20.

267(9) Complaints procedure

Resolved: to accept the minor changes to the document and readopt the update procedure.

268(10) Complaint from member of the public regarding 4 March extraordinary meeting

Councillors reviewed the letter of complaint and the clerk’s response. They **resolved** not to close the meeting to the press and public. Councillors further **resolved** to suspend the council meeting to allow the complainant to address the council. Councillors were informed by the complainant that she believed the meeting had been called to discuss her – it was made clear that the meeting had been held to discuss the way in which the media had portrayed the council. Councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

Resolved: that the council has no case to answer.

269(11) Response from NALC regarding comments in press

Resolved: the council would make a complaint to the Independent Press Standards Complaints organisation. This was based on information from NALC’s solicitor, and not having received an explanation/apology from the newspapers concerned. The clerk was asked to take this forward.

**270(12) Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives
(information only)**

Co-op – Cllr Woodhouse reported that the Co-op was supporting a young lady in the village with her litter pick on the last Friday of the month and that a raffle prize had been donated to the Lighthouse Community Church. Cllr Patrick reported that the Co-op was looking at establishing a food bank.

Best Kept Village – Cllr Orme reported that this year’s entry had been submitted, and that judging would now be in the ‘Champions’ category. Judging will start w/c 8 June and dispensations have been granted around gala weekend. He also reported that a beach clean was scheduled for 10.00am on 9 April and that there would be litter picks on the third Monday of each month at noon for the rest of the year.

Gala – Cllr Burn reported that he and his wife would escort the procession as he believed this was a highlight of the community.

Health – Cllr Drobny reported that he would provide an update at the next meeting regarding alleged in-fighting between doctors at the health centre.

Highways – Cllr Patrick said that she had continued photographing and reporting potholes and that LCC had been out that day conducting patching works. Cllr Orme stated that work on improvements to the A585 was moving slowly, but improvements to the Norcross roundabout should be completed by early 2020.

Housing – Cllr Orme reported that he was assisting an ex-armed forces member to sort his housing problems.

LALC – Cllr Orme stated that there would be a meeting next week (24 April) at which David Thow would be explaining the Local Plan.

Planning – Cllr Orme informed councillors that Wyre officers were still working on the planning application at the end of Rosslyn Avenue.

Tourism – Cllr Woodhouse said that the ferry was now running and that the Wednesday bike nights at the Ferry Cafe in Knott End had resumed. A suggestion to improve signage to ferry sailing times was to be taken forward by Cllr Orme.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme and Cllr Patrick had attended the last meeting of the group and positive results were being seen from the local group. There would be a demonstration of the two pumps soon after mayor making.

Wyre In Bloom – Cllr Mutch said the In Bloomers were now able to work later with the lighter nights and that she and Mrs McCann would be attending the steering group at Wyre on 24 April to look at funding for this season.

Youth – Cllr Patrick reported that the working men’s club was looking at alternative ways of recruiting members. A trial was planned for supervised 16-18 year-olds to be given admission on a Tuesday night, and if this worked well they would be provided with membership. The first night of the trial would be Tuesday 9 April between 7/7.30 and 10.00pm.

271(13) Verbal report from Wyre Councillor (information only)

Nothing further to add.

272(14) Clerk's report (information only)

Lengthsman's report

In March the lengthsman took a week's leave, he also attended a training course on event road closure safety that had been arranged at nil cost by Wyre Council. This is the first of a number of courses he will need to attend to ensure he has refresher training in accordance with HSE requirements. He has now started a 'spring clean', clearing footpaths and verges of overgrowth and ensuring that the grids are clear of debris. He has also cut back overhanging/low branches prior to the new season's growth.

Timed stop of 2c bus at Black Bull Preesall

A member of the public has raised concerns with Blackpool Transport in respect of the bus idling times at the stop outside the Black Bull, particularly early in the morning. This stop is classed as a timed stop, meaning that if the bus is running early it waits at the stop before continuing its journey. Blackpool Transport has responded that it is aware of differential running times not being balanced throughout the route. As a result, from 23 June this route has been rescheduled to allow more balanced times between timing points.

Gala invitation

The gala committee has extended an invitation for the Mayor and Mayoress and members of the council to attend the Preesall and Knott End gala on 13 July – the second Saturday of July. There will be a brunch at the Knott End cafe (11am or 11.30 – timings to be confirmed), followed by judging, the procession and a tea on the gala field later in the afternoon. The committee would be delighted if councillors would like to attend and for the Mayor to judge specific categories of the procession. Those standing in this year's elections are asked to pencil this date in their diaries.

Clerk's attendance at Health and Safety event

The event was organised and paid for by Wyre Council for those who attend the Local Event Organisers Network (LEON). This provided an opportunity to network with other event organisers, receive up to date information on the legal issues faced, the importance of risk assessments and having enough people with distinct, allocated responsibilities to carry out the event. There was also an overview of counter terrorism at events – Wyre is to look at providing a specific course on this.

273(15) Mayor's report (information only)

The Mayor reported that she had attended the unveiling of the new defibrillator box at Carter's school. The box had been supported by Kepplegate residential home and the British Heart Foundation, with the defibrillator now being available for community use. She was also fundraising for the RSPCA, with a raffle for a bottle of gin being run at the RSPCA shop in Knott End, and an afternoon tea (limited to 30 people) at Dawn's cafe on 7 May – tickets £8.

274(16) Questions to councillors

Cllr Orme expressed concern that the announcement of Cllr McCann's death had been made to the press by Cllr Drobny before Mrs McCann had arrived home from the hospital. Standing Orders specifically state that any information to the press goes through the clerk or the mayor. Cllr Drobny said that the press had phoned him.

The clerk said that she had been phoned shortly before 10.00pm by the press and had been asked to confirm whether the information given by Cllr Drobny regarding Cllr McCann's death was true. She had been unable to confirm the details.

Cllr Reilly asked Cllr Drobny what had compelled him to announce Cllr McCann's passing before it had been officially announced by the family. Cllr Drobny said that he had been asked the question and had told the truth.

Cllr Drobny asked why it was thought acceptable to berate and bully a councillor.

The Mayor moved the meeting to the next agenda item as she believed feelings were running high.

275(17) Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be held on 29 April 2019 - the primary reason for the meeting being to sign off the year end accounts for audit purposes. Councillors were asked to raise urgent matters to be included on the agenda by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 18 April** at the latest and to include a summary of the reason for raising the matter. It was suggested that there be an agenda item regarding a memorial for Gordon McCann at a later meeting.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.53pm.