

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 August 2017 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors T Reilly (Mayor), R Black, B Burn, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, P Orme, V Taylor and L Woodhouse.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 2 members of the public.

68a(17-18)1 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Drobny,

68b(17-18)1 Absent without apology

None

69(17-18)2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Taylor – matters relating to LCC; Cllr McCann – In Bloom

70(17-18)3 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that: 1) The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 17 be agreed as a true record. Cllr Greenhough wished it to be noted that she objects to the comments relating to her in the minutes.

2) The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 31 July 17 be agreed as a true record.

Councillors agreed to agenda item 5 being addressed prior to agenda item 4

71(17-18)5 Police complaint

Councillors discussed the increase in rural crime statistics reported in the press and both their and residents concerns in respect of how crime is seen to be tackled within the township. Examples of crimes within the village were cited and the perception that the police react to crime rather than actively work at preventing it, thereby giving the impression that the community isn't policed. It was agreed that increased visibility was essential to improving residents' sense of living in a safe, well policed community.

Resolved: that the clerk write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, expressing the council's dissatisfaction and concern at the lack of visible police presence in Preesall and Knott End.

72(17-18)4 Public participation

*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:

Inspector Jon Smith and PC Anne Anderson were welcomed to the meeting. Insp. Smith stated that he welcomed the opportunity to speak with the council and was happy to take questions. He commented on the need for caution in respect of statistics as these do not always show the wider picture. In respect of the recent press coverage regarding rural crime, the figures showed more insurance claims had been made, which didn't necessarily equate to more crime being committed. The important factor to consider was the quality of the work carried out, not just a box-ticking exercise to meet target clearance rates. The situation at the moment is that there are 800 fewer officers and 500 fewer staff. This means that resources have to be targeted to where the problems are.

Cllr Hudson questioned why there was always visibility on bike nights and that resources could be spared for this. Insp. Smith stated that this was part of an overall effort to improve road safety and the quality of life for rural road users. This had resulted in a 22% reduction in those killed/involved in a serious accident.

Cllr Burn raised the issue of problems with drunkenness and drug abuse in the evening on the gala field after the police had left. Insp. Smith stated that it was a particular challenge to ensure all the galas were policed and that resources are not available to provide full attendance. He stressed the importance of the public informing them of where problems exist to enable officers to be directed there. He said that the question is how to reduce risk and threat, detect and reduce crime, thereby making a difference to the community. Dividends were being seen as Wyre has seen the lowest increase in crime within Lancashire and at the same time crime detection rates have gone up. These are available for the public to see on the police.uk website. He explained that issues can be reported on the website or raised via email/phone call. The importance of early intervention was raised as this can reduce demands on police time, enabling officers to be directed to improve quality of life and the importance of looking at how they engage with people.

Cllr Orme raised the issue of vehicles having to come from Fleetwood or Garstang to respond to crime and asked whether it wouldn't make sense to have a vehicle stationed more centrally. He acknowledged that there isn't a large crime rate in the township but that there are a number of 'boy racers' and a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour. Since losing the PCSO there had been a loss of grass-roots intelligence to be able to act prior to the crime, adding to the perception of not being policed.

Cllr Hudson raised the issue of drug abuse in the locality and the letter written by two 12 year olds last year, with nothing having been done since, and he cited examples of problem areas in the township and the feeling that those involved in drugs and drink-driving can get away with it.

Cllr Taylor stated that she appreciates the pressure the police are under and the changed environment within which they now work. She said she understood why the public have the perception that little is done, with this being due in part to them not seeing what goes on behind the scenes. The key is to look at how to change perceptions.

Cllr Reilly said that he sees police entering Preesall but more often than not they don't go any further than the fire station. Visibility throughout the township is important.

Insp Smith stated that all cars are satellite tagged and getting the right people in the right place at the right time is key. He asked for more specific information to be provided to enable crime response to be targeted.

Councillors at this point raised the issue of CCTV and the viability of this for the community. Cllr Orme said that a letter had been sent to a predecessor of inspector Smith asking for guidance but a response had not been received. Insp. Smith said he would raise the matter in his discussions at Wyre Council.

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

73(17-18)6 LALC – 73rd annual general meeting 2017

Cllr Hudson indicated that he wished to propose the issue of finances raised by principal councils not being disseminated at a local level be put forward at LALC's AGM. The voting attendees stated that as this is already a live item and a NALC policy that it was unlikely to be discussed.

It was agreed that LALC be asked to put it on the agenda for the meeting with a request for an update to be provided.

74(17-18)7 Proposed lantern event

Resolved: that due to the time constraints in preparing any necessary documentation and the need for wider liaison with other members of the community, this was not an event the council could be involved with for 2017.

75(17-18)8 Model publication scheme

Resolved: to approve the amendments to paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Freedom of Information model publication scheme and to readopt the scheme.

76(17-18)9 Information security policy

Resolved: to readopt the information security policy without amendment.

77(17-18)10 Complaints procedure

Resolved: to readopt the complaints procedure without amendment.

78(17-18)11 Grants policy

Resolved: to approve the amendments to the grants policy updating s137 payments to the current appropriate rate and to readopt the policy.

79(17-18)12 Action plan

Councillors were asked to consider the plan and consider what actions need to be taken by November 17. Two items were flagged as needing more urgent attention. One, CCTV, had been partially addressed during agenda item 4 and the other, the establishment of a police forum, was thought to need more information.

Resolved: that the clerk liaise with other clerks (in Pilling, Stalmine, Hambleton and Out Rawcliffe) to ascertain what other councils are doing and to determine whether an appetite exists to establish a police forum.

80(17-18)13 Attendance at finance workshop

Resolved: to approve the attendance of Cllrs Burn and McCann at the finance workshop in Penwortham on 23 November at a cost to the council of £25 each and for Cllr Burn to attend the 28 September community engagement workshop in Penwortham at a cost of £25.

81(17-18)14 Planning applications

17/00661/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from existing B2 car repairs to B8 self storage units

Location: 390 Park Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde Lancashire FY6 0LT

Resolved: that the council has no objections to the application (all in favour).

17/00633/FUL

Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

Location: Arden 303 Park Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde Lancashire

Resolved: that the council has no objections to the application (all in favour).

82(17-18)15 Finance

Resolved: to note the finance committee meeting on 9 August which reviewed the first quarter's financial transactions and approved August's monthly payments.

Resolved: to agree the terms of reference of the finance working group.

a) It was resolved to note the following receipts:	
Business Reserve account	0.26

b) It was resolved to note the following payments:	Cheque	
Payroll	194, 195, 196	2602.04
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	194	14.00
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	195	40.00
Viking (inv. 369461)	197	56.54
Preesall Auto Discount centre Ltd (inv.703)	198	23.97
Wyre Building Supplies LTD (inv.SI0133449)	199	75.09
Pilling Band	200	100.00

c) It was resolved to approve the following payments:	Cheque	
LALC (Training for Cllrs Burn and McCann)	201	75.00

d) It was resolved to note the following payments by standing order/direct debit	
Easy Websites (hosting fee)	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.33
LCC (contributions)	749.09
LCC (deficit) June	8.33

e) It was resolved to note the statement of accounts for July 2017 showing balances of:	
Current account	84691.67
Reserve account	30678.30
In Bloom account	4023.28

Cllr Hudson left the room at 20.30

83(17-18)16 Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

Tourism – Cllrs Black and Woodhouse reported that the railway enthusiasts were still engaged in talks with the landowners and were researching possible engines. Cllr Reilly made councillors aware that he had been asked in his personal capacity to write to the museum curator in Wakefield to show that there was support for the project in the community and that he had forwarded a copy of the council's minutes. Ferry/village signage would be brought to a later meeting.

Youth – Cllr Taylor reported that much had been happening with schools holding a number of tournaments. There had been a number of drama events with more than 200 children having attended the sporting events and re than 70 being involved in summer school.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllrs Orme and McCann reported that there had been a very good presentation by the River Wyre trust and that it had been good to see the support provided by the district council.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllrs Orme raised the continuing problem of dyke maintenance and the riparian owners' responsibility to ensure drainage systems be kept functional in order to prevent flooding. It was suggested that an item be put on the agenda to see what more can be done by the council/community.

Signature.....

Wyre Festive Lights Committee – Cllr Reilly reported that everything was on track for this year’s lights.
Wyre in Bloom – Cllr Mutch reported that the team has continued with watering and deadheading the displays.
Preesall Youth and Community Association – Cllr Reilly stated that he had attended the AGM.
Planning Ambassador – Cllr McCann stated that the local plan would be put out for consultation in October/November.

84(17-18)17 Verbal report from Wyre and Lancashire county councillors (information only)

Cllr Taylor reported that negotiations around the contract for the ferry were well advanced and that funding for Park Lane improvements in 2018/19 was in the pipeline. A few traces of oil are still being found, with the problem being mainly gone.

85(17-18)18 Clerk’s report (information only)

Lengthsman’s report

In July the lengthsman has been called upon to assist with the beach clean-up from the oil spill, splitting his time between his roles as lengthsman and coastguard. He has also been involved with the recovery of a vehicle from the bay, has removed a dead porpoise, requested the removal of a dead sheep and has taken annual leave. Throughout the month he has continued to maintain the verges and keep pathways open by cutting back brambles and clearing weeds.

Festive lights grant

The clerk has submitted a grant application for the maximum £3,170 to Wyre Council in respect of this year’s festive displays – a decision as to whether this has been successful will be announced at the end of September. A five-year street licence giving permission to erect the lights has also been applied for and approved.

Adjustment to insurance premium

Following last month’s confirmation from LCC that it had taken over full responsibility for the playing field in Preesall, the insurance has been adjusted to remove the MUGA and youth shelter. This has resulted in a refund of £143.32 to the insurance premium.

Remembrance Sunday

Road closure application documentation has been sent to Wyre Council in respect of the parade on 12 November 2017.

Lancashire fire & rescue emergency cover review 2017 consultation

I am contacting you to inform you of Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service’s emergency cover review 2017 consultation.

An emergency cover review is a key component of the combined fire authority’s risk management framework and is carried out every three to four years to ensure that our emergency response provision is proportionate with fire risk in Lancashire and is both efficient and effective.

We believe it is essential that stakeholders are given the opportunity to consider the review and to express an opinion on the content. As you will be aware, all public sector organisations are under continued financial pressures and in an attempt to reduce costs we are asking you to access the review via our internet site where the review is available to download. The relevant page on our website can be accessed via this link:

<http://www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/sites/lancs/Pages/ContentDocuments/ECR-2017-Draft.pdf>

A 12 week consultation exercise running from 19th July 2017 to 10th October 2017 is now taking place and we are encouraging the widest participation. Your views are important and will be fully considered before any decisions are made.

Please take time to access and consider the review. If you wish to comment, require any additional information or would like to discuss any aspect, please contact our risk management planning team at: Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3LH Tel 01772 866955

mp@lancsfireandrescue.org.uk

You can also leave your comments on Twitter (@LancashireFRS) or Facebook (Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service).

Consultation responses must be received by 10th October 2017 in order to enable the fire authority to consider such submissions as part of the decision process prior to final publication. Please refer to the consultation document for details of how to respond.

Adult learning community development programme

I am writing to let you know about Lancashire adult learning’s community development programme, which may be of interest to you and the groups in your area.

We are able to work with community groups, volunteers, carers and older learners to improve their skills and help with supporting their group.

For example we can work with groups on community art or garden projects. We can support with fundraising activities for the local community – cupcake decorating skills, outdoor art, planters and hanging baskets and upcycling furniture that can be sold at events to raise funds. Other courses available include:

Befriending	Effective Community Based Meeting Skills	Managing Stress In The Workplace
Building on Volunteering To Gain Employment	Funding & Fundraising	Managing Your Money
Christmas In The Community	Get Active In Your Community	Marketing & Promotion of Your Project
Colour Your Life	Health & Safety in the Workplace	Mindfulness
Community Intervention	Healthy Decisions	Organising A Community Event
Confidence Building	How To Form A Self Organised Group	Partnership Working
Conflict Management & Negotiation Skills	How To Network	Recruiting, Retaining & Managing Volunteers
Counselling Skills	How To Plan & Hold Successful Meetings	Relax & De-Stress
Creating A Community Newsletter/Calendar	Introduction to Marketing	Roles & Responsibilities Within Your Project
Creating A Community Choir	Introduction To Volunteering	Setting Up A Community Group/Project
Creating & Giving A Short Presentation	Leadership & Team working Skills	Stress Management Awareness
Dementia Awareness	Listening & Feedback Skills	Successful Team Working

Courses are free and can take place at a local venue.

If you would be interested in finding out more of what Lancashire adult learning can offer and how we may be able to help support your local community, please let me know and I will be happy to help.

86(17-18)19 Mayor’s report (information only)

The Mayor will provide dates of engagements he has accepted to the clerk for inclusion in the diary.

Signature.....

87(17-18)20 Questions to councillors

Cllr Greenhough reported to councillors that the problems with her PC having been hacked, first highlighted in January, were continuing. As this may have affected the PCs of anyone sending emails to her she suggested that they carry out security checks.

88(17-18)21 Exclusion of the press and public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) and 1(3) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council may resolve to exclude the press and public to provide:

Feedback in respect of matters discussed at the extraordinary meeting held on 31 July.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 21.05