

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 February 2017
at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

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

In attendance: Alison May, Clerk to the Town Council, and 22 members of the public.

1(16-17)235a Apologies for absence

Cllr P Greenhough, Cllr G McCann

1(16-17)235b Absent without apology

None.

2(16-17)236 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Orme – items 23 and 24(3); Cllr Woodhouse items 5 and 6.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Burn to the council following his election in January.

RESOLVED: To accept Cllr Burn's request for a dispensation until the next elections in 2019 to allow him to participate in setting the budget and the precept.

3(16-17)237 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 09 January be agreed as a true record.

4(16-17)238 Councillor apology

Cllr Reilly read out the findings of the Wyre Council Standards Committee held on 7 February 2017, full details are available on Wyre's website at:

http://www.wyre.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/608/standards_committee

Preesall Town Council was asked by the Standards Committee to note within its minutes that Cllr Patricia Greenhough 'by improperly impugning the integrity and professionalism of the former Clerk to Preesall Town Council, Miss Jan Finch, at the meeting of Preesall Town Council on 9 May 2016, did breach paragraph 1 bullet point 8 of Preesall Town Council's Code of Conduct by not promoting and supporting high standards of conduct, by the manner in which she pursued the argument concerning the existence of the Santander account and surrounding issues'. The Standard's committee found no evidence of any wrongdoing by Miss Jan Finch.

5(16-17)239 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:

a) The Mayor was asked why he was withholding items of interest from the public relating to the recent by-election. The individual stated that he had asked the Electoral Commission to investigate certain issues that in his opinion meant the election should not have taken place and that he had repeatedly raised this with Wyre Council. He had copied some of this information to the clerk.

In response: The Mayor stated that he was not aware of any information that the council could act on and that the election was outside the remit of PTC and had been run by Wyre Council. The clerk stated that she had received copies of an email exchange between the individual and Wyre Council but had not circulated these further as they highlighted a difference of opinion between the individual and Wyre Council. This was not something that either the clerk or the council could do anything about or comment on at this stage. If a reply was received from the Electoral Commission which indicated a different course of action then that would have to be acted upon by Wyre Council and PTC would follow any advice given. Until that time PTC had no authority to act.

Another member of the public questioned why only one councillor had felt the need to resign over the Code of Conduct breaches and suggested that the individual need not have resigned, thereby creating the vacancy, and had done so as a personal choice.

b) Problems with parking on Mill Street and Smithy Lane were raised. The council was made aware of the deterioration in the situation with a number of elderly and disabled residents being unable to park close to their homes. One resident had been unable to park outside his own home for 48 hours owing to a vehicle having been left there by someone visiting the Black Bull pub on the Friday night and then not collecting their vehicle until Sunday evening. Other examples were also given of disabled residents having to park on Cartgate and relying on the goodwill of neighbours to give them a lift to their home. The council was informed that the majority of residents were over the age of 65 and the council was asked to provide its backing to a permit parking scheme.

In response: The council explained that both it and Cllr Hudson had written on a number of occasions to try to resolve this problem and that the concerns would be picked up under agenda item 16.

c) Cllr Orme reminded councillors that at the November meeting it had been agreed that guidance would be put online and in the library regarding best practice for responses to planning applications. It would appear this had not been done.

In response: The Mayor reported that he had drafted the documentation and that it was online and the clerk stated that a copy had been put in the council's folder at the library and she would ensure another copy was made available.

d) Councillors had been provided with a copy of the latest crime statistics.

The contents of the police report were noted and Cllr Drobny stated he wished to declare an interest as he had reported a crime of harassment.

e) Objections to planning application 17/00069/FUL, with one member of the public acting as spokesman for neighbours affected by the ongoing development. Councillors were made aware that the build was progressing despite complaints having been made to Wyre that the development does not match the approved plans. A number of matters were mentioned, the main ones being that the building is much higher than 5.5m originally agreed and a number of features disallowed on the passed plans such as an external staircase and clear glass have been reinstated. The external layout of the rooms has been changed resulting in windows looking directly into and down on to existing properties. The footprint has also been moved by approximately a metre nearer to the boundary. Councillors were also informed that no neighbour letters had been sent out, or yellow notices put up to indicate that revised plans had been requested.

In response: Councillors would take these views into consideration during their deliberations on this planning application in the main part of the agenda.

f) Objections to planning application 17/00037/FUL, with one member of the public acting as spokesman for neighbours affected by the proposed development. Councillors were made aware of the perceived detrimental impact this conversion would have on the neighbourhood, changing it from residential to commercial. There are already existing problems with traffic on the lane and the state of the road leaves much to be desired; additional traffic will only compound the problem and increase risks of injury to pedestrians and road users. Vehicles already park on the pavement even though there is a car park to the rear of the property, part of which is being used as caravan storage. There has been pollution of the watercourse from the existing business to the rear of the premises in this application. There is already noise from the existing premises which are approx 40m away. The proposed development is 20m closer with a potential 50% increase in the number of children, thereby compounding the problem. The existing property is also in a flood zone. Car parking to the front is not in keeping with Wyre's recommended number of spaces.

In response: Councillors would take these views into consideration during their deliberations on this planning application in the main part of the agenda.

g) Representatives from Garstang and Knott End Light Railway group had been invited by councillors to make a presentation on their proposed light railway plans.

The group began by thanking Cllr Woodhouse for the time she had spent with them and for the opportunity to address the council. The proposal is to build a 2ft narrow gauge railway on the track bed of the old Knott End to Garstang railway line. This would run from the bowling club at Preesall through to

Hackensall Road. It is proposed that the land adjacent to the track would be landscaped with seating and that the railway would enhance tourism and trade within the area. The group reported that they are currently in the fundraising stage to get a business case together and have a number of activities planned to raise funds such as tribute acts, T shirts, mugs etc and that they would also be applying for national grant funding. They have also been offered a section of track from a similar railway in Launceston. Currently they are trying to find out who owns the track bed. Cllr Woodhouse reported that there had been much local interest in the proposal.

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

6(16-17)240 Council involvement with proposed railway

Councillors agreed that this was a good idea that needed to be looked at in more detail. Cllr Reilly stated that he would be offering his services in his personal capacity to help the enthusiasts draw up a business case.

RESOLVED: That the council accepted (in principle) the proposal to develop the narrow gauge railway and would work with the railway group to get the project up and running.

Cllr Hudson proposed that the two plans discussed during the public session be brought forward in the agenda and the council agreed.

24(16-17)241 Planning applications brought forward

17/00037/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of dwelling to create additional pre-school accommodation including single-storey side and rear extensions to dwelling, installation of a canopy to rear, formation of hardstanding to front garden to create staff car parking area and the installation of two new external doors to existing pre-school building.

Location: Huckleberry's 106 Pilling Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde

Councillors noted the comments made by the public and asked if this application could be called in for a committee decision. Cllr Taylor said she would make enquiries. By a majority (8 against and 2 abstained) it was agreed that the council objects to the proposal on the grounds that it will have a severe impact on the residential neighbourhood through increased volume of traffic; overdevelopment of parking when places already allocated are being used as caravan storage; increased noise levels for existing neighbours; its location within flood zone three making it unsuitable for such a conversion. Comments were passed that the existing business had originally received planning consent as a residence for a disabled person and had become the nursery under a change of use. This had been a new build and heights had been raised to elevate it away from the watercourse. The current application to convert a family home built many years ago which is much lower does not show any additional flood resilience measures on the plans to protect the occupants (mainly pre-school age).

17/00069/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a detached dwelling (resubmission of 16/00356/FUL)

Location: Rear of former Saracen's Head Hotel 200 Park Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde

Councillors noted the comments made by the public and asked if this application could be called in for a committee decision. Cllr Taylor said she would make enquiries and would also raise the problem of non-conformity with the chief executive of Wyre Council. By a majority (8 councillors voted against and 2 abstained) it was agreed that the council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the impact on neighbours is so great that it would deny the residents their right to use and enjoy those properties. A number of elements not allowed on the previous plan have been put into the current plan. Councillors also expressed concern at the speed of development given that the build does not comply with the plans as passed and the current plans have not been approved. It was felt that enforcement action should be taken to stop further progress with the build until an approved plan was in place.

7(16-17)242 Beach signage

RESOLVED: That the council would not pay for replacement signs either in whole or in part.

8(16-17)243 Racking to hold wreaths

Cllr Burn offered to assist in looking at viable solutions to resolve the problem of wreaths blowing off the memorial.

RESOLVED: That the council delegate responsibility to the clerk to source and execute a solution prior to Remembrance Sunday in November.

9(16-17)244 Battle's Over tribute

RESOLVED: That the council take part in the tribute and that the clerk investigate prices for the 'brazier on a stick option'.

10(16-17)245 Police forum

RESOLVED: That Cllr Taylor would raise this in her discussions with Insp Jon Smith and would report back at a subsequent meeting.

11(16-17)246 Internal audit terms of reference

RESOLVED: To agree the terms of reference for the internal audit.

12(16-17)247 Best Kept Village Competition

RESOLVED: That Cllr Orme take the lead in organising this year's entry into the Best Kept Village Competition and that the council would pay the entry fee.

13(16-17)248 Path clearance between Rosslyn Avenue and Beechfield Avenue

RESOLVED: That the 'Pay Back' team be engaged to clear the path and make it safe.

14(16-17)249 Tiles

RESOLVED: That Adrian Cross be paid the £155 held on account for the 'councillor tiles', with £15 being held back for the incorrect tile (tile for Cllr Orme not done).

15(16-17)250 Morecambe Bay Coastal Community Team

RESOLVED: That Cllr Taylor would lead on this item as she is Health, Wellbeing and Community Engagement portfolio holder at Wyre. She would provide a holding brief.

16(16-17)251 Parking on Mill Street/Smithy Lane

RESOLVED: That the clerk would write a letter of support from the council in respect of the proposed permit parking on Preesall Hill.

17(16-17)252 Mayoral chain valuation

RESOLVED: For the mayoral chains to be revalued.

18(16-17)253 Mayor for the civic year 2017/18

Cllr Taylor proposed and Cllr Black seconded Cllr Tom Reilly and Cllr Drobny proposed and Cllr Hudson seconded Cllr Woodhouse.

RESOLVED: To nominate Cllr Tom Reilly as the Mayor Elect of Preesall Town Council for the Civic Year 2017/18.

19(16-17)254 Chairmanship workshop

RESOLVED: Not to send anyone on the course.

20(16-17)255 Location for the Annual Meeting of the Council and Investiture of the Mayor 2017

RESOLVED: That the Annual Meeting take place on 8 May at Knott End library if available and that an ordinary meeting will be held before it.

21(16-17)256 Arrangements for Civic Sunday 2017

RESOLVED: That the clerk liaise with Wyre and Garstang councils and bring a proposed date back to the next meeting.

22(16-17)257 Arrangements for Annual Town Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Annual Town Meeting take place at 6pm on 10 April at Preesall Youth and Community Centre.

23(16-17)258 Playing field lease

Councillors discussed the recent documentation received from Wyre re the hand-back of the lease and concluded that now the s27(1) notice had come into effect it was incumbent upon the council to conclude the process as swiftly as possible.

RESOLVED: a) That a committee be set up with the members being Cllr Drobny, Cllr Orme and Cllr Taylor with authority to conclude the hand-back of the lease to Wyre.

b) That the committee and the clerk meet with representatives from Wyre to discuss and agree any remedial works.

c) That the committee has authority to spend up to £3000 on any remedial works necessary to conclude the process.

24(16-17)259 Planning applications

17/00057/FUL

Proposal: Two dormers to front elevation and first floor side window

Location: 50 Grasmere Road Knott End-on-Sea Poulton le Fylde FY6 0DW

It was unanimously agreed that the council has no objections to the proposal.

17/00072/FUL

Proposal: Dropped kerb to front to create new vehicular access and erection of a new front garden wall

Location: 54 Sandy Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde FY6 0PR

It was unanimously agreed that the council has no objections to the proposal.

17/00074/FUL

Proposal: Proposed front and rear dormers and conversion of existing garage to living accommodation

Location: 49 Quail Holme Road Knott End-on-Sea Poulton le Fylde FY6 0BT

It was unanimously agreed that the council has no objections to the proposal.

25(16-17)260 Finance

a) It was **resolved to note** the following receipts:

Reserve account interest	£	0.21
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b) It was **resolved to pay** the following

130/131 Staff costs	£	1785.39
130 Clerk's expenditure on behalf of council	£	19.69
132 HMRC	£	210.12
133 Viking (inv.)	£	14.98
134 A Cross	£	155.00

Festive Lights

135 Jake Rigby	£	20.00
136 Ben Curtis (Onestop)	£	15.00
137 Mr Green's Fruit & Veg	£	15.00
138 Julie Jenkinson	£	15.00
139 Claire Bradley	£	30.00
140 Vincent's solicitors	£	15.00
141 RNLI	£	85.00

It was resolved **to note** the following payments:

Payments by standing order/direct debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£	13.97
LCC	£	530.70

- c) It was **resolved to accept** the Statement of Accounts for December 2016 showing balances of:
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Cash book | £37391.34 |
| Reserve | £23677.03 |
| In Bloom | £3073.69 |

- d) It was **resolved to accept** the Budget monitoring statement for quarter 3.

26(16-17)261 Verbal Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

Housing – Cllr Hudson reported that he was still pursuing the disrepair of a property on Parkway with Wyre. He had received a reply from Mr McArthur stating that enforcement may be possible. He will continue to keep the council informed.

Tourism – Cllr Black reported that the ferry was being serviced and therefore isn't running. Cllr Taylor reported that she had put an amendment to LCC's budget proposal for IT to reinstate the £85,000 for the ferry, but this had been unsuccessful. She also reported that should the Conservatives take back control of LCC at the elections in May then it would be put back in.

Youth – Cllr Taylor reported that from 5 to 8 April more than 60 youths would be undertaking a production of Joseph at St Oswald's Church Hall. Cllr Orme reported that now Preesall Youth and Community centre has been saved he would be calling a meeting in April for anyone interested in helping out. He also made councillors aware that former youth workers had already stated they were willing to be involved. Cllr Hudson suggested that money may be available from the Co-op and the Co-op funeral parlour which could possibly be used to update the kitchen. Cllr Orme stated that he believed a nomination had already been put in by the sewing circle. Also, the county parish champion has sums of up to £1,000 to kick-start a project (submissions by 24 March.)

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr Taylor reported that the 'Together we make a difference' initiative would be holding workshops to which every town and parish council will be invited. This will be followed by public engagement to look at community assets to be put forward for funding.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting was imminent. He had also attended an all-day conference at Myerscough on flood prevention which he had found very informative.

Wyre in Bloom – Cllr Mutch reported that the design, colour and types of flowers for 2017 beds and planters had been decided.

Gala – Cllr Hudson reported that there is a problem with funding of the gala in respect of road closure signs etc. He asked the clerk to provide a grant application form.

27(16-17)262 Verbal report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

Cllr Taylor reported that the council tax increase would be 3.99%, incorporating the additional 2% for adult social care.

28(16-17)263 Clerk's Report (information only)

Lengthsman's report

In January the Lengthsman has assisted with the removal of the Christmas decorations and chopped up the two large trees. He has been clearing gutters of debris to encourage the free flow of water and has carried out a number of litter picks along the hedgerows.

Vacancy on Preesall Town Council

The successful candidate at the election to fill a vacancy on the council was Bill Burn, who has now signed his 'declaration of acceptance of office'. The council's article in the Focus magazine will include a thank you to all candidates for putting themselves forward to represent the community on the council.

Preesall Youth and Community Association

At the November meeting the council delegated responsibility to the clerk as Responsible Financial Officer to inspect the accounts of Preesall Youth and Community Association prior to any grant funding being made available to the association. I can now inform the council that this has been done and that the accounts are in order. A payment of £6,000 can be made for the financial year 2017/18.

Parish wards

Guidance was sought from the Electoral Commission in respect of the impact of wards on elections and the selection of candidates. The reply was that wards are merely an electoral division used by councils for ease at election time. The only legislation in place governing the eligibility of a candidate to stand for election is in s79 of the Local Government Act 1972. There is also further published guidance from the Electoral Commission for candidates in relation to qualifications. 'Provided that any potential candidates meet the statutory qualifications they would be eligible to stand, you can't place any other restrictions upon the process of who can stand where'. Therefore a candidate living in North Ward can be elected for a vacancy in South Ward or vice versa. Their responsibilities are to the whole council to which they have been elected.

Standing orders

A full review of governance documents is scheduled for next month. As part of this I'm proposing to bring a full set of 'New Model Standing Orders' as agreed by NALC to the council for discussion/agreement at the March meeting. I'll provide copies nearer the time.

Christmas trees

I have been provided with an 'early bird' offer from Blachere lighting, the company that supplied the miniature Christmas trees in the village. Until 31 March the trees are on offer at £65 each. The price paid with a 15% discount prior to Christmas was £84.15.

Letter from Cat Smith

The Clerk received a letter for Cat Smith MP expressing disappointment that no new funding has been announced, particularly in local authority-led services. She emphasised that she is happy to raise any concerns the town council may have with the relevant minister and would be happy to meet with the Clerk and councillors to discuss any matter that she could be of help with at the current time.

Parish Councils urged to become freeze fighters

United Utilities has launched its WinterWise campaign, which aims to help householders avoid the misery of a burst frozen pipe. It is encouraging everyone to protect the pipes in their homes against freezing up and bursting as temperatures drop. For WinterWise 2017 it has produced an advice pack, which can be downloaded from the United Utilities website <http://www.unitedutilities.com/winterwise> and includes lots of information about keeping yourself and your home safe and warm during a cold snap. There is advice on how to find your stop-tap, how to lag your pipes and some winter warming recipes too.

Cllr Hudson raised three points:

Firstly the highways department will be putting the zebra crossing out to consultation over the next couple of weeks (both public and private).

Secondly Cllr Greenhough had raised a query with United Utilities re water quality in the village and a response was expected in 2-3 days.

Thirdly he thanked the clerk for the speed at which she has put out the notice regarding avian flu.

29(16-17)264 Mayor's report (information only)

Cllr Reilly reported that he had attended the Epiphany service at Blackburn Cathedral which he had enjoyed very much. He also reported that he was continuing with his visits to ex-military personnel within various care homes in the village.

30(16-17)265 Questions to councillors

Cllr Drobny asked the Mayor to stop bullying him and the Mayor Cllr Reilly replied 'of course'. Cllr Drobny then proceeded to read out Facebook comments and Facebook's harassment policy and made a number of comments regarding Cllr Reilly who repeatedly asked what Cllr Drobny's question was. He also responded that if Cllr Drobny continued to make accusations he would 'push back'. Cllr Drobny then accused him of harassment. Cllr Reilly stated that he did not believe he was harassing Cllr Drobny. In response Cllr Drobny suggested that he read s1a and s2a of the Harassment Act 1998.

Cllr Orme reported that Bob Long had been invited to attend a public meeting on the barrage to be held at St.Oswald's Church Hall on Friday 3 March.

31(16-17)266 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 discuss:

- a) employment matters – a report from EWG.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 21.15.