

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 June 2012  
at 6.30pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.**

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

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council

## A G E N D A

### 011. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr McCann and the reason accepted.

### 012. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Taylor and Moon declared personal interests in agenda item 6, 11, 18 and 20 on the basis that they are Wyre councillors and may wish to speak on the items. Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest in agenda item 19 on the basis that she is a Lancashire County councillor and may wish to speak on the item. Cllrs Taylor and Orme declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 on the basis that they are members of Wyre Standards Committee. Cllr Orme declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 12/00329/FUL as Chairman of Friends of Preesall Park and the person who had submitted the planning application and Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest as the LCC representative on the Friends of Preesall Park group. Cllr Drobny declared a personal interest in relation to item 4 as a member of a Lancashire Police Authority panel.

### 013. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting and the Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2012 be agreed as a true record.

### 014. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING A VERBAL POLICE REPORT)

In the absence of a Police representative the Clerk read out an email provided by PCSO Natalie Johnstone. In May 2012 there were 16 reported crimes with 3 already detected and a further 3 still being investigated and likely to be detected. This compares with 15, 8 of which were detected and 2 determined not to be crimes, in the same period last year. Most of last month's crime relates to petty theft and minor damage to ornaments, hanging baskets, plant pots etc. Councillors questioned whether these events should be categorised as crimes or as anti social behaviour but commented that, to the victim, they were still serious matters.

Cllr Drobny raised the matter of a hate crime against a local resident where it appeared that stones from the Battle of Britain memorial had been thrown and asked councillors whether the desecration of a war memorial should be reported to the police to add to the charges. After discussion, councillors **resolved** not to report it as they had no evidence that the stones had been taken from the memorial as they are sometimes washed onto the pavement by heavy rain.

There were 12 reports of anti social behaviour last month, 7 of which were youth nuisance compared to the same period last year when there were 13 reports of anti social behaviour with 6 relating to youth nuisance.

## 015. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Alan Wallbank, Wyre's Tree and Woodland Officer, asking if the Council would like a tree planting to mark the Jubilee. Wyre Council is buying some trees for commemorative planting in the Autumn and, in those localities where Wyre Council doesn't own much land, is offering the Parish/Town Councils a tree instead. Wyre Council will plant and stake the tree but thereafter it would be the responsibility of the Town Council. As the Council has already decided to buy 6 bird cherry trees to plant behind the library to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee (Minute 126 16 April 2012 refers) he would be happy to supply one of them but asked whether the Council would prefer an oak tree instead. Councillors **resolved** to ask for an oak tree, subject to the land behind the library being big enough to plant both the oak and the bird cherries and confirmation that the two species could co-exist. Councillors also asked the Clerk to make sure all the appropriate preparation was done to ensure that there were no problems associated with planting the trees in the autumn.

A Jubilee finial to site on top of the finger post near the Bethel Church is available at a cost of £180 + VAT and Lancashire County Council (LCC) has confirmed that it would have no objection to the fitting of a finial on top of the post. However, councillors noted that the "arms" of the finger post directing drivers and pedestrians to Knott End and to Pilling are missing and Cllr Nicholls confirmed that she had reported it to LCC's Public Realm Manager who had promised to try to find replacements. Councillors asked the Clerk to seek a progress report on the matter and **resolved** to order a Jubilee finial.

LCC has confirmed that it has no plans in respect of the triangle of land opposite the Police Station and has no objections to a planter or planters being placed on it as long as the view of drivers is not obstructed and councillors **resolved** to go ahead with the project. A site visit will be arranged with the Public Realm Manager and Cllrs Orme, Moon and Lamb expressed an interest in attending the meeting.

The Clerk reported that there were 3 options in respect of the phone box which BT had confirmed was used infrequently. The first is that the Council could ask for it to be removed but there is no guarantee that BT would agree to remove it. The second is that the Council could ask for it to be moved elsewhere. Planning permission would be required and all the costs of moving it (which would amount to several thousand pounds) would fall to the Council. The third option is for the Council to adopt it at a cost of £1. If they agree, BT would take the equipment out and the Council would be responsible for maintaining it in future. On the grounds of the costs of asking for the phone box to be moved and the possible risk of vandalism and ongoing maintenance costs in respect of adoption councillors **resolved** to take no further action.

Cllr Lamb reported that Mr Stringfellow will do a slide show at the Methodist Church in September (date yet to be agreed) and he will make a small charge.

## 016. FESTIVE LIGHTING AGREEMENT 2012

Wyre Council has made a number of amendments to the 2006 Festive Lighting Agreement which comes into force from December 2012. The festive lighting grant will only be released on completion of the revised Agreement. Councillors highlighted clause 3.9 which requires that, should Preesall Town Council cease to exist or be unable to provide festive lighting in the future, any festive lighting in its possession must be given to another organisation nominated by Wyre Council. Councillors pointed out that, although Preesall Town Council had been given some festive lighting by Wyre Council it had spent a considerable amount of money on improving festive lighting over the years and did not feel it right that Wyre Council could require that the Town Council's festive lighting be handed over to another organisation. Councillors also felt that 3 months notice to terminate the contract was insufficient. Accordingly councillors

**Resolved:** that the Clerk raise these points with Wyre Council and that the Agreement not be signed until such time as these points are clarified.

## **017. TOURIST INFORMATION POINT**

Councillors considered a paper proposing the development of a Tourist Information Point in Knott End. A Tourist Information Point is a small unstaffed facility sited in an indoor area with high visitor footfall and displays a wide range of leaflets that promote the Wyre area. Ideally the site is open to the public 7 days per week and located where there is a business on site to maintain the leaflet stock. Such a facility would mean that the Council would be eligible to apply for a brown tourism sign to direct visitors to the village and encourage tourist spend. Councillors proposed the Knott End Cafe and, at this point, Cllr Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the basis that the cafe owners are family members and left the meeting. Councillors

**Resolved:** that the owners of Knott End Cafe be approached with a view to the development of a Tourist Information Point and that the Clerk continue to work with the tourism team at Wyre Council in this regard.

## **018. USE OF ST AIDAN'S SCHOOL**

Although there has been no charge made by St Aidan's school for use of a meeting room, councillors have, in the past, given a donation to thank the school for the use of its facilities. Councillors

**Resolved:** to make a donation of £100 to the school using its powers under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to incur expenditure which, in its view, is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.

## **019. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The report of the Internal Auditor contained a number of recommendations to improve the Council's internal controls and the Clerk provided councillors with a response to the recommendations.

**Resolved:** That the internal audit report be accepted and the Clerk's response to give effect to those recommendations be agreed.

## **020. ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillors considered the Annual Report and discussed methods and costs of publicising the document.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk check the requirement relating to circulation of the Annual Report in the criteria for Quality Council status and seek costs for printing and circulation for consideration at the next meeting.

## **021. SHLAA REVIEW AND CALL FOR SITES**

In order to provide an evidence base to support the preparation of its new Local Plan Wyre Council is undertaking a review of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and seeking sites with potential for employment, retail, leisure or other commercial uses.

**Resolved:** that the Council not put forward any sites or make any comments.

## **022. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Councillors considered a draft code of conduct to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and an email from the Secretary of the Wyre Area Committee of LALC proposing that all town and parish councils in Wyre not only agree the revised code but also agree to abide by any findings of the Monitoring Officer in order to promote public confidence that town and parish councillors act in accordance with the highest ethical standards. By a majority it was

**Resolved:** that the Council adopt the revised Code of Conduct with effect from 1 July 2012, that councillors agree to abide by the findings of any investigation into a complaint that a councillor has breached the Code and, further, to abide by any recommendations by the Monitoring Officer as a result of that investigation.

### **023. SPORTS PITCH MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Orme confirmed that he had spoken to Wyre Juniors but has not yet convened a meeting of interested parties. He reported that Wyre Juniors have the necessary kit to carry out the white lining but would probably not have the resources to carry it out. A further report will be made to the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had discussed the issue of applying feed and weedkiller with the Lengthsman who felt that, given the acceptable state of the pitches and the imminent development of the playing field, there was no requirement to apply feed and weedkiller this year.

**Resolved:** that a further report on white lining the pitches be made at the next meeting and that feed and weedkiller not be applied this year.

### **024. CHARGING FOR USE OF PLAYING FIELD/SPORTS PITCHES**

In light of the costs associated with maintaining the playing field/sports pitches and the small amount of income received to offset those costs, councillors discussed the pros and cons of charging everyone for using the facilities. The Clerk reported that, during the weekend of 14/15 April the padlock was broken and the chain removed to allow an ambulance access to the sports pitch. A new padlock (£20) has had to be purchased. By a majority councillors

**Resolved:**

- a) That authorised local teams be not charged for home games (currently Wyre Juniors and Pilling and Preesall FC)
- b) That local teams playing an away match on the sports pitch be charged
- c) That any outside team be charged
- d) That the charge for the 2012/13 season be £35 for two hours and that the charge be paid at the start of the season
- e) That Wyre Juniors and Pilling and Preesall FC matches be diarised for the season and
- f) That the use of the pitches be monitored to ensure unauthorised teams either leave or pay
- g) That a charge be levied for the replacement cost of the padlock

### **025. COUNCILLOR EXPENSES**

Councillors considered a report by the Clerk outlining the policy and practice in relation to councillor expenses in other town and parish councils. Councillors

**Resolved:** that councillors may not claim expenses where they undertake duties on a voluntary basis but, where councillors are required to undertake duties, they may claim travel (at 2<sup>nd</sup> class rail fare or mileage using NALC casual user rates) and other expenses as long as they were supported by receipts.

### **026. WEBSITE**

Councillors discussed 3 quotations for the development of a website for the Council.

**Resolved:** that the matter be deferred to the next meeting pending clarification of a number of points.

## **027. KNOTT END GALA (INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS)**

**Resolved:** that councillors and representatives of the Gala Committee carry out an inspection of the field at 6pm prior to the next meeting on 9 July.

## **028. WYRE COUNCIL - 'SHAPING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD'**

Wyre Council is seeking feedback on its new approach to neighbourhood engagement. Councillors noted that it appears that there is no requirement for the lead councillor to consult and questioned why the Forums had been disbanded. Cllr Taylor reported that there is Regional Growth Fund money for projects in town and parish councillors and asked for ideas to put forward.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk provide Wyre Council with their comments on the approach to neighbourhood engagement and that the refurbishment of the library gardens be put forward as a project for Regional Growth Fund monies.

## **029. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

Councillors considered an invitation from Lancashire County Council for town and parish councils to undertake public rights of way maintenance work. Councillors

**Resolved:** that the Council not take up the invitation.

## **030. WYRE COUNCIL – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK GROUP**

Wyre Council is seeking a representative to attend a meeting of the Affordable Housing Task Group on 3 July 2012.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Orme attend the meeting and that, prior to the meeting, he seek the views of fellow councillors on affordable housing so that he can put forward the range of views to the meeting.

## **031. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### ***12/00324/FUL***

**Proposal:** Change of use from retail unit to podiatry clinic

**Location:** 14 Lancaster Road, Knott End

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

### ***12/00318/FUL***

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing building and erection of one 5 bedroomed and two 4 bedroomed detached dwellings

**Location:** Fernhill Hotel, 230 Park Lane, Preesall

By a majority (four councillors voted against the proposal and one abstained) it was agreed that the Town Council has no objections to the proposal.

### ***12/00329/FUL***

**Proposal:** Provision of play equipment including a MUGA, youth shelters, BMX track, development of wetland area, landscaping, internal pathways, picnic areas, community orchard and upgrade of football pitches

**Location:** Preesall Playing Fields, Sandy Lane, Preesall

Cllr Orme declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chairman of Friends of Preesall Park and the person who had submitted the planning application and left the meeting. Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest as the LCC representative on the Friends of Preesall Park group.

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

**12/00357/ADV**

**Proposal:** Advertisement consent for illuminated and non-illuminated signs and graphics  
**Location:** Preesall Food and Drink, Sandy Lane, Preesall

By a majority (two councillors voted against the proposal and one abstained) it was agreed that the Town Council has no objections to the proposal.

**12/00361/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension and detached garage  
**Location:** Dunoon, Lancaster Road, Knott End

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

**12/00360/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of detached garage  
**Location:** Wee Hoos, 15 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

## **032. FINANCE**

**a) Receipts:**

NatWest (compensation) £ 150.00

**b) Accounts for payment**

Staff costs	£1432.43
Clerk's petty cash expenditure	£ 108.59
HMRC	£ 247.87
Over Wyre Vintners	£ 43.34
Knott End Cafe	£ 426.25
Wyre Building Supplies (Inv 88313)	£ 10.27
Pilling Silver Jubilee Band	£ 60.00
Fleetwood High School (printing)	£ 17.66
St Oswald's PCC (contribution to order of service print costs)	£ 20.00

**c) Statement of Accounts –May 2012**

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

Current Account £30,298.08

Reserve Account £ 6,138.01

Mayor's Charity Account £ 80.00

## **033. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)**

### **Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that there had been in the region of 10,500 responses to the Halite proposal.

### **Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that there is a meeting next week and he asked councillors to let him have any issues they would like him to raise.

### **Over Wyre Seniors' Forum**

Cllr Carter reported that he had attended a very enjoyable party at St Aidan's School.

### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that judging of local gardens would take place on 11 July and that the Britain in Bloom judges would be in the area on 10 July.

### **Best Kept Village**

Cllr Nuttall reported that the judging would take place from 9 June but no notice is given.

### **Lancashire County Council**

Cllr Taylor reported that she had received details of the new proposals relating to 20mph speed limits. A 30mph limit would be reinstated from 50m down the hill from the Black Bull, on Sandy Lane, Preesall and on Lancaster Road to 10m to the east of Lancaster Close. 20mph returns for the whole of Knott End village. Any comments on the proposals need to be lodged with LCC by 18 July.

## **034. CLERK'S REPORT (FOR INFORMATION)**

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

### **Armed Forces Day - 'National Flag Raising'**

The Mayor of Wyre will host a flag raising ceremony at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Monday 25 June 2012 at 12 noon followed by refreshments.

### **Playing Field Lease**

A site meeting took place in March but, in the absence of any further action, Cllr McCann has raised the matter with the appropriate officers at Wyre Council.

### **Victorian Society**

A photographic exhibition Saving a Century, will be on show in the newly restored Floral Hall in the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, daily from 6 – 30 June. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome.

### **Shopping and Foot Care Service**

AgeUK Blackpool and District is now offering a Shopping Service and a Foot Care Service to adults (over 18) in Wyre. Residents can apply for the Shopping Service if they have

- A physical or learning disability
- Mental health or physical illness
- Sensory impairment
- Caring responsibilities or
- Are temporarily incapacitated eg recently out of hospital

There is a charge for the Foot Care Service of £12 for the purchase of the pedicure pack and £16 for each visit. Financial help may be available. Both services can be accessed by calling 01253 622812

### **Quality Council Training**

A Certificate of Attendance has been received naming those who attended the workshop on 30 April 2012.

### **Lengthsman's Report**

In addition to the day to day work the Lengthsman has been applying weedkiller to ensure everything remains neat and tidy. As grass and hedges are actively growing there is more work in strimming and cutting back overgrown shrubbery and he has watered plants in public areas during the recent hot weather.

### **Unsworth Ave**

LCC conducted a traffic volume and speed count and the results show that there is no justification for any further Police action and it is unlikely that LCC will be willing to introduce any form of traffic calming measures or a prohibition of driving (Access Order).

### **Prayers**

“Eligible” parish councils will be able to use the General Power of Competence in relation to including prayers on the agenda. An eligible parish council is defined as one where two thirds of councillors are elected rather than co-opted, where the Clerk has undertaken suitable training so that s/he understands and is able to advise councillors on how to apply the power and that the Clerk is qualified. Prayers will not be able to be included in the agenda until the Certificate in Local Council Administration has been achieved.

### **LCC Depot**

The depot has been closed temporarily but there is no decision yet on its future.

### **Bank Accounts**

NatWest has now acted on the instruction to close the Mayor’s Charity Reserve Account and the Capital Reserve Account and to transfer the funds in the latter account to the Business Reserve Account. The revised mandate which requires two signatures for cheques of any amount is now in place and the two additional signatories have been approved.

### **Bank Charges**

Compensation of £150 has been received from NatWest as a result of their slow response in responding to enquiries relating to the charge of £3.25 per month. The charge was made for the return of cashed cheques and this has now been cancelled and no further charges will be incurred.

### **War Memorial Handrail**

Following the resolution of the Council at its April meeting an Expression of Interest Form has been submitted to the War Memorial’s Trust together with a quotation from QBC for the work.

### **Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm – Community Consultation**

Newsletter No 2 has recently been published and can be viewed at [www.walneyextension.com](http://www.walneyextension.com). The next round of community consultation events are planned for the first two weeks in September.

### **Road Projects**

Any road projects identified by councillors have been forwarded to LCC’s Public Realm Manager.

### **Flags**

It would be useful if councillors identify the dates/occasions on which they wish the flags to be raised so that the Lengthsman has an annual calendar to work to.

### **Publications Received**

Halite – Preesall Underground Gas Storage Facility Socio Economic Impacts Study.

### **Bridleways Association**

The annual ride will take place on Saturday 16 June and posters have been displayed on the notice boards to alert members of the public to the fact that they will gather on the ferry slip car park.

## **035. QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Carter asked councillors for clarification on riding a bicycle on the seal wall. Cllr Taylor responded that, under current rules, it is prohibited but she is trying through her roles at Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council to get a cycleway along the sea wall.

Cllr Moon asked Cllr Taylor if LCC had plans to resurface the whole of Park Lane as it is full of dangerous potholes. Cllr Orme confirmed that the issue had been raised at the Wyre Road Safety

Committee.

### **036. 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.

### **037. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act ,Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Drobny seconded and councillors **resolved** to exclude the press and public to discuss matters relating to the employment of staff.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.30pm.