

PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 September 2018 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

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

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 5 members of the public.

101a(1) Apologies for absence

Cllr R Black, Cllr R Drobny, Cllr G McCann.

101b(1) Absent without apology

None

102(2) Declarations of interests and dispensations

None

103(3) Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 13 August were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

104(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 matters:

- The Co-Op is looking to create a memory box for people with dementia. It will include items that encourage people to talk about things that were familiar to them in the past. Suggested items for inclusion are milk tokens, luncheon vouchers etc. Councillors were asked if they had any suggestions/guidance/items.
In response: it was suggested that more than one box might be suitable, for example a gardening box, a cooking box.
- County Cllr Salter reported on his disappointment at the decision to push back the re-surfacing works on Park Lane until February and that he would be attending a meeting later in September where he would be seeking assurances that this date won't be further delayed. He also reported that he had managed to secure an extension to the length of the re-surfacing works by approximately 50-70m and that he continued to be involved with the discussions re implementing a controlled parking zone on Preesall Hill. He informed councillors of LCC's successful bid in securing just under £2m for improvements to the A588 and asked whether councillors had any thoughts on how improvements could be made.
In response: It was suggested that the greatest improvement to the A588 would be to alter the layout of the junction of Cemetery Lane, Park Lane and Burned House Lane. Concerns were expressed regarding potential slippages to the re-surfacing works on Park Lane and it was asked whether this work could be carried out at October half-term. Cllr Salter was also asked if it would be possible to include the re-surfacing of Fordstone Avenue. He replied that there were plans to carry out heavy-duty patching in the medium term.

- It was reported that a traffic monitoring device had been installed on a lamppost on Park Lane that would be used to assess the speed of vehicles.
- It was suggested that anyone receiving scam/phishing emails report these to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

At the conclusion of the public participation (7.20pm) and at the request of the Mayor, councillors resolved to reconvene the meeting.

105(5) Bench on Pilling Lane

Resolved: to give approval for Preesall council's bench, sited outside no. 88 Pilling Lane, to be moved at no cost to Preesall Council to the front of no. 86 Pilling Lane as part of the new driveway application

106(6) Policy reviews

106.1 Freedom of Information policy

Resolved: to readopt the policy as amended to reflect the changes in the Model Publication Scheme.

106.2 Standing Orders

Resolved: to establish a working group comprising Cllr Woodhouse, Cllr Burn, Cllr Greenhough and Cllr Orme to go through the new revised NALC Standing Orders in comparison with existing Standing Orders, and present to the council an amended version for its approval.

107(7) Audit for year ended 31 March 2018

Councillors congratulated the clerk on having obtained a clean audit.

Resolved: to approve and accept the annual return and certificate and to note that the relevant notices had been placed on the notice boards and uploaded on to the website on 23 August 2018.

108(8) Additional storage

Resolved: to approve the purchase of a container to meet the council's storage requirements. It was agreed that the clerk would seek prices for suitably sized containers and that Cllr Orme would look into the possibility of Wyre council contributing a suitable base.

109(9) Projects for 2019/2020

Councillors noted the requirement to put forward ideas for consideration in the next round of budgeting at the October 2018 meeting. The siting of benches on the sea wall was suggested.

110(10) Re-routing of 2c bus service

Councillors were made aware of the proposal to request that the 2c bus service to be re-routed via Pilling Lane and Grasmere Avenue to enable patients attending the medical centre to have a shorter walk. Concerns were raised that this could have an unintended negative impact on residents attending events/social groups and Warfarin clinics at St Oswald's Church.

Resolved: for the clerk to write to Wyre council investigating whether any further work had been conducted at Wyre in obtaining a community bus and registering Preesall Council's interest.

Resolved: that before further action was taken that the public should be consulted for their views on whether the service should be re-directed. The clerk was tasked with researching the best way to carry out a community consultation exercise of this nature.

111(11) Community suggestion

Resolved: that the decision as to whether to purchase up to two silhouette/outline figures of British soldiers wearing a poppy, as part of the council's input into this years' '100-year remembrance of the end of WW1,' be delegated to the Battle's Over committee. This would be subject to sufficient funds being

available within the committee's budget.

112(12) Clerk's training

Resolved: to approve the clerk's attendance at SLCC's Cheshire Branch annual conference on 27 September 2018 at a cost of £30, to be split with Stalmine Parish Council.

113(13) Charging for Lengthsman's services

Resolved: that where it is necessary for works to be carried out on private land, in the interests of public safety, that the owners of the land be offered the services of the council's lengthsman at an hourly rate charge. If the private land owners do not do the work themselves or decline Preesall Council's offer of the lengthsman's services then they will be reported to the relevant authority for remedial action to be taken.

114(14) NALC agenda items

Resolved: to approve the wording of two issues to be raised at LALC's 74th annual general meeting on Saturday 17 November by (Cllr Orme and Cllr McCann).

a) Standards in public life

While we understand the committee for standards in public life is currently undergoing a review of ethical standards in local government we feel that irrespective of whatever is finally agreed (and there might be no change) there has to be a backstop /minimum that our sector is willing to accept. Preesall Town Council asks for the support of LALC to request that NALC lobbies the Government on the following motion.

That all councillors sign upon taking office, and are held accountable to, the commitment to follow the adopted code of conduct of their council, which should include observance, acceptance and compliance with the monitoring officer's findings, observations and requirements (if any) in any code of conduct investigation and that to not do so results in an immediate suspension from the role of councillor, as would be the case if you were sent to prison, for example.

b) IT requirement

Preesall Town Council asks that LALC lobbies NALC to seek government support for the introduction of an IT requirement for all town and parish council councillor candidates. Following on from the transparency scheme where councils were encouraged to have IT equipment and websites, we ask for support for the motion that the third tier of government moves towards 100% electronic communication and the abandonment of paper copies other than for archive purposes.

In this ever more complex and demanding time for our town and parish clerks the need for the production and distribution of paper and electronic copies of agendas, minutes and other communications to their councillors needs to stop. This will be a more efficient use of their time, be cost-effective and show the sector to be fully modern and efficient.

Other tiers of government are rapidly moving towards paperless committees and meetings and already do the bulk of the internal communications by email - why should the town and parish sector be any different?

It is ludicrous that when the district councils, LALC and other agencies send communications, press releases, consultations etc. to the parishes, the clerks cannot just add email addresses and send them straight on to their councillors but have to print out the communication and post it to those councillors without IT, thereby adding work, cost and a time delay to the process.

A pertinent example in our own district is that planning application consultations have for some time been distributed electronically but in order to accommodate those councillors without IT access or skills the clerk has to sift through every planning application, select relevant documents and place an order for

paper copies of them from the district. Then our meetings have to have a period set aside for said paper copies to be perused by said councillors.

Ten years ago, maybe even five, the lack of skills or equipment could possibly be excused in a certain generation but we feel that this is no longer an excuse and just as other criteria apply for you to be a councillor so should the ability to communicate by electronic means. We are not talking about councillors having the most up-to-date toast-making equipment or having the skills to do IT wizardry, but just to have basic equipment and the ability to send and receive an email, open an enclosure and print it off if needed. Please support this motion for the efficient future of the sector.

115(15) Property requiring attention

Councillors were made aware of continuing problems with a property on Elmwood Avenue in Preesall and the failure of Wyre Council to respond to an elderly resident's letter to the chief executive requesting that action be taken.

Resolved: for the clerk to send a letter to the chief executive of Wyre Council expressing disappointment at the lack of response to neighbours.

116(16) Community-led housing

Given the volume and detail of information, councillors expressed an interesting in finding out how the community housing model would work in practice.

Resolved: for the clerk to write to James Beale at Wyre Council, thanking him for the offer of further information and inviting him to address the next meeting of the council in October. It was agreed that the meeting would start at the earlier time of 6.00pm to facilitate the discussion.

117(17) Planning applications

As no councillors seconded the motion to send a letter to Wyre's planning department requesting that the council be copied in to HPN applications, the motion wasn't carried.

118(18) Finance

Councillors **resolved:**

a) To note receipts at the meeting	
Current account	250.00
Reserve account	1.30
In Bloom account	0.00

b) To approve the following payments:	Cheque	
Payroll	316,318,320	2841.65
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	317	38.50
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	319	40.00
Preesall Auto Discount (Inv.843)	321	67.31
Wyre Building Supplies Ltd (Inv.075101)	322	33.94
Glasdon (Inv.757345)	323	606.69
Wyre Memorials (Order 41-56)	324	876.00
Cartridgesave (Inv.u29450)	325	52.36
PKF Littlejohn LLP (Inv.SB201800476)	326	480.00
Cheshire SLCC	327	30.00

c) To note the following payments by direct debit	
Easy Web Sites (hosting fee, 9 x councillor email, SSL certificate)	49.20
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.35
LCC (contributions)	815.10
LCC (deficit)	8.33

d) To note the statement of accounts for August 2018	
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e) To approve the following cheque signed outside the meeting: Wyre Council licence fee for Battle's Over event (6601/99460)	50.00
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119(19) Resolved: for Cllr Reilly be added as a subject lead for Preesall Youth and Community Association.

120(20) Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

Co-op – Cllr Woodhouse reported that low level fundraising was ongoing and that the current manager would shortly be moving to a new store.

Best Kept Village – Cllr Orme reported that the village had got through to the final round of judging. He expressed thanks to those who had turned out to help with the litter pick on judging day.

Gala – Cllr Hudson informed councillors that the AGM would be on the 29th of October and hoped councillors would attend.

G & KE light railway – Cllr Woodhouse reported that a meeting with NPL was scheduled to take place this week.

Health – Cllr Greenhough reported that MS Care would commence diabetic eye screening 2/3 times per month at the Over Wyre Medical Centre, starting in October.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr Orme reported that the executive committee had taken place on Saturday and that a recurrent theme had been the state of the roads.

Preesall Youth and Community Association – Cllr Patrick reported that new doors had been fitted and were now ready to be painted. New flooring had also been put down in the porch and she thanked Cllr Orme for all his hard work.

Tourism – Cllr Woodhouse reported that the ferry is doing well.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting would take place this Thursday.

Wyre In Bloom – Cllr Mutch said that seasonal work was ongoing and that Mrs McCann had assisted with the pre judging tidy up for the Best Kept Village.

Youth – Cllr Patrick reported that the new school year had seen a fresh group of children joining the youth centre and that Tuesday evening sessions were being supported by Fleetwood Community Trust.

121(21) Verbal report from Wyre Councillor (information only)

None

122(22) Clerk's report (information only)

Councillors noted:

Lengthsman's report

In August the lengthsman has cleared gutters along the shop fronts and conducted an intensive litter pick along Park Lane in advance of judging for the best kept village competition. He assisted with the removal of a dead horse from the beach, has strimmed pathways and continued to assist with watering the flower

displays. He has also serviced the SPID sign and fenced off the area around the millennium clock for the tile repairs to take place.

Freedom of Information requests

Two requests have been received this month, one via ‘what do they know’ in respect of parking systems and any associated software operated by the council. The second, by a member of the public, requested a copy of the recording of the June meeting.

Illicit correspondence

It is understood that a letter purporting to be from ‘Preesall and Knott End Town Council’ has been sent to Co-Op head office complaining about the cones being put in the road to prevent parking when the delivery van is expected. The matter will be investigated further when the store manager returns from leave.

Remembrance bench

A member of the public has requested a bench in memory of her father. The bench has now been delivered by Glasdon and an invoice has been sent for the net amount. The bench will be installed on the seafront in the next two weeks.

Letter of thanks

A letter has been received from the North West Air Ambulance charity thanking the council for its donation of £250.

Personal Support Unit – helping people facing court alone

Every year thousands of people find themselves facing the battle of their life in court, alone and without help. They have to represent themselves in cases of divorce, contact with children, or eviction from their homes. Under distressing circumstances they must navigate a complex legal system, often against professional representation on the other side.

In times of austerity the reduced availability of legal aid has meant that thousands more people face the civil and family courts alone. Their access to justice is at risk, as they feel overwhelmed and struggle to represent themselves effectively in court.

PSU is the only charity helping people in court on a daily basis.

Over 700 trained volunteers provide a free service across the country. PSU provides comfort, support and guidance before, during and after court. PSU ensures people facing court alone feel prepared and supported to access justice.

123(23) Mayor’s report (information only)

The Mayor reported that she had taken the opportunity to have some leave in August.

124(24) Questions to councillors (information only)

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Orme if he was able to provide any information regarding the rumour that bin collection times may change next year. Cllr Orme stated that he had not heard anything.

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Orme if he could confirm what was happening with the Christmas Fair. Cllr Orme replied that no meetings had been held and that he was unable to provide any further information at this time.

125(25) Exclusion of the press and public

As the previous meeting's green paper minutes did not contain confidential information it was decided not to exclude the press and public. Councillors **resolved** that the green paper minutes of the meeting held on 13 August be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

126(26) Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be held on 8 October 2018. Councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 27 September** at the latest. A summary of the reason for raising the matter should be provided.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.44pm.