

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 April 2013
at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.**

Present: Councillors C Lamb (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, R Drobny, D Hudson, G McCann, J Mutch, K Nicholls, P Orme and V Taylor

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council

216. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Lawson and P Moon and the reasons accepted.

217. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6 (Wyre in Bloom – Donation for Planting) and Item 19 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Mutch declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6 (Wyre in Bloom – Donation for Planting) as she is a member of the group.

218. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2013 be agreed as a true record.

219. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING A VERBAL POLICE REPORT)

In the absence of a Police representative the Clerk read out an email provided by PCSO Terry Molloy. In March 2012 there were 7 reported crimes (none detected). This compares with 16, 5 of which were detected, in the same period last year. There were 8 incidents of anti-social behaviour (5 of which were youth related) in March 2013 compared to 18 (6 of which were youth related) in the same period last year.

In response to points raised at last month's meeting, PCSO Molloy provided the following information:

Speeding on Park Lane - stretches have been risk assessed to carry out Community Roadwatch and these will begin shortly; **Drugs** – the Police take this matter seriously and rely on intelligence from residents who are encouraged to report suspicious activity. Information can be provided anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555 111; **Drink driving and ASB** – this has been passed to Licensing and the Road Policing Unit for their attention; Use of fog lights – the Road Policing Unit advise that this is not a priority as it does not impact on collisions. Cllr Orme pointed out that there was no response to the point made about the length of time the Over Wyre area had been left without a PC. Cllr Taylor raised the matter of motorbikes and motorscooters riding antisocially around Barton Square in the late evening and asked the Clerk to pass the information on to PCSO Molloy.

The Clerk informed councillors of an email she had received from a local resident expressing concern at the increase in the precept and what he felt was a lack of clear explanation for it. Councillors noted that the Clerk had provided additional information to the resident and had offered to provide a full breakdown of the budget which the resident had not taken up.

220. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Having made provision in the 2013/14 budget, councillors **resolved** to enrol the Clerk and the Lengthsman in the Local Government Pension Scheme with effect from 1 October 2013.

221. WYRE IN BLOOM – DONATION FOR PLANTING

Councillors considered information provided by Mrs McCann in relation to the potential costs of planting the the four beds behind the library with shrubs and spring flowering bulbs, the two urn planters

including compost and the new wooden planter opposite the Police Station including soil/compost and **resolved** to make a donation of up to the total cost identified (£610) subject to the receipt of invoices.

222. PROMOTION OF KNOTT END AND PREESELL

Cllr Hudson expressed concern at what he sees as the lack of investment in and promotion of the area by Wyre Council. Councillors agreed to set up a working group to identify ways that Wyre Council and other agencies could better promote the area and to report back to the Council with recommendations in due course. Cllrs Drobny, Carter and Orme agreed to be part of the working group.

223. POLICING RESPONSE TIMES AND RESOURCING

Councillors noted that there had been no response to date to the invitation made to the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet councillors to hear first hand their concerns about policing response times and resourcing.

Councillors were pleased to note that there had been a positive response to the letter asking the Chief Constable to continue to make resources available to marshal the Civic Sunday parade. The Garstang NPT will marshal the parade this year but is unlikely to do so in future years. Councillors noted that there had been no response from the Police and Crime Commissioner on this matter.

224. S106 AGREEMENT – RESPONSE FROM WYRE COUNCIL

In the absence of Cllr Moon (who, in his role as a Wyre councillor, had been asked to pursue the matter on behalf of the Town Council) councillors **resolved** to defer the matter to the next meeting.

225. PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Cllr Nicholls reported that LCC had confirmed that they plan to carry out the work to resolve the issues in this financial year and they hope to begin work on replacing lines and signs in the next few weeks. Councillors **resolved** to ask Cllr Nicholls to report progress to a future meeting.

226. YULETIDE FESTIVAL

Cllr Orme reported on a recent meeting with the Gala Committee. Members of the Methodist Church are willing to get involved and to have fairground rides on the green area around the church. The group is hoping to attract a number of market stalls and is working on advertising and promoting the event. Councillors **resolved** to move the Christmas tree lighting ceremony from the first Sunday in December to the preceding Saturday (30 November 2013) and the Clerk confirmed that Pilling Band could accommodate the change of date.

227. TRAFFIC SURVEY

Cllr Carter reported that he and the Clerk had met an officer from the Road Policing Unit to look at traffic problems in Knott End. As parking enforcement issues are already being dealt with, councillors **resolved** to take no further action.

228. WYRE COUNCIL TASK GROUP – REVIEW OF KNOTT END TO FLEETWOOD FERRY

Councillors noted that Wyre Council has set up a Task Group to conduct a value for money review of the ferry with the emphasis on improvement, enhancement and more effective promotion to increase usage and had asked the Council to nominate a representative. By a majority councillors **resolved** that Cllr Orme be the Town Council's representative and that he report back to a future meeting.

229. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LOCAL DELIVERY SCHEME

Councillors considered LCC's invitation to express an interest in undertaking public rights of way maintenance work on their behalf and **resolved** to take up the invitation for 2013/14.

230. REQUEST FOR DONATION

Councillors noted that Pilling Silver Band had qualified to represent the region at the National Finals in September. This is the first time the Band has qualified in its 78 year history but has to raise in the

region of £5000 for the privilege of competing. Councillors considered a request for a donation from the Band and **resolved** to make a donation of £250. Councillors also **resolved** to allow the Band to use the car park for a fundraising event.

231. AUTHORISATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS BETWEEN BANK ACCOUNTS

Councillors noted that it is not possible to retain two authorised signatories for payments but to allow the transfer of funds between accounts on one signatory. As a result councillors **resolved** to take no further action.

232. FURNITURE COLLECTION

The Clerk reminded councillors that, as Lancashire Museums Service is no longer able to retain the furniture collection, the Council had entered into discussions with Parrox Hall who indicated that, in principle, the furniture could be located in the Hall. Since then a detailed description of the furniture, including photos and dimensions, has been provided Parrox Hall has confirmed that there is not room for the furniture collection. Councillors asked if there might be room for a selection of the furniture, for example the chairman's chair and table and asked the Clerk to pursue this with Parrox Hall.

Councillors noted that the Museums Service had an ethical disposal procedure where, if the Council no longer wanted the collection, it would be offered first to accredited museums, then unaccredited museums, other interested parties and charities. Councillors were keen that any disposal benefitted the local area and therefore **resolved** to find a buyer for those pieces of furniture which could not be accommodated locally.

233. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13/00154/FUL

Proposal: Erection of side car port

Location: 8 Derwent Close, Knott End

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

13/00184/FUL

Proposal: Two storey and single storey rear extensions

Location: 25 Sandy Lane, Preesall

By a majority (three councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

13/00222/FUL

Proposal: Two storey rear extension, front porch, installation of tiled roof over existing conservatory and detached double garage

Location: Meadowdale, Head Dyke Lane, Preesall

By a majority (one councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

13/00235/FUL

Proposal: New vehicular access

Location: Kinvara, 165 Lancaster Road, Knott End

By a majority (two councillors were for and one abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of highway safety as the proposed new access is on a road junction

13/00236/FUL

Proposal: Erection of replacement shed

Location: Land adjacent Back Lane and Lindel Lane, Knott End

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

234. FINANCE

a) Payments received:

Wyre Juniors	£29.38
Stalmine Parish Council	£15.82
In Bloom donations	£880.00
Green Partnership Award	£500.00
War Memorials Trust	£403.00

b) Accounts for Payment:

Staff costs	£1556.04
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£63.69
HMRC	£113.42
Rigby Taylor	£144.00
SLCC	£162.00*
Preesall Auto Discount	£7.90
LALC	£572.26
Wyre Council (playing field rent)	£15.00
Wyre Building Supplies	£274.49
Viking	£41.96
Amberol Limited	£481.32
Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Association	£15.00

*to be shared 50/50 with Stalmine Parish Council

Payments by Standing Order for Noting

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£ 36.00
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c) Statement of Accounts – March 2013

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for March which shows:

Current account	£9,762.91
Reserve account	£6,140.33
Mayor's Charity Account	Nil

d) Budget Outturn 2012/13

Councillors noted the budget outturn for 2012/13 which would enable a prudent level of reserves as recommended by the external auditors (between three and twelve months of gross expenditure) to be built up in case of unexpected demands.

Councillors **resolved** to note the receipts, the payments by standing order, the statement of accounts and the budget outturn and to approve the accounts for payment.

235. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Taylor reported that the Secretary of State's decision is expected on 9 April.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that planning permission had now been received and meetings with contractors and suppliers would be held shortly which would allow a start date to be identified. Cllr Nicholls volunteered to be the Council's representative at this group.

Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reported that work was continuing at Sunnyside. Work by the Environment Agency to improve sea defences and the ferry slip is on hold and is being reassessed. Issues relating to flooding in the Rosemount area are being dealt with by Wyre Council and improvements as part of the playing field redevelopment will help that situation.

Over Wyre Seniors' Forum

Cllr Carter reported that there had been a presentation at the last meeting on Silverline, the helpline set up by Esther Rantzen on the lines of Childline but for older people.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the next meeting is on 24 April at Wyre Council and regular meetings are being held with the volunteers.

236. VERBAL REPORTS FROM WYRE AND LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Taylor reported that she had been removed as Chair of the Knott End Ferry Task Group as her brother owns the Cafe but Cllr Moon has taken the chair in her place.

237. CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Lengthsman's Report

The recent very windy weather has meant an increase in litter and debris to be picked up. The Lengthsman has reported that the roadside gullies on the stretch of Park Lane from the Fernhill to Preesall Park Corner are not allowing water to drain away. This has been reported to LCC and action to clear the problem is awaited. He has also spent some time clearing gutters, particularly where the Wyre Council roadsweeping vehicle cannot reach as a result of parked cars, and brambles to ensure footpaths are accessible. The Lengthsman has now built the new raised bed opposite the Police Station and we are waiting for LCC to drill drainage holes in the tarmac.

Location of Civic Awards

The Clerk and Cllr Orme attended a site visit on 12 March with Janet Thomas, District Manager for Wyre Libraries. A wall area has been identified for the display of the Past Mayor's Board and recent civic awards (suitably framed) on condition that the Town Council pays for the work to be done, keeps the area looking neat, tidy and well managed and makes good any damage to the walls caused by the work. Ms Thomas has obtained a small amount of matching paint so that there are no problems matching colour.

Land Behind the Library

The formal registration of the land is still awaited.

Dog Fouling

As a result of reports of increased dog fouling, particularly on the Esplanade, the playing field and football pitches, the Operations Area Officer (Rural and Over Wyre) has put together a patrol plan and will increase his uniformed presence in problem areas. He will also speak to the Street Cleansing Team and ask them to prioritise cleaning the areas.

New Litter Bins

Wyre Council will be removing old bins from the Esplanade and sea wall and ferry car park and installing a number of new multi-purpose larger capacity bins in their place. The three bins from the ferry car park will be removed and replaced with one much larger bin placed centrally which will match the bin in front of the café. He also intends to replace some bins on the sea wall. This will give a consistent style of bin which can also be used for dog waste (separate dog waste bins are being phased out).

Review of Quality Council Scheme

The Quality Council Scheme is being reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Consultation is now under way and a new Scheme will be drafted during May/June. Workshops on the new Scheme will take place between July and October and applications will be able to be made under the new Scheme from October. The current freeze on Quality Status will end in December.

Health and Safety Training

The Clerk and the Lengthsman will attend the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Level 1 training which is being run by Cllr Lamb. Other parish councils have been invited and six other Clerks and Lengthsman will attend and pay a small fee. This means that there is no cost to the Council and may generate a small surplus.

Health and Safety Documentation

Gillian Benson (Clerk for Catterall, Pilling, Kirkland and Forton), Edwina Parry (Clerk for Garstang) and I have agreed to pool our health and safety documentation to identify best practice for us all to adopt a common approach. An initial meeting will take place on 16 April.

Certificate in Local Council Administration

The workshops are now over and the portfolio is complete and has been checked by County Training Partnership staff. The portfolio has now been submitted to the Society of Local Council Clerks for assessment.

Millennium Tiles

Adrian Cross has given an update on progress. The adhesive and old concrete needs to be cleaned off the tiles he took up and he is hoping to begin relaying them in May, once the weather and temperatures improve! The Clerk and Lengthsman have both offered to help with the cleaning if it speeds things up.

238. QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Taylor in her capacity as a county councillor whether there had been any further progress in her discussions on the possible resurfacing of Park Lane. Cllr Taylor responded that she will report any progress when it happens.

Cllr Lamb asked Cllr Taylor in her capacity as a county councillor whether it would be possible for a zebra crossing outside the Co-op to be installed.

Cllr Orme reported that he has been invited to give evidence at a Wyre Council Task Group review in relation to Parks and asked councillors to let him have any comments or views.

239. 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.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.