

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 August 2012
at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.**

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

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council; PCSO Natalie Johnstone and PCSO Emma Brown (Item 4); County Councillor Mike Otter and Mrs C Otter

A G E N D A

064. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

065. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as a Friend of Preesall Park and a Wyre Borough Councillor and in item 13 as Chair of Governors at Carter's Charity School. Cllrs Moon and McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as Friends of Preesall Park and as Wyre Borough Councillors. Cllr Black declared a pecuniary interest in item 13 as he is employed at the school. Cllr Lawson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as a Friend of Preesall Park and in item 13 as a school governor. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as Chairman of the Friends of Preesall Park. Cllr Drobny declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4 as a member of a Lancashire Police Authority Panel. Cllr Nicholls declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 12/00535/FUL on the basis that the applicants are relatives.

066. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minute 0050 (Future of the Playing Field) - Cllr Drobny asked for an amendment to the minute on the basis that the current minute appeared to suggest that his sole intent was to make a saving. It was **resolved** that the wording be amended as follows: In the light of the costs of maintaining the playing field Cllr Drobny proposed that the lease be relinquished to Wyre Council who would then be responsible for safeguarding it for young people and thus also making a saving for the Town Council. **Minute 0057** (Planning Applications) - Cllrs Nicholls and Orme indicated that they had objected to planning application 12/00318/FUL. With these amendments

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2012 be agreed as a true record.

067. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING A VERBAL POLICE REPORT)

At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow non-councillors to speak. PCSO Johnstone reported that, in July 2012 there were 16 reported crimes with 1 deemed to be a no-crime. 8 had already been detected and, of the 15, 5 relate to the same address. This compares with 10, 5 of which were detected, in the same period last year. There were 16 reports of anti-social behaviour last month, 7 of which were youth nuisance compared to the same period last year when there were 23 reports of anti-social behaviour with 7 relating to youth nuisance.

Cllr Drobny reported that the glass in the bus shelter in the village had been smashed and the officer confirmed that it had been reported to the Police at the weekend. Cllr Nicholls reported that a constituent had had to ring the Police twice on the same matter and no contact had yet been made with the individual. The officers asked that any intelligence on drug related matters be reported to the Police. It was reported that a number of residents had met to complain about nuisance behaviour on the park but these issues had not been reported to the Police.

068. WEBSITE

County Cllr Mike Otter gave a short presentation on his role as Lancashire County Council's Parish

Champion and explained that he had an annual fund of £10,000 to provide grants to town and parish councils. He presented the Mayor with a cheque for £400 as a contribution to the cost of the website, for which councillors expressed their thanks. At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting at the end of the presentation.

The Clerk reported that the website was almost ready to launch and asked councillors to provide information on any links they would wish to include on the website and to confirm which email address they would wish to use.

069. PLAYING FIELD LEASE RENEWAL

The lease on the playing field is due to expire in 2017 and the Council approached Wyre Council to ask that a new lease be granted in order to support grant applications by Friends of Preesall Park. Wyre Council is prepared, in principle, to grant a new lease on revised terms and conditions which had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Drobny identified a number of lease conditions with which he was unhappy and Cllr Orme reported that he and the Clerk had asked for details of the lease conditions for the Sports Pavilion and the Sports Hall in order that respective responsibilities and obligations were understood. Following further discussion councillors

Resolved: that the matter be deferred to the next meeting in order to clarify 3rd party agreements and estimated surveyor and legal costs.

070. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Clerk reported that the Jubilee finial should arrive shortly. The Public Realm Manager would source new cast arms pointing to Knott End, Lancaster and Blackpool for the finger post and would provide modern arms as a temporary measure. NW Precast of Pilling had confirmed their offer of two concrete urn planters and a date for collection was awaited. The Clerk had discussed the registration process for the land behind the library with Mrs D Lamb and would contact councillors to prepare draft statutory declarations. Cllr Lamb had measured the triangle of land opposite the police station and will prepare a plan showing the location and size of the planters for submission to LCC's traffic team.

071. DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998 – REGISTRATION

The Council is required to be registered with The Information Commissioner for the purposes of controlling sensitive data (including employment and payroll data). Councillors noted the requirement and **resolved** to approve the payment of £35 for the registration fee.

072. MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Freedom of Information Act requires organisations to publish details of what information it holds and is available.

Resolved: that the Model Publication Scheme be approved.

073. INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY

As a data controller the Council is required to maintain sensitive information securely.

Resolved: that the Information Security Policy be approved.

074. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Councils are required to have a Complaints Procedure so that members of the public know how to make a complaint and how it will be dealt with.

Resolved: that the Complaints Procedure be approved.

075. AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK GROUP

Cllr Orme reported that the public perception of Affordable Housing is poor. The principle is not at issue but different providers have different approaches and there needs to be consistency using the best practice in terms of regulation. Wyre Council and social housing providers need to conduct better surveys, keep information up to date and ensure robust regulation. The final report is awaited.

076. CARTER'S CHARITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cllr Carter reported that discussion with parents has identified particular access and safety issues as the refuse collection round coincides with children arriving at school. A number of councillors identified that the problem was exacerbated by poor driving and parking on the part of parents. Councillors

Resolved: that the Clerk contact either Wyre Council or Veolia to ask whether the timing of the round could be adjusted to prevent future problems.

077. PREESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY

Councillors noted that the first Issue Specific Hearing took place on 24 July 2012. On 18 July the Planning Inspectorate issued a set of Further Written Questions arising from responses from the first round of questions. On 27 July the Inspectorate wrote to interested parties to advise that the timetable had been varied by removing the second issue specific hearing from the timetable (now likely to be held later in the examination).

078. LANCASHIRE & MERSEYSIDE COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership is running workshops on Risk Assessment (3 October), Employment (10 October) and Community Engagement (24 October). The fee for each workshop is £25. Councillor Moon indicated that he would like to attend the Community Engagement workshop if he was not working. As this was not deemed to be essential training councillors

Resolved: that the costs of the training be not met by the Council

079. LALC – 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Saturday 10 November at 1.45pm and the Council is invited to send two voting representatives (1 of whom may be the Clerk).

Resolved: that Cllr Orme and the Clerk be nominated as the two voting representatives.

080. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

At 16 April 2012 meeting, Cllr Nuttall advised that a number of lamps had been broken or damaged as a result of the weather and the contractors had provided a price (£1608.75 + VAT) for replacing all existing lamps with LED lamps. Councillors resolved that Cllr Nuttall be asked to check the cost of replacing the broken bulbs to inform further discussion at a future meeting. As the Clerk had not been able to contact the contractor, councillors

Resolved: to defer the matter to the next meeting.

081. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

12/00496/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective application for installation of plant equipment to service yard, new ramp to front and rear exits and new shop front

Location: 1A Sandy Lane, Preesall

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

12/00491/FUL

Proposal: Rear conservatory

Location: 5 Links Road, Knott End

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

12/00449/FUL

Proposal: Erection of 3 stables, tack room and sand paddock (resubmission of 12/00284/FUL)

Location: Horseshoe Barn, Bourbles Lane, Preesall

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

12/00512/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to form bedroom
Location: 19 Kingston Close, Knott End

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

12/00528/OUT

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of a single dwelling
Location: Land adjacent to Wavertree, Hackensall Road, Knott End

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

12/00535/FUL

Proposal: Installation of two 20kw wind turbines with a height of 20.58m to centre of hub and overall height of 27.13m to top of blades (13.1m diameter blades)- resubmission of 12/00267/FUL)
Location: Muffys Platt Farm, Pilling Lane, Preesall

Cllr Nicholls, having declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application, left the room.

By a majority (two councillors voted for the application and two abstained) it was agreed that the Town Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of noise pollution and the negative impact on the countryside.

082. FINANCE

a) Receipts:

Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council £7.98

b) Accounts for payment:

Staff costs	£1547.73
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of the Council	£ 60.86
HMRC	£ 110.47
Wyre Building Supplies	£ 30.00
Fleetwood High School (printing)	£ 22.92

c) Statement of Accounts – June and July 2012

Councillors noted the Statement of Accounts as at 30 June and at 31 July 2012 which shows

Current Account	£25,776.79
Reserve Account	£6,138.01
Mayor's Charity Account	£Nil

083. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported the ongoing issue with Sport England over the playing field development planning application.

Over Wyre Seniors' Forum

Cllr Carter reported that there had been a meeting on 2 August on the topic of home equity release schemes and there had been a presentation by the Library service on accessing information. Cllr Orme reported that there are still only a few people attending despite promoting the group which meets on 1st Thursday in the month at 1.30 pm and the Forum may not continue if numbers do not increase.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the Mayor and Mayoress had carried out local judging and certificates had been given out. The views of the Britain in Bloom judges were awaited.

Lancashire Best Kept Village

Cllr Nuttall reported that Preesall and Knott End had come fifth.

084. VERBAL REPORTS FROM WYRE AND LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Taylor reported that consultation on the revised 20mph zones closed in July and a report is being prepared for the Portfolio Holder. She is working to gain approval for cycling to be permitted on the sea wall and has held meetings with officers to look at proposals.

Cllr Moon reported that the new in-house street cleaning service appeared to be working well.

Cllr McCann reported that a £3m grant was available to Blackpool and Wyre Councils for arts projects and it was likely that some of the money would be spent on the Grand Theatre. The Core Strategy is being updated with the results of the consultation.

Cllr Black asked Cllr Taylor when the roads would be resurfaced and Cllr Taylor responded that they were not in the budget for this year.

Cllr Carter raised the issue of a publication by Halite which had been delivered to local households and which appeared to suggest that their planning application was a "done deal". Cllr Taylor responded that it is certainly not a "done deal" and that a significant number of people were putting time and effort into the hearing by the Planning Inspectorate. She confirmed that Lancashire County Council had objected to the proposal.

Cllr Carter also asked if Cllr Taylor had any information on when building would recommence on the Hurstwood development at the ferry slip. Cllr Taylor confirmed that she had recently contacted the developers who had assured her that they would soon be making progress but there was nothing that either Wyre Council or Lancashire County Council could do.

Cllr Carter raised the matter of the War Memorial handrail and the Clerk referred him to the Clerk's report which provided an update. He also raised the cost of the brown tourism sign which, he felt, could be obtained at a lower cost than that quoted by the County Council.

085. CLERK'S REPORT (FOR INFORMATION)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Lengthsman's Report

The Lengthsman has continued to cut back shrubbery to ensure visibility and pedestrian safety. He has used some turf he had to sort out one of the goalmouths and will put soil onto other problem areas so that it is settled by the time the season starts. Following a report by the Lengthsman Wyre Council's Operations Area Officer arranged for a mini sweep of Lancaster Road and is continuing with patrols and monitoring in respect of dog fouling and will look at further action once the dog control orders are active. He reports that, with the poor weather the weedkilling schedule is out of sync but Wyre Council is responding to hot spot locations and complaints.

Councillors raised a number of issues for the attention of the Lengthsman.

Festive Lighting Agreement

The completed Agreement has been received from Wyre Council.

Tourist Information Point

An appropriate site has been located in Knott End Café and Alex Holt is identifying suitable racking and signage

Tree Preservation Order No 13 of 2012 "Fernhill", Park Lane, Preesall

Wyre Council has made the above Tree Preservation Order in respect of a sycamore, a beech, an oak and 2 holm oaks.

War Memorial Handrail

The Expression of Interest Form was submitted on 27 May but a response only received from the War Memorial's Trust on 27 July asking that a Small Grant Application be submitted. The Application was submitted on 30 July.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service – Performance Report and Action Plan 2012 Consultation

Stakeholders have the opportunity to consider this plan and to express an opinion on the content in the light of financial pressures faced. The report can only be read online at www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/prap2012 and the closing date for comments is 21 October.

Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm

The second series of community consultation events will take place in September at a number of venues. The nearest events are Middleton Parish Hall, Low Road, Heysham LA3 3JT on Monday 3rd September 2012 – 1pm to 7pm and The Winter Gardens, Blackpool – Thursday 13th September – 11am to 5pm.

Lancashire County Council - Parish and Town Council Conference

The Conference will be held on the morning of Saturday 10 November at County Hall, Preston. Further details and booking arrangements will be available at a later date.

Wyre Together Information Event

There are major changes proposed in respect of the replacement of Primary Care Trusts by Clinical Commissioning Groups and the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012. Expert representatives from the NHS and Police and Crime Commissioning Office have offered to attend a Wyre Together Information Event at Thornton Methodist Church on Thursday 23 August from 1 - 4pm. If anyone would like to attend please contact Jane Williams on 01253 887437 or 07932 335268 to book a place.

Tree in Barton Square

A dead tree has been removed and Wyre Council, on behalf of Lancashire County Council, will be replacing the tree this winter.

Paths for Communities

This scheme has been created by Natural England and involves a £2 million fund to be spent between May 2012 and March 2014 on creating new Public Rights of Way which will deliver benefits to local communities, in particular rural areas. LCC has organised a working group, who will co-ordinate potential projects over Lancashire which could then be submitted to Natural England for this funding. Further information, including project criteria, has been circulated by email or can be obtained from the Clerk. Suggested projects should be submitted to countrysideservices@lancashire.gov.uk by 17 August 2012.

Council Tax Benefit Reform

As part of their Welfare Reform the Government is planning to abolish Council Tax Benefit from 31 March 2013. All councils now have to develop their own localised Council Tax Support scheme. The amount of Government money to fund the scheme will be 10% less than in previous years and Wyre Council is planning to meet this shortfall in funding by reducing the amount of benefit it pays. The

Government has already stated that pensioners will be no worse off as a result of the introduction of the new localised scheme. Therefore it will be “working age” residents who are in receipt of council tax benefit who will be asked to pay something, or more than they are currently required to pay towards their Council Tax. Wyre Council is now consulting on its proposals which involve introducing a scheme that mirrors the current CTB scheme, with the claimants’ entitlement to support being reduced by a fixed % at the end of the calculation. Over 55% of current claimants are pensioners and in order to ensure that they are no worse off, and provide for various contingencies, it is likely that the reduction in the amount of financial support awarded to working age claimants under CTS could be up to 30% less than under CTB. The consultation period will begin 2 August and run for a period of 12 weeks until 25 October 2012. If you wish to take part in the consultation go to the questionnaire at www.wyre.gov.uk/Consultation . Further information or clarification can be obtained from rebecca.gordon-geddes@wyre.gov.uk or marie.buckley@wyre.gov.uk or alternatively telephone 01253 887535/360. A copy of the proposals has been emailed to councillors and a hard copy enclosed for councillors without email.

Annual Report

Copies of the Annual Report have been lodged in the Library and in Knott End Cafe. Copies are available for councillors and an article has been submitted for the Green Book to advertise the Annual Report to residents.

086. QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS

Cllr Carter thanked the Council for paying for the New Councillors and Clerks training which he had found very useful.

Cllr Nicholls asked Cllr Orme to raise the issue of the dyke at the back of Pinewood/Rosslyn Avenue at the Wyre Flood Forum.

Cllr Drobny referred to the £3m grant for arts projects and asked Cllr McCann if he could make representations in respect of artwork on the promenade. Cllr McCann indicated that there would be a committee to decide how the money was to be spent but he would put any ideas forward.

Cllr Drobny also asked who was responsible for cutting back the hedges on the railway bridge and it was agreed that the Lengthsman should be asked to do it.

Cllr Ome asked the Wyre councillors about the frequency of litter bin emptying as there was a problem on the playing field and at the youth and community centre and was advised to log a complaint with Wyre.

087. 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.