

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 August 2013 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

Present: Councillors R Drobny (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, D Hudson, G McCann, R Lawson, P Moon, J Mutch, P Orme and V Taylor,

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and two members of the public.

(13-14)053 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Nicholls and the reason accepted.

(13-14)054 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 (verbal report from Friends of Preesall Park and Preesall Youth and Community Association) as he is involved with both groups.

(13-14)055 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2013 be agreed as a true record.

(13-14)056 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.

The two members of the public raised a number of concerns in respect of planning application 13/00482/FUL – change of use of land to a caravan site for occupation by 8 gypsy traveller families and associated works (hard standing, fencing, bio-disc treatment plant, utility block and culvert (part retrospective) - which councillors would consider on tonight's agenda and asked that their concerns be taken into account in their deliberations.

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk reported that, in July 2013 there were 12 reported crimes with 4 detected. This compares with 15 (8 detected) in the same period last year. There were 21 reports of anti-social behaviour last month, 10 of which were youth nuisance, compared to the same period last year when there were 18 reports of anti-social behaviour, 7 of which were youth nuisance.

Cllr Hudson raised concerns at the non-attendance of the Police at the meeting and the Clerk agreed to write to the Constabulary to remind them of their obligations in Preesall and Knott End, especially in respect of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Taylor reported that she had received a number of complaints from residents about drivers not complying with the 20mph speed limit on Quailholme Road and the speed of a number of vehicles driving in excess of 30mph on Hackensall Road and the Clerk agreed to bring these matters to the attention of the Police.

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

(13-14)057 Pinewood Development S106 Agreement

Councillors noted that a representative of Plumlife was prepared to attend a meeting with councillors to discuss the issues originally raised by Cllr Nicholls. Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk arrange a meeting and that Cllrs Hudson, Carter, Moon, Taylor, Orme, McCann and Nicholls attend.

(13-14)058 Listing the War Memorial

Councillors noted that the War Memorials Trust encourages custodians of war memorials to apply to English Heritage to have them listed in order to protect them and considered the advantages and disadvantages of such an action. Councillors **resolved** not to pursue the listing at this time.

(13-14)059 WWI Commemoration

Councillors learned that the local branch of the Royal British Legion currently has no plans for commemorating the centenary of WW1 and is waiting to find out what other associated bodies are planning. Councillors further noted that the local branch of the Royal British Legion would be pleased to work in partnership with the Town Council on plans for the commemoration and councillors **resolved** to defer any further consideration of the matter until they had more information from the local branch.

(13-14)060 Budget Provision for Projects

Councillors noted that a sum of £2,000 had been included in this year's budget for improvements to the library garden and £1440 for welcome signs at the entrances to the township on Lancaster Road and Hall Gate Lane. Councillors **resolved** to ask the In Bloom group for ideas for spending the money in the library garden for consideration by the Council and to defer a decision on the welcome signs until LCC's Parish Champion had made a decision on the grant application made by the Council to part fund the signs.

(13-14)061 Bye-laws for Town Council Land

Cllr Drobny proposed that the Town Council make bye-laws for the library garden to ensure that any anti social behaviour might be enforced. Councillors noted that there had to be a proven need for the bye-laws and questioned whether they could be effectively enforced. Councillors therefore **resolved** not to pursue the making of bye-laws at this time.

(13-14)062 Use of Moon Trust Grant

Councillors **resolved** to refer this to the In Bloom group to consider alongside budget provision for the further improvement of the library garden.

(13-14)063 Extension of Christmas Lights to Clarence Avenue

Councillors **resolved** to extend the lights to the trees in the Methodist Church garden along Clarence Avenue (subject to cost and budget provision being available) and asked the Clerk to obtain costings.

(13-14)064 Weedspraying Certification

Councillors noted that, in order to use weedkiller as part of his work, the Lengthsman needs to hold the appropriate certificate. Councillors considered that the cost of obtaining the certificate was excessive and that responsibility for weed spraying is the responsibility of Wyre Council. As a result councillors **resolved** that the Lengthsman no longer use weedkiller as part of his work.

(13-14)065 Summer Newsletter

Councillors noted that the next newsletter is due to be published in early September and **resolved** that articles include the use of the playing field, reporting areas which need weedspraying to Wyre Council and the Christmas Festival. Any further ideas for articles to be notified to the Clerk by the end of August.

(13-14)066 Parking Enforcement

In the absence of Cllr Nicholls Cllr Taylor reported that all the lines and signs now match the Traffic Regulation Orders and are being enforced. Cllr Hudson identified a problem with the disabled parking space by the clock in Barton Avenue and the Clerk agreed to report this to the appropriate body.

(13-14)067 Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2013

The external audit has now been completed and councillors **resolved** to accept and approve the Annual Return. Councillors noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be displayed on the notice boards and on the website.

(13-14)068 Traffic Delays in Knott End

The Clerk reported that the managers of the Spar and Co-op had reacted positively to her letters asking for their support to resolve the problems caused by delivery vehicles. The Co-op manager had held a site meeting with LCC and her distribution colleagues last autumn and, as a result, LCC is looking to put double yellow lines on part of the adjacent road which would allow delivery vehicles to reach the back of the store rather than having to unload at the front. Councillors also noted the offer of a site meeting by a representative of the Co-op's distribution contractor if need be. Councillors **resolved** to await the installation of the double yellow lines to identify whether they had solved the problem.

(13-14)069 Planning Applications

13/00482/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of land to a caravan site for occupation by 8 gypsy traveller families and associated works (hard standing, fencing, bio-disc treatment plant, utility block and culvert – part retrospective)

Location: Blueberry Park, Lancaster Road, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds flood risk, detrimental impact on the lives of local residents, noise and disturbance, visual impact, access to the site and impact on wildlife.

13/00493/FUL

Proposal: Erection of detached bungalow and garage

Location: Thorneyfield, 98 Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (three councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of overdevelopment of the area and access issues.

13/00510/LBC

Proposal: Listed building consent for reglazing of the former coach house arch in the East wing and construction of screen wall

Location: Parrox Hall, Park Lane, Preesall

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

13/00546/LAWE

Proposal: Certificate of lawful use application for use of land as existing domestic curtilage

Location: Orchard House, 112 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

(13-14)070 Finance

a) Payments received:

R V, E and H Moon Charitable Trust	£500.00
Stalmine Parish Council	£35.74

b) Payments to be approved:

Staff costs	£2091.86
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of the Council	£42.36
HMRC	£383.31
Preesall and Knott End Gala	£200.00
E.ON (festive lighting)	£1.95

Wyre Building Supplies	£44.37
Viking	£38.12
The Information Commissioner	£35.00

Payments by Standing Order for Noting

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£ 36.00
-----------------------------	---------

c) Statement of Accounts – July 2013

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for July which shows:

Current account	£40,954.69
Reserve account	£20,141.06
Mayor's Charity Account	Nil
In Bloom Account	£1023.67

(13-14)071 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)

Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reported that the Environment Agency was conducting preliminary investigations in respect of installing flood gates at the ferry slip. On behalf of Cllr Nicholls the Clerk reported that no work had yet been carried out on the dyke near the Pinewood development and Cllr Orme confirmed that it was on Wyre Council's list of things to be tackled.

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme reported that Halite had begun the seismic surveys in the area and there had been a number of complaints and questions from residents about the resulting noise and vibrations.

LALC

Cllr Orme reported that he had been elected as the Wyre Area Committee representative to the 3 Tier Forum. At the meeting Wyre's Chief Executive, Garry Payne, had reported on proposals for the future of local government and asked for evidence on broadband capability in the area and that the computer shop had agreed to collate information provided to them by customers experiencing broadband problems.

Christmas Community Group

Cllr Orme reported that plans are progressing and confirmed that he would write an article for the newsletter.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported they now had Wyre's agreement to minor changes to some planning conditions and the work could now go ahead. He also reported drug and alcohol problems relating to a den in one corner of the playing field.

Preesall Youth and Community Association

Cllr Orme reported that the centre was one of the busiest and most well attended but, owing to a lack of staff, were restricted to opening on two nights. LCC had increased youth worker provision to enable the centre to open three nights but had then decided that the two most recent workers must spend their time out of the centre. The young people who attend the centre had written to the Head of the Young People's Service to ask that the staffing be reallocated to allow opening on three nights and councillors agreed to support the request with a letter being sent on behalf of the Town Council.

Over Wyre Seniors' Forum

Cllr Carter reported that Help Direct had given a useful presentation at the last meeting. The next meeting is in October.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the garden judging took place between in week beginning 15 July (results in the September Green Book) and the village judging was on 22 July. The judges had made positive comments and the outcome was awaited. On behalf of the In Bloom group she thanked all those who had contributed this year including members of the Over Wyre Gardening Club, the Clerk and the Lengthsman and the Town Council for providing funding.

(13-14)072 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

Cllr McCann reported that the Ferry Task Group had published their final report and recommended: better promotion and marketing; better connectivity with bus times; through ticketing; ferry slip improvements and that the contract be looked at when it was due for renewal in 2017.

Cllr Taylor reported that the Dog Fouling Focus Group would make its report shortly and a group was also looking at the parking permit.

(13-14)073 Clerk's Report (information only)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Lengthsman's Report

The Lengthsman has spent a considerable number of hours transporting water and watering the various beds, barrels and lamp post planters on behalf of the In Bloom team. The increased planting has increased the time he has had to spend on this work and this has been exacerbated by the very hot weather.

Data Protection Registration

The Government has announced that it is looking at removing the requirement for parish and town councils to pay the fee for data registration and to possibly exempt local councils from data registration altogether.

Beachwatch

The national Beachwatch Big Weekend will take place from 20 – 23 September. If councillors wish to conduct a beach clean during the weekend a risk assessment must be done. An article seeking volunteer helpers is usually placed in the September Focus magazine and Wyre's Area Operations Officer will provide bags and can loan litter picking sticks if required. The MCA require that information on what is collected is entered onto the website by the registered person (the Clerk).

Gala – Field Inspection

Cllrs Taylor and Orme inspected the field with representatives of the Gala Committee and found all to be in good order. On that basis the bond cheque has been returned.

Sustainable Communities Act

The Government has extended this Act to town and parish councils. This means that local councils can now identify solutions or ideas to reverse community decline, whether that is social, economic, democratic or environmental. Councils should consult proactively and try to reach agreement with local people on proposals to be put forward to government for action.

Casual Vacancy

An article has been placed in the August edition of the Green Book and on the website seeking applicants who wish to be considered for co-option to the Town Council. The closing date is 15 September.

National Association Consultation

The structure and strategy of NALC is currently under review. Any comments on the new draft strategy should be made to LALC by 30 August.

Diamond Jubilee Marker Stone

The marker stone has now been commissioned and will take 6-8 weeks to be delivered. A strong concrete base will be required and this will be completed by the Lengthsman. An unveiling ceremony will be organised in due course.

Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme

A report detailing the results of consultation on the scheme has recently been published and recommendations on a revised scheme are currently being prepared. There will be an opportunity for feedback on the proposals prior to them being finalised.

Furniture Collection Valuation

On the recommendation of the Museum Service an appointment has been made with James Thompson Auctioneers of Kirby Lonsdale to value the furniture on 15 August. This will be brought to the September meeting.

WW1 Commemoration

The Heritage Lottery Fund is offering groups, including parish and community councils, grants of £3,000 to £10,000 to help them mark the Centenary of the First World War. HLF also provide grants of more than £10,000 for First World War projects. Grants are provided to help people understand the war and its impact better and each project must achieve a minimum of one outcome from the following list - people will have: learnt about heritage; developed skills; changed their or heritage will be: in better condition; better interpreted and explained; identified / recorded. Applications can be made at any time as it is a rolling programme.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service – Performance Report and Action Plan 2013 (Incorporating Emergency Cover Review)

The Fire and Rescue Service is consulting on the above (www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/campaign/) and is particularly interested in views on the emergency cover review. The consultation exercise runs from 29th July to the 20th October and any comments should be made to Risk Management Planning Team, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3LH. Tel 01772 862545, Fax 01772 865144 or Email mp@lancsfirerescue.org.uk

Rural Housing in Wyre

Regenda and Wyre Council have jointly developed a newsletter to try to promote housing in the rural area and to ensure that local people know how to apply and bid for housing. A copy has been provided for councillors.

Use of Playing Field

Wyre Juniors in conjunction with Fleetwood Town Football Club will be running a soccer/multi sports camp on the playing field 12-16 August. The organisers did not seek prior permission and have been reminded that they must do so in future in order for the Town Council to consider the request and identify whether there should be a charge or any conditions imposed. The organisers have apologised for their oversight.

2013/14 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on a salary award of 1% effective from 1 April 2013 for those employees under its remit. As this includes the Clerk the pay award and arrears have been actioned in the August payroll.

Dong Energy Walney Extension Offshore Windfarm

On Friday 28 June 2013, DONG Energy submitted an Application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate. The Application was accepted for progression to Examination on 22 July 2013.

(13-14)074 Mayor's Report (information only)

The Mayor reported that he had taken part in the garden judging. He had attended the Gala which he had thoroughly enjoyed and reported that the quality of the marshalling had been excellent. The Deputy Mayor had attended a sea service in church.

(13-14)075 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, why LCC had put up road closed notices on Park Lane and had then not closed the road. He had received a number of phone calls from residents asking about the impact on the bus service.

Cllr Orme asked if councillors would provide him with a passport sized photo so that he could make a photo board to go in library.

Cllr Black asked councillors if anyone could recall whether the land at the top of Pilling Lane was supposed to be maintained by the builders. As no councillor was sure of the situation he agreed to ask the builders.

Cllr Carter asked if Cllr Taylor could arrange for the removal of the electronic passenger information board at the ferry slip as many visitors tried to use it. The Clerk confirmed that LCC would remove the board some time during this financial year but suggested, in the meantime, that a "not in use" sign be displayed and agreed to arrange this.

Cllr Hudson asked who was responsible for the beach from the Bourne Arms to Fluke Hall as it is in a poor state in some areas and was advised to contact the Environment Agency.

(13-14)076 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, councillors **resolved** to exclude the press and public to discuss employment matters.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.20pm.