

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 August 2015 at 6.45pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors P Orme (Mayor), R Black, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, T Reilly and, after their co-option, B Campbell and L Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council, Inspector Jo Jackson and PC Gary Cross (Item 4) and 7 members of the public.

(15-16)067 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr V Taylor and the reason accepted. The Clerk reported that Cllr Drobny had resigned at the last meeting and the process for filling the vacancy was underway.

(15-16)068 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 24 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group.

(15-16)069 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllr Hudson referred to the resignation at the last meeting of Cllr Drobny and asked that it be recorded in the minutes. With that amendment councillors **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 be agreed as a true record.

(15-16)070 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.

A member of the public raised the issue of the accounts presented in the Annual Report and asked for a detailed breakdown. He asked that he be allowed to view the accounts and agreed to contact the Clerk to make arrangements. He asked whether the request he made at the Annual Town Meeting for the minutes to be displayed on the notice board had been considered. Cllr Reilly, a member of the Raising the Profile Working Party, explained that it was not feasible given the length of the minutes and the larger font required to make them readable on the notice board. Cllr Reilly stated that he would continue to try to find ways to make the minutes more accessible.

A member of the public spoke of the reasons for his resignation as a councillor at the last meeting. A member of the public stated that he had been a good councillor.

A member of the public spoke of the conduct of the last meeting and hoped that things will improve.

PC Cross reported that, in July 2015, there had been 14 crimes compared to 21 in July last year and 6 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 20 in the same period last year. He referred to the number of business premises broken into.

Cllr McCann referred to the increasing seriousness of crimes and Inspector Jackson reported that there was a specific team of officers looking at the Co-op break in. She reported that the Inspectors meet at 9am every morning to consider risks and threats and she regularly raises the break ins at business premises. This has led to extra resources being allocated. There is less crime but what crime there is is becoming more serious in nature.

Cllr McCann reported that the Town Council was considering installing CCTV at hotspots around the villages and noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner has a Community Action Fund to support

communities with community safety initiatives. He asked if the Police would provide expert advice and information and PC Cross agreed to help. A member of the public asked whether local businesses had been approached in relation to CCTV. Cllr Greenhough reported that she had been talking to businesses and that there is wide support for CCTV. She had also spoken to Wyre Council who advised that accurate figures are needed to maximise grant funding opportunities and Wyre confirmed that they had carried out an assessment of sites. In response to a question from a member of the public PC Cross confirmed that CCTV was no longer monitored at Poulton Police Station but by volunteers at Wyre Civic Centre

A member of the public raised concerns that there could be more cash kept in homes once the bank closes.

Cllr Hudson raised the issue of parking at the bottom of Mill Street and on Cart Gate and Park Lane and asked if the Police traffic division could take action. Inspector Jackson indicated that parking and speeding problems were the cause of many reports to the Police but there are not enough resources to police all the problems. She indicated that the Police had to prioritise but she would take Cllr Hudson's concerns to traffic officers. Cllr Hudson asked for an update on the serious accident at the bottom of Park Lane and Inspector Jackson agreed to look into it and provide a response. Cllr Hudson also indicated that he was awaiting a response from PCSO Molloy on an individual who had certain restrictions imposed by the court.

Cllr Reilly noted that the Neighbourhood Policing Team had been continuously understaffed and asked what the full complement of staff would be. Inspector Jackson reported that Fleetwood and Over Wyre should have 16 Community Beat Managers but there were 4 vacancies. As they are moving to the new hybrid model all vacancies will be filled.

Cllr Reilly reported that he had been liaising with the Police on speeding on Park Lane and PC Cross reported that enforcement had taken place that morning with a number of motorists caught speeding and other motoring offences.

A member of the public reported that there is a car parking by the toilets which make it difficult to see. PC Cross advised that on street parking enforcement was the responsibility of LCC.

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

Prior to discussion of the remaining agenda items the Mayor referred to the last meeting and outlined how he will run meetings in future. He stated that he had always tried to be flexible and allow everyone every opportunity to speak but that inevitably makes meetings longer. He stated that he will run meetings in stricter accordance with Standing Orders and the rules of debate in future and reminded councillors of those provisions. He also asked councillors to support the Clerk by responding to emails in a timely manner and providing a brief outline of the issues to be discussed and determined when putting forward an agenda item. He indicated that, in future, public participation will be limited to 15 minutes.

(15-16)071 Co-option to Casual Vacancies

Councillors **resolved** to formally co-opt Barry Campbell and Lynda Woodhouse to the Town Council following interviews on 27 July.

(15-16)072 Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

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

(15-16)073 Bank Mandate

Councillors **resolved** that a banking relationship will be maintained with the Royal Bank of Scotland in accordance with this mandate and that:

- The individuals identified as authorised signatories may, in accordance with the signing rules, sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, Electronic Payments, Banker's Drafts and other payments on the accounts even if it causes an account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit
- Any authorised signatory may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the accounts; opening accounts with the same signing rules and authorised signatories; closing accounts; or other banking services or products
- The Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written authorised signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine and subject to any other agreement the Bank may require for those instructions
- The organisation will provide to the Bank a copy of its constitution and any amendment to the constitution, certified as correct by the Secretary
- This mandate will continue until the organisation gives the Bank a replacement mandate

Councillors further **resolved**:

- That the Council open a main current account, an In Bloom current account and a Savings account
- That a separate current account for the Mayor's Charity Account not be opened and instead a separate accounting within the main current account be kept
- That the current signing rules contained in the Financial Regulations (any two authorised signatures for unlimited amounts) continue
- That the current authorised signatories (the Clerk and Cllrs Mutch, Orme, McCann and Taylor) be approved as authorised signatories on the new accounts

(15-16)074 Model Publication Scheme

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the updated Model Publication Scheme.

(15-16)075 Information Security Policy

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the Information Security Policy which had been reviewed without the requirement for any changes.

(15-16)076 Complaints Procedure

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the Complaints Procedure which had been reviewed without the requirement for any changes.

(15-16)077 CCTV Working Group Update

Cllr Greenhough reported that she had spoken to Wyre Council who had suggested four sites for CCTV (the ferry slip, the clock, opposite the library and the corner of Grasmere Avenue and at least one on the playing field. Cllr Orme reported that he had had an initial discussion with a company to get an idea on price. At the last meeting councillors **resolved** to set up a working group with a membership of Cllrs Orme, Hudson, Reilly, Greenhough and McCann to investigate the installation of CCTV in hotspots around the township, to discuss it with local businesses to find out how they might contribute and to identify potential funding streams. Cllr Hudson noted that individual members of the working group were pursuing information and councillors **resolved** that the Mayor organise a meeting of the Working Group as soon as possible.

(15-16)078 Town Guide

Councillors noted that there had been some concern about the proposed content and that was the reason for it being put back on the agenda. The Clerk reported that a number of advertisers had withdrawn on the basis that the delays had undermined confidence and the publisher intended to

reapproach local businesses. Councillors **resolved** that the content of the earlier Town Guide be reproduced with details of schools, doctors etc being updated.

(15-16)079 Attendance at New Councillors and Clerks Training

Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs Campbell and Woodhouse attend the two workshops for new councillors and clerks at a cost of £126 to the Council.

(15-16)080 LALC - 71st Annual General Meeting 2015

Councillors noted that the AGM will be held on Saturday 7 November at 10am at County Hall in Preston and the Council is invited to send 2 voting representatives (1 of whom may be the Clerk) and may send additional non-voting representatives. Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs McCann and Campbell attend as voting representatives and Cllr Woodhouse attend as a non-voting representative. Councillors agreed to consider whether any resolutions for discussion and decision by delegates (each requires a proposer and seconder) should be put forward.

(15-16)081 Clerk's Report – Outstanding Issues by Councillors

Cllr Orme pointed out that the "Outstanding Issues" list at the end of the Clerk's report contained a number of issues that are the responsibility of councillors. He proposed that those that had been there some time without action be removed within a given period of time and councillors **resolved** that that period be 6 months. Councillors further **resolved** that, in future, the date on which items are added to the list be included.

(15-16)082 Halite Planning Consent

Cllr McCann proposed and councillors **resolved** that, given the recent planning consent for the gas storage project, a representative of Halite be invited to give an overview of their future plans.

(15-16)083 Smart Metering

Cllr McCann reported on the roll out of smart metering throughout the country and the recent planning application for a telecoms mast associated with smart metering locally. He proposed and councillors **resolved** to invite a representative from Arqiva or their agents Daly International to give a presentation to the Council on what is proposed.

(15-16)084 Provision of Refreshments for Lowry Opening Ceremony

Cllr Orme reported that the Lowry statue was now in situ, the cobbles had been laid and there is a small amount of tarmac work to be completed. An unveiling ceremony is being planned for early September when the schools return and asked councillors to consider providing light refreshments to those invited. Councillors **resolved** that refreshments be provided with the cost not exceeding £100. Cllr Reilly, in his capacity as a local business owner, stated that he wished to make a contribution of £50 towards the cost of refreshments.

(15-16)085 Bus Shelter – Saracens Head

Cllr Hudson reported on the reasons for the removal of the bus shelter at the Saracens Head and Wyre Council's refusal to replace it. He noted that the new owner of the former Saracens Head had agreed that a bus shelter could be built into his wall but would like a shelter that was more in keeping with the character of the village. Councillors **resolved** that Cllr Hudson discuss the matter with Wyre Council and report back in due course.

(15-16)086 Parking Problems on Cart Gate, Park Lane and Mill Street

Cllr Hudson reiterated the points he had raised in the Public Participation section with Inspector Jackson and reported that there were significant problems between 8.15 and 9.15am and 2.45 and 3.45pm. He was concerned that there would be an accident involving vehicles and/or children using the roads to and from school and further concerned that a large vehicle such as a fire engine would be unable to get up Mill Street given parking on both sides of the road. Councillors **resolved** that Cllr Hudson write to the

police traffic division and Cllr Reilly contact LCC for a road safety audit to find out whether the road layout is fit for purpose.

(15-16)087 Working of Preesall Town Council

Cllr Hudson stated that it was his view that the conduct of council meetings needed to be more professional and gave examples of where he felt the conduct of meetings needed to be improved. He supported the Mayor's earlier statement and all agreed that a change was required.

(15-16)088 Planning Applications

15/00552/FUL

Proposal: Rear extension to existing workshop (within use class B2) with mezzanine floor over

Location: Unit 5 Preesall Mill Industrial Estate, Park Lane, Preesall

The Clerk explained that this application had already been determined despite the officer concerned having agreed to an extension to the deadline to enable the council to discuss it. He had neglected to make a note on the file and had therefore determined it on the original timescale. He offered the council his apologies for the error.

15/00571/LAWE

Proposal: Certificate of lawful use for existing use of land as agricultural

Location: Willow Trees, Cart Gate, Preesall

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

15/00577/FUL

Proposal: Erection of detached house with integral garage, including change of agricultural land to domestic curtilage (following demolition of existing building) resubmission of 14/00379/FUL

Location: Land at Nicksons Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor voted against and 2 abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

15/00582/FUL

Proposal: Extension to existing granny annexe to facilitate disabled parent and new vehicular access

Location: Southfields, 44 Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

15/00599/FUL

Proposal: Lobby extension and car park alterations

Location: Over Wyre Medical Centre, Wilkinson Way, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal. However the Council expressed concern that, despite the car park alterations creating more parking spaces, there was no increase to the small number of disabled spaces which was already inadequate.

15/00611/FUL

Proposal: Erection of covered porch and glazed link to adjacent manager's accommodation

Location: Kepplegate Residential Home, Sandy Lane, Preesall

By a majority (5 councillors voted against the proposal and 1 abstained) it was agreed that the Town Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the it is aware of the covenant that prevents the

adjacent dwelling being used for business purposes and the erection of a glazed link ties the dwelling to the business.

(15-16)089 Finance

a) Payments received:

Salmine Parish Council (Inv 15/009))	£40.38
FOPP (outstanding grant)	£36.50

b) Payments to be approved:

2876/77	Staff Costs	£2154.69
2876	Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£25.95
2878	HMRC	£323.88
2879	Fleetwood High School (printing)	£30.62
2880	Rigby Taylor	£258.00
2881	Viking	£51.13
2882	Lancashire County Training Partnership	£126.00
2883	Preesall Auto Discount	£55.61
2884	Wyre Building Supplies	£144.52
2885	Wyre Council	£1,680.00
2886	MTC Fencing	£3,000.00
2887	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (to open current account)	£100.00
2888	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (to open reserve account)	£100.00

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.82
LCC pension	£660.82

c) Statement of Accounts – July 2015

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for July which shows:

Current account	£50,034.81
Reserve account	£23,662.22
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil
In Bloom Account	£2,131.37

a) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1

Councillors noted the Q1 Budget Monitoring statement which shows only one significant variance at this stage in that the training budget was overspent given the attendance of two councillors at the New Councillors and Clerks training. There is, however, money in the contingency budget head to offset this overspend.

Councillors **resolved** to note the payments by standing order/direct debit, the statement of accounts and the Q1 budget monitoring statement and to approve the accounts for payment.

(15-16)090 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Housing

Cllr Hudson reported that he, Cllr Greenhough and Cllr Taylor in her capacity as Wyre portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing were to attend a meeting with the Head of Housing on 11 August. He reported that he had been talking to a representative of Great Places in respect of ongoing problems and he had provisionally invited her to talk to councillors immediately prior to the September meeting.

Health

Cllr Greenhough reported ongoing complaints about the phone system at the medical centre and the current problems with having to boil drinking water.

Tourism

Cllr Black confirmed that the final tarmac for the Lowry statue was awaited.

Youth

Cllr Orme reported that the next Garstang youth council meeting would be in September and he would attend to see how it worked. He would then visit schools to raise the issue of a youth council for Preesall.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)

Cllrs Orme and McCann reported that there had been a meeting on 16 July with the main topic being the Local Plan. The LCC Parish Champion had been asked about the lack of a representative for the Road Safety Committee.

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme reported on the recent planning consent and the fact that there is ongoing discussion about the local MPs taking the issue to Europe. No further information had been received from Halite.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that FOPP had received £3,500 which was money left over from the former campaign to save the swimming pool.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that she and Mrs McCann had accompanied the Bloom judges on 20 July. The judges were pleased with the area but indicated that they would like to see more rough grassy areas for insects. The Bloomers continue to do routine maintenance such as deadheading.

Preesall Youth and Community Association

Cllr Reilly had nothing to report. Cllr Orme reported that LCC had agreed to make an interim payment pending a decision on what they will pay for use of the Centre and a user group had recently paid.

Planning Ambassador

Cllr McCann reported that he had attended a meeting on the Local Plan. Wyre had divided the area into Preesall Hill and Knott End. There was a lot of discussion about the meaning of affordable housing as opposed to starter homes. Much of the township is in Zone 3 flood risk and the new flood plan includes sea defences and fluvial defences. Wyre is looking at redrawing the settlement boundaries in relation to the location of development.

(15-16)091 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

Cllr Hudson reported that Fleetwood Town Council appears to be regularly sending councillors to planning training at Wyre Council and felt this would be useful for Preesall councillors. The Clerk agreed to check this out with Fleetwood Town Council.

(15-16)092 Clerk's Report (information only)

Councillors noted the information contained in the Clerk's report in respect of:

Lengthsman's Report

In July the Lengthsman has painted the Wyre Juniors container and will now apply the anti vandal paint to both. He has painted the clock in Barton Square and will shortly install the froggy litter bin. He has continued to trim hedges which are impeding pedestrians and continues to water the flower beds.

NatWest – Online Banking Sessions

To help support residents with future banking in the light of the closure of the Knott End branch in September, Natwest are running some drop in sessions to talk to customers about their options and to show them how to access online / telephone banking services. The sessions are as follows:-

4 Aug – St Oswald’s Parish Church – 9.00 – 12.00

13 Aug – Knott End Library – 2.30 – 4.30

The UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) Covers Deposits of Small Local Authorities

From 3rd July 2015 the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) will cover the deposits of small local authorities. The definition of small local authority being one that has an annual budget of less than €500,000 (currently £355,700 as it is based on the exchange rate on 3rd July each year). This will extend cover to over 8,000 parish and community councils. The UK FSCS will cover the first £75,000 of eligible deposits, a reduction from the previous figure of £85,000. The previous limit will remain in force for individuals and small companies until 31st December 2015, but the new rate will apply immediately for councils. The FSCS ensure that eligible bank depositors have access to their eligible deposits within fifteen business days of receipt of a request from the depositor which contains sufficient information to enable the FSCS to make a payment. The formal announcement of the change can be found on the [Bank of England’s website](#)

Communities To Have More Say Over Wind Farms

In a written statement to Parliament, Greg Clark MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has outlined changes to the planning system aimed at giving communities greater control over onshore wind farms. The changes mean that when considering a planning application for wind turbines in their area, a Local Planning Authority should only grant permission if the site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy as part of a Local or Neighbourhood plan and, following consultation, the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore has their backing. Further information about these reforms to the planning system (which take immediate effect) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/giving-local-people-the-final-say-over-onshore-wind-farms>

Planning Procedure Change

As part of its Summer Budget announced last week, the Government has proposed a series of reforms to the planning system. These notably included

- Set a deadline by which a local authority must produce a Local Plan and intervene for those local authorities that do not produce one by then
- Bring forward proposals to significantly streamline the length and process of producing local plans
- Consider how planning policy can support higher density housing around key commuter hubs
- Consider how national policy and guidance can ensure that unneeded commercial land can be released for housing and
- Legislate to grant automatic permission in principle on specified brownfield sites

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

The 2015 event will take place at 10am on 14th March 2016 and the organizers wish to involve schools next year. The website address has been sent to the three schools in the township.

Lancashire Adult Learning

Lancashire Adult Learning is running the following courses in Wyre in Autumn 2015

Buy and sell on eBay at Poulton Library

starts Mon 28th September for 4 weeks, 1 – 3pm, £38*

Buy and sell on eBay at Gt Eccleston Village Centre

starts Tue 29th September for 4 weeks, 10am – 12pm, £38*

Buy and sell on eBay at Garstang Library

starts Wed 30th September for 4 weeks, 1 – 3pm, £38*

Drawing and painting workshop at Garstang Arts Centre

starts Fri 2nd October for 8 weeks, 10am – 12pm, £76*

Course enrolment can be made by telephoning 0300 123 6711, or visiting our website at

www.lancashire.gov.uk/adultlearning

Tree Preservation Order – Former Public Convenience, 57 Lancaster Road, Preesall

Wyre Council has made a provisional Tree Preservation Order on a number of trees on the site. Anyone with an interest in the land containing the trees have 28 days from 7 July to object. After the 28 day period the Council will consider whether to confirm the Order, taking into consideration any objection or representation received.

Letter of Thanks from FOPP

A letter of thanks for the donation of £2000 has been received from FOPP.

Casual Vacancy

Wyre Council has received a request for an election for the casual vacancy in Preesall South ward. Should there be a contest the date of the election has been set for Thursday 8 October 2015.

Tree Preservation Order – Shore View House, 100 Pilling Lane, Preesall

Wyre Council has made a provisional Tree Preservation Order on a beech tree on the site. Anyone with an interest in the land containing the tree have 28 days from 31 July to object. After the 28 day period the Council will consider whether to confirm the Order, taking into consideration any objection or representation received.

Blood Donor Session

There will be blood donor sessions at St Oswalds Church from 13.45-15.45 and 17.00-19.30 on 1 September 2015. Appointments are available but not necessary. For more information www.blood.co.uk or 0300 123 23 23.

(15-16)093 Mayor's Report (information only)

The Mayor reported that he had visited Kepplegate to conduct their Grand Draw.

(15-16)094 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Greenhough asked if councillors were aware that children with bikes are going into the disabled public toilet and smoking.

Cllr Reilly asked councillors to note that he had written to LCC in respect of parking on pavements on Park Lane but LCC had warned residents of overhanging hedges.

(15-16)095 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) and 1(3) 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 9.35pm.