

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 December 2012 at 6.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

**Present:** Councillors C Lamb (Mayor), R Black (from item 10), G Carter, R Drobny, R Lawson, G McCann, P Moon, J Mutch, K Nicholls, P Orme and V Taylor

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and PCSO Natalie Johnstone (Item 4). There was one member of the public.

## A G E N D A

### 138. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Black had sent apologies that he would be unable to attend the first part of the meeting and the reason accepted.

### 139. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors noted that the automatic dispensation provided under previous legislation which enabled councillors (who would otherwise have had a personal and prejudicial interest) to take part in and vote on the precept has been removed by the Localism Act 2011 which revised the Code of Conduct. Councillors now have a disclosable pecuniary interest which they must declare and which prevents them from taking part in such discussions and decisions unless they have a dispensation to do so from the Town Council.

Councillors further noted that the Town Council may grant a dispensation if, without it, the “number of members or co-opted members prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business”. All councillors had therefore made a request for a dispensation to allow them to discuss and vote on the precept and the Council **resolved** to grant a dispensation to all eleven serving councillors to enable them to discuss and vote on the precept for the period until the next elections in 2015 or until the legislation is amended to provide the automatic dispensation, whichever is the sooner.

The Clerk reported that, having received clarification from NALC, those councillors who are also Wyre and/or Lancashire County councillors also have a disclosable pecuniary interest as they receive an allowance from their respective authorities and are therefore prevented from discussing or voting on any matter relating to those authorities including the provision of information. Those councillors (McCann, Moon and Taylor) have therefore made a request for a dispensation to allow them to discuss and vote on any matters relating to either Wyre Council and/or Lancashire County Council (other than issues relating to funding decisions) on the basis that it is in the interests of persons living in the area. The Council **resolved** to grant a dispensation to these councillors on the basis set out above for the period until the next elections in 2015 or sooner should any councillor cease to be a member of Lancashire County Council or Wyre Council.

### 140. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2012 be agreed as a true record.

### 141. 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 November 2012 there were 11 reported crimes with 2 detected. This compares with 7 in the same period last year. There were 15 reports of anti-social behaviour last month, 6 of which were youth nuisance compared to the same period last year when there were 8 reports of anti-social behaviour, 3 of which were youth nuisance.

PCSO Johnstone confirmed that she would be leaving her role as a PCSO as she had been accepted into Lancashire Constabulary as a Police Constable and confirmed that she would not be replaced. Councillors congratulated her on her new role and hoped that she might be stationed in the area once she had completed her training. PCSO Johnstone also confirmed that PCSO Emma Brown would be moving to Fleetwood and she would be replaced by PCSO Terry Malloy. She would, however, retain her Wyre-wide role in relation to young people.

Cllr Nicholls reported that LCC had confirmed that work relating to parking enforcement was ongoing.

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

#### **142. DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2013/14**

Councillors considered the draft budget which had been the subject of detailed scrutiny at the Budget Workshop held on 26 November and **resolved** to precept £46,487 in 2013/14. Councillors further **resolved** to ask Wyre Council to provide the full amount of rural grant for the coming financial year.

#### **143. CODE OF CONDUCT – REGISTRATION OF NON-PECUNIARY/OTHER INTERESTS**

The Code of Conduct adopted by the Council at the June 2012 meeting requires councillors to also register those non-pecuniary and other interests which the Council agrees must be registered.

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the following categories of non-pecuniary/other interests:

- Bodies of which the councillor is a member or has a position of general control or management and to which the councillor has been appointed or nominated by the Council
- Bodies exercising functions of a public nature of which the councillor is a member or has a position of general control or management
- Bodies or organisations directed to charitable purposes of which the councillor is a member or has a position of general control or management (does not have to be a registered charity)
- Bodies or organisations whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the councillor is a member or has a position of general control or management
- Details of any gifts or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 which the councillor has received in connection with their role as a member of the Council, including the name of the donor

#### **144. DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

Councillors considered a letter from Wyre Council seeking the Council's approval to install new signage relating to dog control orders (and to subsequently enforce the new orders) on the playing field and **resolved** to agree to Wyre Council's request.

#### **145. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

##### ***12/00772/FUL***

**Proposal:** Rear extension and re-positioning of garden/boundary wall

**Location:** Angels Rest, Sandy Lane, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal but asked that the height and positioning of the wall does not interfere with sight lines which are already poor.

**12/00794/FUL**

**Proposal:** Agricultural building for livestock (retention of 07/00030/AGR)

**Location:** Preesall Park Farm, Cemetery Lane, Preesall

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

#### **146. FINANCE**

**a) Receipts:**

Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council	£13.16
Wyre Juniors (reported in November)	£152.63
Councillors' donations for tree	£70.00
Wyre Council festive lighting grant	£2302.12

**b) Accounts for payments:**

Staff costs	£1554.72
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of the Council	£71.81
HMRC	£117.16
Wyre Building Supplies	£117.11
Preesall Auto Discount	£67.10
FH & M Davies & Son	£312.00

**c) Payments by Standing Order for noting:**

Easy websites	£36.00
Carter's Charity Primary School	£50.00
Fleetwood Charity School	£50.00

**d) Statement of Accounts – November 2012**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for November which shows:

Current account	£19,257.14
Reserve account	£6,139.54
Mayor's Charity Account	Nil

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

#### **147. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)**

##### **Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that, despite the objections of Sport England, Wyre Council is of the view that the overall benefit of the scheme overrides the loss of a small amount of the field used for football.

##### **Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the recent meeting had been dominated by flooding problems resulting from the rain in September. He confirmed that a meeting of the statutory agencies and residents of Cartgate/Sunnyside affected by flooding would take place on 23 January. Cllr Orme had asked for landowners whose land abutted these areas to also be invited.

##### **Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that an email from Halite's Chief Executive relating to training had been received. It appears that this training at Blackpool and the Fylde College relates to Halite's claim that they will create local jobs as a result of the project.

### **Over Wyre Seniors' Forum**

Cllr Carter reported that he will attend the Christmas Party at St Aidan's School on 14 December.

### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that a separate bank account would be required for Knott End and Preesall in Bloom for next year as the group would need to purchase plants given the planned closure of Ashdell Nursery by Wyre Council. Cllr Mutch showed the Silver Award to councillors and she and the other volunteers were thanked for all their efforts.

### **Wyre Road Safety Committee**

Cllr McCann reported, at the request of a resident, he had reported the lack of a pavement on part of Park Lane and again raised the issue of the land which had been donated to LCC for the provision of such a pavement. Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, confirmed that she had also raised it with officers but it appears that there is no knowledge or recollection of it at LCC. Cllr McCann had also raised the poor state of Park Lane itself.

### **148. VERBAL REPORT FROM WYRE AND LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Taylor reported that she sends a weekly email about the state of Park Lane. She confirmed that the County Portfolio Holder had recently signed off the revised 20mph speed areas and the new signs are expected to be put up in January.

Cllr McCann reported on a number of business initiatives by Wyre Council and on a questionnaire asking residents how they see Wyre and what they would like to see. The questionnaire can be accessed on Wyre's website.

### **149. CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)**

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

#### **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Project Update**

All the statements of fact have now been signed and submitted in respect of registering the land behind the library. An amount has been put into the draft budget for 2013/14 to continue to improve the area. A date for planting the bird cherry trees is awaited.

#### **Lengthsman's Report**

The Lengthsman remains busy clearing leaves and litter and has put the Jubilee finial up and the plaque commemorating the Royal British Legion at the flagpole at the War Memorial. He is continuing to mark the pitches for the football clubs. He has been asked to burn the lines when the weather permits and then mark the pitches fortnightly unless specifically requested to do it in between. This allows for him to build it into his work on a routine basis. The first recharge has been received.

#### **War Memorial Handrail**

Following submission of the grant application on 30 July and monthly reminders, the grant has now been approved and the contractor instructed to manufacture the second handrail, install it to one side of the steps and move the existing handrail to the other side. Once in place the Lengthsman will paint it black as required in the grant conditions.

### **Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2013/14 to 2015/16**

LCC is currently consulting on its Strategy for the Provision of School Places and School's Capital Investment 2013/14 to 2015/16. The Strategy, comments on which are required by 14 December can be viewed on the LCC website ([Lancashire.gov.uk/atoz/search by directorate/children and young people](http://Lancashire.gov.uk/atoz/search%20by%20director%20for%20children%20and%20young%20people)) then scroll down to find the document). Written comments should be returned to [cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk) or posted to: Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People, FREEPOST PR503, Preston PR1 8RJ

### **Festive Lighting – Licence**

The Licence has now been received from LCC, an unmetered supply certificate has been received from Electricity North West and the Council is now registered with E-On as our electricity supplier.

### **Quality Status Working Group**

The Working Group held a meeting on 26 November and agreed the format and content of the first winter newsletter. The Working Group will take responsibility for distributing the newsletters each quarter and the initial list of venues agreed is Knott End Library, Knott End Café, Over Wyre Medical Centre, both Chinese takeaways, newsagent's in Preesall, St Oswald's and Methodist Churches and Brenda's Butty Shop. Take up will be monitored and venues amended accordingly. Members of the Working Group are also collecting information and evidence on the links the Town Council has with voluntary and community organisations.

### **Casual Vacancy**

The vacancy has been advertised in the December Over Wyre Focus, on the website and on the notice boards with a closing date of 31 December.

### **Council Furniture**

A document is being drafted along the lines of the document signed when the furniture was handed to the Museums Service.

### **150. QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS**

Cllrs Moon and Black asked Cllr Taylor whether she was aware of the state of other roads, not just Park Lane and she confirmed that she was.

### **151. ITEMS FOR THE 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 7pm.