

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 February 2014 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

**Present:** Councillors R Drobny (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, K Nicholls, P Orme and V Taylor

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and PCs Gary Cross and Matt Butcher (Item 4).

### **(13-14)180 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Moon and Mutch and the reasons accepted.

### **(13-14)181 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

All councillors reported a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application 14/00033/OUT as they serve with Cllr Moon (the applicant) on the Town Council. Cllr Taylor declared a possible pecuniary interest in Item 12 (Fracking) as she is a member of Lancashire County Council and sometimes attends the Planning Committee. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 (Location of Future Meetings) as he is Chair of the Preesall Youth and Community Centre where the meetings are currently held; Item 14 (Unauthorised Use of Football Pitches) as he is the member of Friends of Preesall Park responsible for plans for the development of the playing field and Item 15 (Shaping Your Neighbourhood) as he has submitted an initial expression of interest for funding for the development of the playing field.

### **(13-14)182 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2014 be agreed as a true record.

### **(13-14)183 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.

PC Cross reported that, in January 2014 there were 11 reported crimes compared with 22 in the same period last year. There were 8 reports of anti-social behaviour last month compared with 18 in the same period last year. He provided a short commentary on the crime and antisocial behaviour in January.

Cllr Hudson expressed his concern that the response to his questions by Sgt Freaney did not provide a full response, particularly in relation to the use of unmarked cars to stop drink driving and felt that his questions appeared to provoke a negative response. He also expressed concern at the reduction in police numbers in the Over Wyre area in recent years. PC Cross accepted that numbers had reduced and councillors noted that this had been taken up with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner but that no assurances that numbers would be increased had been forthcoming. PC Cross reported that he had no say in how an unmarked car was used and suggested that Cllr Hudson contact the Road Traffic policing team to make a request.

Cllr Nicholls expressed concern that, as a result of leave, the number of officers for Over Wyre had been further reduced in January and, although assured by Sgt Freaney that cover would be provided by the rest of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, felt that a permanent replacement should have been provided.

PCs Cross and Butcher explained the reorganisation due to take place in April and councillors expressed the hope that this would not see resources in Over Wyre further reduced. As a result councillors asked the Clerk to seek the reassurance of the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner that numbers would be maintained or increased and that any future vacancies would be filled.

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

**(13-14)184 Mayor for the Civic Year 2014/15**

Councillors **resolved** to nominate Cllr P Orme as the Mayor Elect of Preesall Town Council for the Civic Year 2014/15.

**(13-14)185 Location for the Annual Meeting of the Council and Investiture of the Mayor 2014**

As Cllr Orme had not decided where he would like the Annual Meeting of the Council and Investiture of the Mayor to take place, councillors **resolved** that he discuss his plans with the Clerk for confirmation at the March meeting. Councillors noted that (Minute (13-14)032 refers) the location must not incur any additional cost and was subject to the Council's agreement.

**(13-14)186 Arrangements for Civic Sunday 2014**

Councillors noted that at least 3 months notice is required for a road closure application to be dealt with. Councillors **resolved** that Civic Sunday take place on 22 June at St Oswalds, subject to the date being acceptable to the Church and marshals being available. Councillor confirmed that the arrangements be as last year.

**(13-14)187 Arrangements for Annual Town Meeting**

Councillors **resolved** that the Annual Town Meeting take place at 6pm, prior to the ordinary meeting of the Council on 14 April 2014. Councillors noted that the motion proposed by the Council seeking the abolition of the legal requirement to hold such a meeting had been debated at the LALC Annual Meeting but had been defeated.

**(13-14)188 Location of Future Meetings**

Councillors considered the results of research into alternative venues and the associated costs and **resolved** to continue to hold meetings at the Youth and Community Centre but that the situation be reviewed in 12 months when the impact of works to provide facilities for young people on the playing field could be assessed.

**(13-14)189 Preesall and Knott End Gala**

Councillors considered a request from the Gala Committee for hire of the playing field from Tuesday 8 July to Tuesday 15 July 2014 and **resolved** to agree to the request subject to the following conditions:

- a) that a bond of £500 be required with the full amount being returned as long as the playing field is undamaged and in good order
- b) That the costs of any work required to reinstate the playing field or to return it to good order be deducted from the bond
- c) That councillors and a representative of the Gala Committee inspect the playing field immediately before and after the Gala to determine whether the bond should be returned in full or in part

**(13-14)190 Governance Review**

Councillors noted that the annual governance review takes place at the March meeting each year and **resolved** not to review the full documents if no changes are being proposed. Councillors further **resolved** that a full review of all documents take place in the March following ordinary elections (March 2016) or earlier if major changes took place.

**(13-14)191 Fracking**

Cllr Hudson raised the issue of recent decisions to allow fracking in two locations within Lancashire (neither within Wyre) and his view that the Town Council should learn more about the subject and its impact. Councillors **resolved** that either LCC as the planning authority or an independent body be invited to the Town Council if any sites in Wyre are identified.

### **(13-14)192 Report back from Promotion of Knott End and Preesall Working Group**

Cllr Hudson reported that he had held some discussions with businesses in respect of forming an association such as a Chamber of Trade but there did not appear to be any real enthusiasm for doing so. The Working Group will meet again and provide a report to a future meeting.

### **(13-14)193 Unauthorised Use of Football Pitches**

Cllr Hudson reported that he was concerned if teams were using the football pitches without permission or making payment. The Clerk reminded councillors at the June 2012 meeting (Minute 024 refers) that they had resolved that authorised local teams be not charged for home games (currently Wyre Juniors and Pilling and Preesall FC), that local teams playing an away match on the sports pitch be charged, that any outside team be charged and that the use of the pitches be monitored to ensure unauthorised teams either leave or pay. The arrangement seemed to be working well and there was no evidence to suggest that unauthorised teams were using the football pitches. Councillors therefore **resolved** to take no further action.

### **(13-14)194 Shaping Your Neighbourhood – Wyre Council**

Wyre Council is offering funding in each of six areas subject to the funding proposal meeting one of the priorities in the Locality Plan. Cllr Carter asked councillors to consider making a bid for funding in respect of the playing field development plan. Cllr Orme, in his role as the lead on the playing field development plan for Friends of Preesall Park, informed councillors that he had already put in an expression of interest and councillors **resolved** that he should make a formal bid with the full backing of the Town Council.

### **(13-14)195 Park Lane Update**

Cllr Greenhough reported that she had asked LCC to erect signs on Park Lane to ensure drivers were aware that the road surface was uneven and this had been agreed. Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, confirmed that the resurfacing of Park Lane was included as a priority in the draft Commissioning Plan.

### **(13-14)196 Planning Applications**

#### **14/00029/FUL**

**Proposal:** Front and rear dormers

**Location:** 14 Sandicroft Place, Preesall

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

#### **14/00033/OUT**

**Proposal:** Outline permission for an additional detached dwelling

**Location:** Land at 314 Park Lane, Preesall

By a majority (3 councillors voted against) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

#### **14/00047/PNR**

**Proposal:** Prior notification for change of use from farm processing dairy to general storage/workshop space

**Location:** Bradleys Farms Park Farm, Burned House Lane, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal. Councillors asked that the development did not increase the number of large vehicles using the Cemetery Lane and Fold House bends which are not fit for the purpose.

**14/00051/FUL**

**Proposal:** Proposed replacement and extension to existing stable block, new horse walker and new entrance gate, brick piers and walls to access

**Location:** Blueberry Stables, Lancaster Road, Preesall

It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the development is too large for the site, the site suffers from flooding and further development will exacerbate the problem and the development is likely to contaminate local waterways and impact on wildlife.

**14/00066/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of single-storey rear extension

**Location:** Oakroyd, 69 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

**(13-14)197 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

None

**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£1953.06
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£18.78
HMRC	£285.74
Viking	£37.38
PRS Electrical Contractors Ltd	£1656.00
Leander Architectural	£2,060.40
Barton Grange Landscapes	£1764.00
MTC Fencing	£750.00
Wyre Building Supplies	£60.58
Preesall Auto Discount	£42.70
Rigby Taylor	£52.50

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.00
LCC Pensions	£417.74

**c) Statement of Accounts January 2014**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for January which shows:

Current account	£20,612.69
Reserve account	£20,145.29
Mayor's Charity Account	£240.00
In Bloom Account	£357.12

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

**(13-14)198 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

**Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting is on 13 March and asked councillors to let him know of any issues they might want him to raise. He confirmed that a grant had been made to the Sunnyside Flood

Action Group and a meeting would be held to determine how that should be spent. The Clerk reported that she had had a discussion with the Environment Agency in respect of setting up a group in Knott End and Cllr Taylor reported that she was setting the group up.

### **Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that the High Court had found that the Minister had adopted too hard a test and the case was now back with the Minister for a further decision in light of the judgement.

### **LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that there had been a meeting of the Wyre Area Committee in late January where Philippa Davies of Wyre Council had delivered a presentation on how the council tax base was calculated and why there is no local council tax support monies being passed to town and parish councils this year. The Clerk reported that the Minister had recently announced that the council tax rise referendum principles would not be extended to town and parish councils this year but could be applied to large town councils next year. He had also confirmed his expectation that billing authorities would pass on the monies included in the settlement to cushion the effects of the local council tax support scheme. Cllr Orme reported that the Parish Charter between Wyre Council and town and parish councils included a statement that Wyre would pay the rural grant on request. One parish council had already withdrawn from the Charter in light of Wyre's decision to withdraw the grant. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Wyre Council to point out the statement in the Charter, ask for the grant and to ask for the local council tax support monies to be passported through. If the response was negative the Clerk will write to the Minister. Cllr Orme reported that the North West Federation was proposing the NALC that the money should be ringfenced in future years.

### **Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that the work to install the MUGA had been delayed as a result of the weather and the damage that would be done to the playing field if heavy machinery was used on it.

### **Preesall Youth and Community Association**

Cllr Orme reported that the Centre would be used as a polling station for the European elections.

### **(13-14)199 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

CCllr Taylor reported that a further meeting of the Commissioning Group was imminent. Cllr McCann reported that Wyre Council had launched its Growth Plan and that Wyre was seeking to maximise jobs from any developments in the area such as Rossall sea defences. Cllr Taylor reported on the excellent work done by two local young people who were picking up dog fouling on the playing field (see Facebook: Preesall Dog Fouling Challenge). Two additional bins had been installed on the playing field to assist their efforts and encourage others to pick up after their dogs.

### **(13-14)200 Clerk's Report (information only)**

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

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

The Lengthsman has completed public rights of way work on behalf of LCC on the footpath from Little Tongues Lane to the sea wall. A time estimate has been submitted to LCC for work on a footpath at Preesall but no approval to do the work has yet been given. With his local knowledge he has identified the location of and cleared grass and soil from some of the roadside drains around the parish to allow water to get away and help prevent flooding. He has continued to take back some of the many hours still owed to him. Unfortunately graffiti was found on the two concrete urns placed near the bus stop on Lancaster Road and the Lengthsman has spent some time trying to remove it.

#### **Ornamental Welcome Signs**

The signs have now been received and an installation date is awaited. Wyre Council has offered to install them at the boundaries on Hall Gate Lane and Head Dyke Lane, the locations approved by LCC.

### **Finger Post Arms**

Councillors will have noticed that the finger post arms have been replaced with some that are more in keeping.

### **Flood Action Group**

An initial discussion took place with representatives from Wyre and the Coastguard and it was agreed that an article advising residents on flood prevention would be prepared for the Green Book as a starting point. Contact from the Environment Agency (the lead agency) is awaited.

### **Local Government Pension Scheme**

The scheme is changing from April 2014 and there is a significant amount of preparation work required from an employer perspective. Discussions will be held with the Council's payroll provider to identify respective responsibilities.

### **Bus Subsidy Withdrawal Proposals**

LCC will not now go ahead with withdrawing the bus subsidy for evening and Sunday services but will instead consider each route when the contract is due for renewal.

### **Corner of Grasmere Avenue**

Wye Council has now begun work to refurbish the corner and the In Bloom team will take responsibility for planting up the beds nearest the pavement.

### **Future of Healthcare**

The Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group has developed a draft strategy which sets out a long-term vision for health services. The full document is available at [www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk](http://www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk) or for a hard copy contact 01253 306400. There will be a drop in session at the Over Wyre Medical Centre from 10am to 12 noon on 26 February.

### **(13-14)201 Mayor's Report (information only)**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Candlemas service at Blackburn Cathedral and had enjoyed seeing the village in Jamie's Food Fight on TV in January. In response to a question he confirmed that he had intended to buy and send out Christmas cards but, as a result of health problems, had not managed to do so.

### **(13-14)202 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Orme provided an update on behalf of Cllr Moon in respect of Cllr Greenhough's question regarding the number of car parking spaces at the flats development on Bourne May Road. There will be more car parking spaces than there are flats. Cllr Taylor reported that Cllr Moon had also asked the Planning Department to look at the size of the building as it appears to be higher than it should be.

Cllr Carter announced that he was attending the Finance training at his own expense but asked whether there would be another place for Cllr Greenhough as she would be driving him there. Cllr Orme responded that it was likely that there would be a place free and councillors resolved that Cllr Greenhough should attend at her own cost.

Cllr Drobny asked Cllr Taylor and Cllr McCann whether planning permission should have been sought were a wall had been built and was advised to contact Wyre Council for advice.

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