

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 February 2016 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors P Orme (Mayor), R Black, B Campbell, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, T Reilly, V Taylor and L Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council, Wyre Councillor Paul Moon and one member of the public.

(15-16)191 Apologies for Absence
None.

(15-16)192 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations
Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group.

(15-16)193 Minutes of the Last Meeting
Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 11 January 2016 be agreed as a true record.

(15-16)194 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 asked whether it was true that people may have to pay a charge to use the library and was informed that it was an idea only as an alternative to the library being closed. She also reported that drivers were still parking under the clock and asked whether the drains could be cleared given the amount of standing water. Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, advised that she sent a weekly email to LCC indicating the areas where there was standing water but this was happening all over the county.

Cllr Moon reported that some of the pavers outside the fish and chip shop were uneven and Cllr Taylor agreed to deal with it.

Councillors noted the police report which showed that there had been 7 crimes in January compared with 18 in the same period in 2015 and 7 incidents of anti social behavior compared with 10 in January 2015. Cllr Taylor reported on a meeting she had had with Inspector Smith on the new policing arrangements in this area and that he had confirmed that there would be more resources available for this area under those new arrangements. Cllr Orme confirmed that Sgt Freaney had indicated the same at the last Wyre Area Committee. Cllr Hudson expressed his disagreement with Inspector Smith's view. He asked whether councillors were aware of a major drugs raid and whether there had been any police report about it but none had been received to date. Cllr Drobny asked whether any councillor had heard about a stabbing in the area.

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

(15-16)195 Mayor for the Civic Year 2016/17
Cllr McCann proposed and Cllr Mutch seconded Cllr Tom Reilly and Cllr Drobny proposed and Cllr Campbell seconded Cllr Greenhough. Councillors **resolved** to nominate Cllr Tom Reilly as the Mayor Elect of Preesall Town Council for the Civic Year 2016/17.

(15-16)196 Location for the Annual Meeting of the Council and Investiture of the Mayor 2016
Councillors **resolved** that the Annual Meeting take place on 3 May at Knott End library if available and noted that a short ordinary meeting will be held before it.

(15-16)197 Arrangements for Civic Sunday 2016
Councillors **resolved** that Civic Sunday take place on 26 June at St Oswalds, subject to the date being acceptable to the Church and marshals being available. Councillors confirmed that the arrangements be as last year.

(15-16)198 Arrangements for Annual Town Meeting
Councillors **resolved** that the Annual Town Meeting take place at 6pm on 11 April at the Preesall Youth and Community Centre.

(15-16)199 Appointment of Internal Auditor for Year Ending 31.3.16 and Approval of Internal Audit Terms of Reference
Councillors **resolved** to appoint Edwina Parry as the Internal Auditor for year ending 31.3.16 at a fee of £110 and further **resolved** to agree the terms of reference for the internal audit.

(15-16)200 Town Guide Content
Councillors noted the previous concerns about the proposed content of the town guide and that the delays had led to a number of advertisers withdrawing. Councillors noted that the revised draft prepared by Cllr Reilly had been circulated by email to councillors on 14 December with a request that those councillors without email be shown a copy of the draft guide and no comments were received other than Cllr Hudson noting that a photograph for the front of the guide needed to be chosen. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the content as circulated with the Mayor's opening remarks which he had provided) and further **resolved** that a montage of photos showing the area (including the Lowry statue, the clock and the view of Preesall used on the website) be on the front cover.

(15-16)201 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition
Councillors **resolved** to set up a working group to take the project forward and for the working group to identify the certificate of merit entries for approval by the Council at the March meeting. Cllrs Orme and Taylor indicated that they would be members of the working party.

(15-16)202 Planning Applications

16/00009/FUL

Proposal: Siting of four additional holiday caravans, engineering works to increase width of embankment, reposition of access drive/parking and cantilevered decking to lake

Location: Willow Grove Park, Sandy Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor voted against and 4 abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

16/00010/OUTMAJ

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 44 dwellings with detailed approval for the access only, with all other matters reserved

Location: Land off Rosemount Ave, Preesall

Cllr Orme left the meeting as he is a member of Wyre's Planning Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the area is already subject to both surface and foul water flooding, the possibility that there may be no public transport if bus subsidies are withdrawn, the supporting infrastructure such as access to medical facilities and the road network are inadequate and there is no clear explanation of social housing provision on the site.

15/01021/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of redundant agricultural building into dwelling

Location: Springfield House Farm Barn, Burned House Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor voted against and 4 abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

(15-16)203 Finance

a) Payments received:

Cllr R Black (donation for seat)	£475.00
Reserve account interest (January)	£0.75
Current account interest (January)	£0.69
RBS compensation (In Bloom)	£25.00

b) Payments to be approved:

31/32 Staff Costs	£2216.43
31 Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£10.00
33 HMRC	£373.90
34 Preesall Auto Discount	£35.87
35 Wyre Building Supplies	£93.06

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£13.80
LCC pension	£694.66

c) Statement of Accounts – January 2016

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for January which shows:

Current account (RBS)	£10,983.13
Reserve account (RBS)	£23,667.71
In Bloom account (RBS)	£2,172.49

d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3

Councillors noted the Q3 Budget Monitoring statement and the overspends on two budget heads. The Training budget head is overspent as a result of a councillor attending the Finance workshop and councillors agreed to vire the amount of the overspend (£25) from the Contingency budget head to the Training budget. The parish maintenance budget head is overspent as a result of unplanned spending on the handrail to the sea wall. However, councillors noted that the full cost of the handrail was paid to the Council by LCC under the PROW local delivery scheme. Councillors agreed to vire £200 from the Contingency budget head to the Parish Maintenance budget head to cover the remainder of the financial year.

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

(15-16)204 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Housing

Cllr Hudson reported on a major drug bust in properties owned by Great Places and that he would be meeting with representatives of Great Places to discuss the issues.

Health

Cllr Greenhough reported that there had been complaints about the delays to the developments at the medical centre and that many residents were experiencing difficulties in getting through on the phone.

Youth

Cllr Taylor reported that she was delighted with the group of young people from a wide age range who are involved in rehearsals for Cats and the camaraderie being demonstrated.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)

Cllr Orme reported that the representative of the Wyre Town and Parish Task Group had been unable to attend but Cllr Julie Robinson had reported instead and confirmed that the vast majority of town and parish councils felt they were served well by their borough councillors who attended their meetings but others not and this will be addressed. He reported that the meeting showed support for the LALC structure which helped to bring town and parish councils together to discuss common issues and that CCllr Dereli had attended to speak about the budget proposals at LCC.

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme reported that there had been an informative article in the February Over Wyre Focus.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that, if a major housing development went ahead, there would be s106 monies for the Park and that work on the BMX track would start when the weather improves.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the weather had ruined the planting in the new black planters and that the Bloomers had not been so active as a result of the inclement weather. They had still not had the judges' report and this may be because one of the judges recently passed away. They have planted small daffodils in the boxes under the Welcome signs and would soon begin seeking sponsors for this year.

Preesall Youth and Community Association

Cllr Orme reported that he was waiting for a letter from LCC to indicate what will happen with the Young People's Service.

Planning Ambassador

Cllr McCann reported that CPRE would be holding free training on 15 March at County Hall.

(15-16)205 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

Cllr Taylor reported that the LCC Budget meeting would be held on 11 February. Cllr Orme reported that he had been involved in a transport task group at Wyre Council looking at the impact of the proposed cuts to the bus and ferry subsidies and their response had been sent to LCC. Cllr Taylor reported that she had attended the Town and Parish task group and the Clinical Commissioning Group task group and both reports would be going to Cabinet shortly.

(15-16)206 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

In January the Lengthsman has noted and reported an increase in the amount of dog fouling on the Esplanade and this has been reported to Wyre. He also reported the repetitive flooding on Lancaster Road between the war memorial and the church and this was reported online to LCC (ref 123586).

Auto-enrolment Earnings Thresholds

The Government has announced that the earnings thresholds for pensions automatic enrolment will be frozen for 2016/17. So the earnings threshold for 'eligible jobholders' to be automatically enrolled into a

qualifying pension scheme remains at £10,000 per annum and the earnings threshold for 'non-eligible jobholders' to have a right to require their employer to enrol them into a qualifying pension scheme remains at £5,824 per annum.

Parish Councils Urged to Become Freeze Fighters

United Utilities has launched its WinterWise campaign which aims to help householders avoid the misery of a burst frozen pipe. They are encouraging everyone to protect the pipes in their homes from freezing up and bursting as temperatures drop. For Winter Wise 2016 we have produced a Winter advice pack which can be downloaded from the United Utilities website <http://www.unitedutilities.com/winterwise> and includes lots of information about keeping yourself and your home safe and warm during the cold snap. There is advice on how to find your stop-tap, how to lag your pipes and some lovely winter warming recipes too.

Memorial Benches

Two memorial benches purchased with funds donated by family members have been installed. One is on the sea wall and one on the Esplanade.

Walney Extension Community Fund Public Event

A reminder that the nearest event will take place on 24 February from 12-5pm at Highbury Stadium, Fleetwood.

Tiles

Councillors were made aware of complaints about the delays from parents who had paid for a tile for their child and noted that Adrian Cross had said that he would return to the work as soon as the weather improved. Cllr Campbell indicated that he would discuss the issue with Mr Cross.

Bus Shelter

The Clerk confirmed that she was awaiting information from the landowner.

Natural Energy Wyre Ltd

The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet received a response to the letter sent on 30 December inviting representatives of the company to make a presentation to a public meeting.

Traffic Problems on Mill Street/Park Lane and Saracen's Head

Cllr Taylor reported that it was unlikely that an officer would attend a site given LCC's new policy on officers attending outside meetings.

(15-16)207 Mayor's Report (information only)

The Mayor reported that he and the Deputy Mayor had attended the Epiphany Service at Blackburn Cathedral and had thoroughly enjoyed it.

(15-16)208 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Campbell asked that those wanting an ID card contact him to provide dates when they were available to go to Wyre Council. Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Taylor when the roads would be repaired given that he had received numerous phone calls from road users of all types. Cllr Taylor responded that she regularly reports and follows up such problems and urged all councillors to report them. Cllr Woodhouse asked if anyone else was attending the CPRE training as she would like to attend. Cllr Drobny asked Cllr Reilly if he was aware of an accident on Park Lane. Cllr Reilly confirmed that he was continuing to correspond with the Police and that traffic offers had been out again at the weekend. However, the lack of enforcement of 20mph zones was still an issue.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.50pm.