

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 January 2013 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

**Present:** Councillors C Lamb (Mayor), R Black, G Carter, R Lawson, G McCann, P Moon, J Mutch, K Nicholls and P Orme.

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

### 152. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Taylor and Cllr Drobny and the reasons accepted.

### 153. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None

### 154. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2012 be agreed as a true record.

### 155. 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.

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk reported that, in December 2012 there were 8 reported crimes with 3 detected. This compares with 18 in the same period last year. There were 11 reports of anti-social behaviour last month, none of which were youth nuisance, compared to the same period last year when there were 10 reports of anti-social behaviour, 2 of which were youth nuisance.

A member of the public raised concerns about horse riders using St Bernard's Road, Elterwater and Coniston as a bridlepath and complained about horse droppings and verbal abuse from two riders. He asked the Council whether signage to indicate that it was a footpath and not a bridleway could be installed and Cllr Moon agreed to look into it in his role as a Wyre councillor.

A member of the public alerted the Council to the cost of the repetitive signage in the ferry car park owned by Wyre Council and the cost to the County Council of installing then removing and replacing the revised 20mph signs which amounted to some £12,000.

Cllr Nicholls also reported a further incident where the Police had been called but had taken a significant amount of time before they attended and reminded councillors of two incidents late last year. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to the new Police and Crime Commissioner on the matter.

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

### 156. BUDGET FOR 2013/14

Councillors noted that, shortly after the Council set its budget and precept for 2013/14 at the December meeting, the Government announced final decisions on changes to council tax benefit which could affect the council tax base and therefore the amount each Band D property will pay in terms of precept. Councillors further noted that Wyre Council had decided to passport to parishes an element of the local council tax support grant they had received which could be used to offset part of the precept.

Councillors **resolved** to use the grant to offset against the precept, noting the knock on effect on a Band D property, and further **resolved** that the precept for 2013/14 be set at £42,705.

#### **157. CASUAL VACANCY**

Councillors noted that there had been two applications for the casual vacancy and **resolved** that interviews take place on the morning of Saturday 9 February 2013 providing both candidates were available.

#### **158. PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL FURNITURE COLLECTION**

The Mayor confirmed that, to his knowledge, there were no problems with Parrox Hall taking the furniture and councillors **resolved** that the Clerk now complete the transfer as soon as possible.

#### **159. MAYOR MAKING AND CIVIC SUNDAY 2013**

Councillors considered arrangements for Mayor Making in 2013 and **resolved**:

- a) that invitations be contained in a letter with a tear off reply slip to encourage invitees to reply
- b) that the event be held at St Aidan's School as in 2012 and that the ordinary meeting also be held there
- c) that St Aidan's be asked if students on the hospitality and catering course would be prepared to cater the event and, if not, that prices for a buffet supper be sought from a number of different providers and
- d) that only one bouquet be presented, this to the outgoing Mayoress as a gesture of thanks for the work she has done during the year

In relation to Civic Sunday councillors noted that that the Police had no powers to close roads despite the fact that they had done so for many years and that they had been threatened with civil litigation if they continued to do so. As a result the Council would now need to apply for a road closure licence from Wyre Council (for which there was no cost) but may incur significant costs by possibly having to engage a traffic management company. The issue was being discussed by Wyre Council's Safety Advisory Group and councillors therefore **resolved** that the matter be placed on the next agenda.

#### **160. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – PLANNING CONDITIONS**

Cllr Nicholls reported that, in her view, certain planning conditions relating to the Pinewood development had not been met. One matter related to improved bus stops/shelters, plans for which LCC had emailed just today and should be in place during February. The other matter related to occupancy conditions with some properties being rented rather than offered for sale by part ownership. She questioned how that change had come about and councillors **resolved** that the Clerk write to Wyre Council for clarification of the conditions.

#### **161. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION – JUDGES' REPORT**

Councillors noted the content of the report and **resolved** that the areas for improvement be raised with Wyre Council or the appropriate owner for action.

#### **162. FUTURE OF THE LCC DEPOT**

Councillors noted that LCC will be looking to dispose of the property by sale or will consider leasing the depot on the basis of a full repairing lease. Councillors acknowledged the potential costs involved but **resolved** to give consideration to leasing the buildings if they could be sublet to cover costs.

#### **163. SPORTS PITCH MAINTENANCE 2013/14**

Councillors noted that the current contractors had provided a price for grass cutting roughly fortnightly from April to October of £1470 + VAT. In order to get best value councillors **resolved** to seek comparative prices from other providers.

## 164. LANCASHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

Councillors noted that the County Training Partnership will run a Finance workshop on 20 February 2013 and a Chairmanship Workshop on 6 March 2013 both costing £25. Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs Carter and Nicholls attend and they volunteered to pay their own costs.

## 165. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### *12/00845/ADV*

**Proposal:** Advertisement consent for new ATM machine

**Location:** One Ash, Lancaster Road, Knott End

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

### *12/00846/FUL*

**Proposal:** Installation of ATM machine

**Location:** One Ash, Lancaster Road, Knott End

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

## 166. FINANCE

### a) Receipts:

Wyre Juniors	£96.57
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### b) Accounts for payments:

Staff costs	£1603.84
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of the Council	£28.00
Wyre Building Supplies	£11.82
PRS Electrical Contractors	£2136.00

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

Easy websites	£36.00
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### d) Statement of Accounts – December 2012

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for December which shows:

Current account	£16,981.24
Reserve account	£6,139.54
Mayor's Charity Account	Nil

### e) Quarterly Budget Monitoring

Councillors noted the third quarter budget monitoring.

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

## 167. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)

### Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reminded councillors that the meeting relating to flooding on Cartgate and Sunnyside would take place on 23 January at 7pm. Cllr McCann indicated that he would raise issues relating to the dykes on Rosslyn Avenue.

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

Cllr Carter reported that he had attended the Christmas party at St Aidan's which had been a lovely event. The catering done by the students had been first class.

### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that representatives of Fleetwood's Charity School would be attending a presentation at Wyre Council and that the late January meeting had been postponed.

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

Cllr McCann reported that the Rossall Point Observation Point would be opening in February and that the railway bridge in Tithebarn Street in Poulton would be closed until May.

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

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

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

This is a traditionally quieter time of year, although early December was busy with the Christmas tree and lights and he did an excellent job at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony keeping the crowd safe from traffic. The pitch lining arrangements are now working well and payment for the second recharge has recently been received. All parties appear content with the arrangements. The Lengthsman took some of his holiday during December but has continued to do his rounds over Christmas to keep things neat and tidy.

#### **War Memorial Handrail**

The War Memorials Trust has acknowledged receipt of the signed grant contract and contractor declaration. The next stage is for the contractor to manufacture install the second handrail for the Lengthsman to paint both handrails black.

#### **DONG Energy**

The submission deadline has been extended by two months to May 2013.

#### **Cart Gate Flooding Meeting**

The meeting with residents and those whose land abuts the area will be held in the Youth and Community Centre on 23 January. Owing to space constraints the invitation is to those residents who suffered from the flooding this year, rather than being open to all residents. Paul Long of Wyre Council agreed to deliver invitations to all residents of Sunnyside Terrace and selected residents from Cart Gate and Lancaster Road who suffered the flooding on 24/25 September before Christmas.

#### **Community Right to Bid Powers**

These powers are now in force. Communities can apply to get a range of local assets registered as "assets of community value" and, if a registered asset goes up for sale, communities will have 6 weeks to express an interest in taking on the asset. If approved they will have a total of 6 months during which the asset cannot be sold to develop plans and raise finance. At the end of the 6 month period the asset owner can sell. The powers do not mean that communities can force a sale. For more information see [www.mycommunityrights.org](http://www.mycommunityrights.org).

#### **HMRC – Real Time Information**

From 1 April the Parish Council will need to make a submission to HMRC when the payroll is run each month. Whilst this is a small amount of extra work, time will be saved at the year end when the end of year submission will no longer be required. As the Council uses the HMRC PAYE Tool there is action required by the Council to prepare for the change.

### **Changes to Dementia Services**

The NHS is consulting on proposed changes to the provision of dementia services across Lancashire. The consultation document is available on the Council's website or can be obtained from the Lancashire Mental Health Network Team on 01254 282128, by email at [lmht@lancashirecare.nhs.uk](mailto:lmht@lancashirecare.nhs.uk) or on the website at [www.lancashirementalhealth.co.uk](http://www.lancashirementalhealth.co.uk). The consultation document includes a survey form on which to submit a response which must be made by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013. There are a number of public events taking place across the county, the nearest being at Wyre Civic Centre on 17 January 2013 from 1-3pm.

### **Tree in Barton Square**

Wyre's grounds maintenance staff are in the process of planting a replacement tree outside the butcher's. As the stump of the old hawthorn is still in the ground and there are some supporting struts for the tree grille, the team were unable to excavate enough to plant the new tree and will need to cut out the struts, dig up the stump and then re-plant. It is unlikely, however, that the tree grille will go back in place as neatly as before.

### **Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership – Workshops for 2013**

February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Finance
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chairmanship
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Quality Council Workshop
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	New Councillors and Clerks – Module 1
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	New Councillors and Clerks – Module 2
August	Freedom of Information/Data Protection
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Employment
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Community Engagement/Case Studies
November	Risk Assessment

The Clerk also reported that the process for registering the land behind the library was almost complete, that the six bird cherry trees had been planted last week and that she had applied for a Green Partnership Award from LCC as a contribution to the cost of the trees.

### **170. QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Nicholls reported that the work on parking enforcement by LCC had not yet been completed and that she would therefore ask Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, to look into the matter.

### **171. ITEMS FOR 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 8.45pm.