

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 July 2013 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

**Present:** Councillors R Drobny (Mayor), R Black, G McCann, R Lawson, P Moon, J Mutch, P Orme and V Taylor

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council, PC Gary Cross and PCSO Terry Molloy (Item 4) and one member of the public.

### **(13-14)027 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carter, Hudson and Nicholls and the reasons accepted.

### **(13-14)028 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 (Finance relating to Wyre in Bloom) and Item 20 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Mutch declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 (Finance relating to Wyre in Bloom) as she is a member of the group. Cllr Moon declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 13/00455/OUT as he is the applicant. All councillors reported a non-pecuniary interest in the same application as they serve with Cllr Moon on the Town Council.

### **(13-14)029 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2013 be agreed as a true record.

### **(13-14)030 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 Terry Molloy reported that, in June 2013 there were 11 reported crimes with 4 detected. This compares with 16 (6 detected) in the same period last year. There were 11 reports of anti-social behaviour last month, 2 of which were youth nuisance, compared to the same period last year when there were 12 reports of anti-social behaviour, 5 of which were youth nuisance. Councillors reported concerns in relation to drugs and were advised to contact Crimestoppers with any information. PC Cross reported that they now have a marked police vehicle to use in the Over Wyre area.

The Clerk, on behalf of a member of the public who could not be present, raised the issue of speeding traffic on Pilling Lane. Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, reported that she had asked for a traffic survey to be conducted in the area and PC Cross reported that they would look into enforcing speed limits on the road in the near future. PC Cross referred to item 7 (PACT Meetings and Councillor Surgery) and indicated that there were proposals to move the PACT meeting around the Over Wyre villages.

A member of the public raised concerns about the state of Park Lane and Cllr Taylor, in her role as a Lancashire County Councillor, reported that she was trying to get it included in the 2014/15 programme and the Clerk will write to LCC to raise the concerns of not only Council but also local residents. The member of the public also raised concerns about illegal parking in Knott End and Cllr Taylor reported that enforcement could not take place until the lines and signs aligned with the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order but this work was in hand and, once complete, the lines and signs could be enforced. Cllr McCann mentioned that he regularly reported these issues to the Wyre Road Safety Committee meeting.

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

### **(13-14)031 The General Power of Competence**

Councillors noted that the General Power of Competence gives town and parish councils “the power to do anything that individuals generally may do”. This means that the Council no longer has to ask itself whether it has a specific power to act. As the Council satisfies the two criteria – two thirds of councillors were elected at the last ordinary elections and the Clerk holds an appropriate qualification) councillors **resolved** to adopt the power.

### **(13-14)032 Future Arrangements for Mayor Making**

Cllr Drobny proposed that the incoming Mayor be given the opportunity to decide where the Annual Meeting of the Council be held, subject to the location not incurring any additional cost and to the Council’s agreement. Councillors **resolved** to accept the proposal and further **resolved** that the incoming Mayor be asked to propose the location no later than the March meeting in order to aid the organisation of the event.

### **(13-14)033 PACT Meetings and Councillor Surgery**

Councillors noted that it was the Police’s intention to move the PACT meetings around the Over Wyre Villages and **resolved** to continue to hold the Councillor Surgery as at present and to review the arrangements once the new criteria for Quality Status are released.

### **(13-14)034 LALC Training Opportunities**

Councillors noted that Employment and Community Engagement workshops were being offered by the County Training Partnership and **resolved** that no councillor would attend.

### **(13-14)035 LALC – 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Councillors noted that the AGM will be held on Saturday 9 November at 1.45pm following the LCC Parish and Town Council Conference in the morning. The Council has two voting places and it was **resolved** that Cllr Orme represent the Council and that the other place not be filled. Councillors further **resolved** to propose a resolution asking that NALC raises the requirement for parishes to hold an Annual Parish Meeting with central government.

### **(13-14)036 Donation to Gala Committee for Marshalling**

At the last meeting councillors expressed the view that they would consider making a donation to the Gala Committee on the basis that the Committee has paid to properly train marshals and those marshals shadowed the Police at Civic Sunday in preparation for marshalling the event next year. Councillors **resolved** to make a donation of £200.

### **(13-14)037 Location of Bench**

Councillors **resolved** to place the bench held in storage in the library garden.

### **(13-14)038 Delays Caused by Delivery Vehicles**

Cllr Mutch raised the issue of the sometimes lengthy traffic delays caused by delivery vehicles to shops such as the Co-op and Spar and councillors **resolved** that the Clerk write to both local stores and their respective Head Offices about the matter and that the Clerk contact the Police and copy any correspondence to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **(13-14)039 Age UK Social Group – Request for a Councillor to Attend**

Councillors considered a request from the organiser of the Age UK Social Group for a councillor to attend one of the meetings to speak about the work of the Town Councillor. Councillors **resolved** that the Mayor attend.

### **(13-14)040 Parking Enforcement**

In the absence of Cllr Nicholls Cllr Taylor had given an update in the public participation section of the meeting (13-13)030.

#### **(13-14)041 Change of Signing Authority**

Councillors **resolved** to remove former Cllr Lamb from the bank mandate and resolved to approve Cllr Orme as a signatory in his place.

#### **(13-14)042 Free Trees**

Councillors considered an offer from the Woodland Trust to provide packs of trees and **resolved** to apply for 420 trees to plant a hedge to attract wildlife in the library garden.

#### **(13-14)043 Christmas Festival – Request for a Loan**

Councillors considered a request from organisers of the Christmas Festival for a loan of £50 to enable them to pay a deposit for an ice rink for the event. Councillors **resolved** not to make the loan as they could not be sure that the rink would make enough money to repay it as well as the hire cost.

#### **(13-14)044 Planning Applications**

##### ***13/00447/FUL***

**Proposal:** Erection of detached building for storage of agricultural equipment

**Location:** Tongues Farm, Tongues Lane, Preesall

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

##### ***13/00426/FUL***

**Proposal:** Change of use from existing shop to residential 2 bedroomed flat

**Location:** 54 Lancaster Road, Knott End

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

##### ***13/00455/OUT***

**Proposal:** Outline application for the erection of a single dwelling

**Location:** Land adjacent to 314 Park Lane, Preesall

Cllr Moon left the meeting. By a majority (2 councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

##### ***13/00404/FUL***

**Proposal:** Installation of 3 no (5kw) micro scale wind turbines 14.97, to the hub and 17.8m to tip of the blade

**Location:** Muffys Platt Farm, Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (one councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of visual impact, noise and potential impact on wildlife.

##### ***13/00409/LAWE***

**Proposal:** Lawful development certificate for the existing use as storage and mechanics workshop in connection with the commercial car repair business on site

**Location:** Park Lane Garage, 400 Park Lane, Preesall

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

##### ***13/00483/FUL***

**Proposal:** Erection of detached garage with pitched roof and dormers to form a first floor hobby room

**Location:** 1 Rosemount Avenue, Preesall

By a majority (3 councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of it being overly large for the site.

**13/00474/FUL**

**Proposal:** First floor side extension

**Location:** 2 The Heathers, Knott End

By a majority (3 councillors voted for the proposal) it was agreed the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of it being over-intensive for the site.

For noting

**13/00235/FUL** (New vehicular access at Kinvara, 165 Lancaster Road) – Appeal lodged against Wyre’s decision to refuse the planning application.

**(13-14)045 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

LCC – PROW work	£15.00
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**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£2061.27
Clerk’s expenditure on behalf of the Council	£39.34
HMRC	£363.35
Stalmine Parish Council (50% CiLCA)	£35.00
BDO LLP (external audit)	£240.00
Preesall Auto Discount	£15.82
Wyre Building Supplies	£108.43
Mrs Y McCann (In Bloom)	£8.97
F H & M Davies & Son (In Bloom)	£966.00

**Payments by Standing Order for Noting**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£ 36.00
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**c) Statement of Accounts – June 2013**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for June which shows:

Current account	£43,413.46
Reserve account	£20,141.06
Mayor’s Charity Account	Nil
In Bloom Account	£1498.64

**d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1**

Councillors noted the Budget Monitoring statement for Quarter 1.

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

**(13-14)046 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

**Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the Forum had met on 13 June. Wyre confirmed that they had written to a resident in Rosemount about the issues raised. There had been a meeting of the Sunnyside Terrace residents on 12 June.

### **Protect Wyre Group**

The Clerk reported that Halite intended to conduct seismic surveys on land they owned.

### **LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting of the Wyre Area Committee was 9 July. A new representative is required for the 3 Tier since Cllr Perkins had been elected as a Lancashire County Councillor and was no longer eligible. Cllr Orme confirmed that he had put his name forward. There will be a presentation by a representative of the Environment Agency on community resilience.

### **Christmas Community Group**

Cllr Orme reported that plans are progressing.

### **Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported they were still waiting for Wyre's agreement to minor changes to some planning conditions and the Portfolio Holder report proposing the transfer of the s106 monies to the Town Council had now been signed.

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

Cllr Orme reported that the AGM had been held. The Association were short of officers but were breaking even in financial terms.

### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that volunteers had been out deadheading and weeding. The garden judging will take place between 15-19 July and the village judging is on 22 July. She praised the excellent portfolio put together by Mrs McCann.

### **(13-14)047 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors**

Cllr Moon reported that the travellers had submitted a new planning application and the Clerk confirmed that this would be on next month's agenda. Cllr McCann reported that the Hurstwood site had been tidied up. He had been to London to meet officials to discuss the problem of finding appropriate travellers' sites in Wyre and the first pop up shop had opened in an empty shop in Poulton and it was hoped that similar shops could be opened up using empty shops throughout the borough. Cllr Taylor reported that work had recommenced on the Hurstwood site. She is to chair a focus group on dog fouling and hopes to involve the community and town and parish councils. A presentation pack for Wyre councillors to take into schools is being developed. There had been an issue with street litter bins not being emptied when they should but this should soon be rectified. In her role as a County Councillor she reported that all potholes meeting the minimum depth requirement have been filled.

### **(13-14)048 Clerk's Report**

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

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

The new raised bed has now been planted by the Bloom Team. Litter clearance, dog fouling and grass cutting and strimming are taking up the majority of the Lengthsman's time. The first job under the Public Rights of Way agreement with LCC (strimming art of Footpath 18 rear of 110 Pilling Lane) has been accepted and will be completed shortly.

#### **Certificate in Local Council Administration**

The Clerk has achieved the certificate and is now a qualified clerk, enabling the Council to use the General Power of Competence and meeting one of the criteria for Quality Status.

### **War Memorial**

Information on the handrails has been passed to the Imperial War Museum's war memorial archive and some additional information on the Town Council being the responsible body and ceremonies held at the war memorial has also been provided so that the entry is as complete as possible.

### **SLCC Branch Meeting**

The Clerk attended the meeting on 5 June where useful presentations from the Society's new President, the War Memorials Trust and Jo Turton, Executive Director for the Environment at Lancashire County Council were received.

### **Digital Crest**

Blackpool Sixth Form College has redrawn and digitised the crest which is now much sharper. This has been done free of charge through a personal contact of the Clerk.

### **Parish Champion – Grant Application**

A grant application towards the cost of two "welcome to Preesall and Knott End" signs has been made to the new Parish Champion at LCC, Cllr Cynthia Dereli. Councillors set aside £1440 in this year's budget to purchase the signs but, if the application is successful, some of that money could be reallocated to another project. Applications are being assessed in mid-July. The Parish Champion has indicated that she would be happy to attend meetings by invitation and subject to her diary commitments.

### **The RV, E and H Moon Charitable Trust – Grant Application**

The application for £500 towards improving the Jubilee Garden has been successful. The original application was for a marker stone but, as this has now been donated, it can be spent on an alternative tangible asset in relation to the Garden. This will be put on the next agenda but councillors may wish to generate a number of ideas for discussion in the meantime.

### **Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Wyre**

The Commission has now published its draft recommendations, none of which affect the town council area. Any comments should be made to the commission ([consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)) by 9 September.

### **(13-14)049 Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he had attended Garstang's Civic Sunday and the Eucharist at Blackburn Cathedral followed by a tour. He will be taking part in the Wyre in Bloom garden judging next week.

### **(13-14)050 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Black asked Cllr Taylor, in her role as a County Councillor, why planes are allowed to land on the beach without any apparent safety procedures. Cllr Taylor confirmed that this was not the responsibility of LCC but the Civil Aviation Authority.

### **(13-14)051 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) 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 8.55pm.