

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 July 2015 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

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

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

Councillors learned that former town councillor and Mayor, Derek Nuttall, had recently died and stood in silence for a minute in honour of his service to the community and the council.

(15-16)043 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from and the reason accepted.

(15-16)044 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 5 (Youth Council/Young Mayor) as he is involved with the youth club, Item 6 (Shop Preesall) as he has a business in the village and Item 12 (Local Plan) as he is on Wyre Council's Planning Committee. Cllr Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 (Electoral Review of Lancashire) as she is a member of Lancashire County Council. Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 18 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group and Item 25 (Playing Field Lease) as he has a relative who lives in the vicinity. Cllrs Orme and Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 25 (Playing Field Lease) as members of the Friends of Preesall Park and Cllr Orme declared the same interest as the Chairman of the Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Centre.

(15-16)045 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 June 2015 be agreed as a true record.

(15-16)046 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 raised the issue of the road surface problems on Rosslyn Avenue and the lack of response from United Utilities. Councillors agreed to take this up. He also raised the issue of there being no handrail at the Sandy Lane end of Pilling Lane and Cllr Orme agreed to take this up with the Environment Agency. He finally read a complaint from a resident about the building of large family homes in close proximity to the resident's bungalow and some of the problems arising. Cllr Hudson agreed to contact the resident and Cllr Taylor, in her role as Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder at Wyre, agreed to look into the matter.

A member of the public asked when the Lowry statue would be in place and Cllr McCann advised that it was imminent with the statue being delivered to Wyre Council this week.

Cllr Drobny raised the issue of the state of the beach at the access point near the NatWest corner and Cllr Orme agreed to raise it at the Flood Forum when an English Nature representative was present.

Cllr Lawson asked, on behalf of a resident, why there is no food bank in Preesall and Knott End and Cllrs Orme and McCann confirmed that one was being planned at St Oswald's.

Cllr Drobny referred to the policing of minor matters raised at the last meeting and outlined a situation which the police had refused to take forward. The Clerk read an email from Inspector Jo Jackson who

had confirmed that 20mph speed limits were not being enforced, relying on education instead. She confirmed that Lancashire Constabulary does not have a policy to not review and respond where appropriate to any incident reported. Councillors agreed to invite Inspector Jackson to a meeting of the Council to discuss this issue.

Cllr Hudson reported that he had spoken to Great Places housing about problems with a particular property and agreed to write to the Police to raise his concerns.

Cllr Drobny reported that speed enforcement was taking place in the township.

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

(15-16)047 Youth Council/Young Mayor

Councillors considered a paper outlining how the youth council and young mayor arrangements work under the umbrella of Garstang Town Council and councillors **resolved**, on the casting vote of the Mayor, to initiate a youth council with a young mayor for Preesall and Knott End. Councillors further **resolved** to recruit a volunteer Secretary to the youth council on a six month trial basis in order to assess the workload implications.

(15-16)048 Shop Preesall

Cllr Drobny reported that he and Cllr Black as Toursim subject leads and Cllr Lawson who had agreed to help with the project had discussed the matter and wished to recommend that the proposal be withdrawn on the basis of cost. Cllr Drobny stated that he would pursue the project on a private basis. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the recommendation.

(15-16)049 Closure of NatWest Bank

Councillors reported on the well supported local and national campaign to protest the closure of the bank and learned of meetings with senior bank managers which had confirmed that there is no hope of it being saved. Instead discussions had centred on how the impact of the closure could be mitigated and a number of issues had been left with the bank for discussion and response. Cllr Taylor, in her role as a Wyre councillor, reported that she would be meeting bank officials on 14 July. Councillors noted an article in the Local Council Review magazine published by the National Association of Local Councils which outlined the requirements of the Access to Banking Protocol introduced in March 2015. The Protocol forms a formal commitment for a bank to engage with key local stakeholders to improve the bank's understanding of the impact the closure will have on users and the community, and also the availability of alternative ways to bank. The results of the engagement must be made public before the branch is closed. Councillors did not feel that the bank had carried out any such engagement beyond that which had been forced by the protest campaign and councillors **resolved** to write to the Chief Executive of the bank on this basis. Councillors further **resolved** to close the Town Council's account with NatWest in protest at the closure and to open an account with another bank.

(15-16)050 Campaign to Protect Rural England

Councillors considered what value there might be in becoming a member of CPRE and **resolved** not to proceed.

(15-16)051 Town Guide

Councillors considered draft content for the Town Guide produced by Cllr Reilly and **resolved** that any comments on the text or ideas for photographs should be provided to him by close of play on 20 July for submission to the publisher.

(15-16)052 Electoral Review of Lancashire

Councillors considered the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review and noted that the overall number of county councillors would not be changed. The review was, however, looking at the

number of electoral divisions; the number of councillors representing each electoral division; electoral boundaries and the names of electoral divisions. Councillors noted that County Councillor Taylor's division contained 24% more electors than it should and councillors **resolved** that a response outlining how this division could be more evenly balanced with others should be sent.

(15-16)053 Social Housing Issues

Cllr Hudson reported on the content of an email received from Mark Broadhurst, Wyre Council's Head of Housing, following his meeting with councillors where a number of issues relating to anti-social behaviour, the application of the local lettings policy and the renting of properties designated as shared ownership were discussed. Mr Broadhurst confirmed that he had checked allocated properties to ensure that a local connection was evidenced and was satisfied that the evidence was there. The anti-social behaviour issue had been discussed with Wyre's ASB officer who had been aware of the situation and he was hopeful that the situation had now been resolved. Mr Broadhurst confirmed that there was still a conversation to be had in respect of the Homes and Communities Agency requirements for shared ownership and the option of renting them in difficult times. Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs Hudson, Greenhough and Drobny arrange a further discussion with Mr Broadhurst and report back to the next meeting.

(15-16)054 Local Plan

Councillors noted that Wyre Council is consulting on Issues and Options as part of developing the Local Plan. The key issue is where future development should take place and the document proposes three options. Option 1 focuses development on the Fylde Coast Peninsula main urban area with the remainder being split between settlements on the A6 corridor and other defined rural settlements including Preesall and Knott End. Option 2 focuses development on the A6 corridor with some development in Fleetwood, Thornton and Poulton-le-Fylde and a similar amount in other defined rural settlements. Option 3 is for development to be dispersed more evenly across the Borough. Councillors felt that Option 2 provided the best outcome for Preesall and Knott End and **resolved** that the Clerk confirm this and reiterate the views of the Council put forward following the initial meeting with planning policy officers last year.

(15-16)055 Employment Working Group

Cllr Reilly provided a draft individual performance appraisal document for the Clerk and councillors **resolved** to approve the content. Cllr Drobny tendered his resignation from the Working Group and councillors **resolved** that the remaining members, Cllrs Reilly, McCann and Taylor, now conduct the Clerk's appraisal.

(15-16)056 Conversion of Business Properties

Cllr Greenhough reported on section 563 of the Town and Country Planning Act which allowed for applications to convert business properties to residential use if the community has a shortage of businesses although councillors acknowledged that this could be preferable to premises boarded up for long periods of time. Councillors **resolved** that Cllr Greenhough discuss how the provisions would be applied by Wyre Council and report back to a future meeting on her further research.

(15-16)057 Possible Installation of CCTV

Cllr McCann proposed that the council investigate the installation of CCTV in hotspots around the township, particularly in light of the recent "ram raid" of the Co-op. Councillors **resolved** to pursue the matter and agreed to discuss it with local businesses to find out how they might contribute. Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs Orme, Hudson, Reilly, Greenhough and McCann form a Working Group to take this forward and identify potential funding streams.

(15-16)058 Planning Applications

15/00471/FUL

Proposal: External alterations to shop fronts

Location: 4 & 6 Wyre View, Knott End

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

15/00473/FULMAJ

Proposal: Erection of an A1 convenience store with associated car parking (following demolition of existing depot)

Location: Depot, Sandy Lane, Knott End

By a majority (Cllr Orme left the room as he is on Wyre's Planning Committee and two councillors voted in favour) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that access is onto a busy road at a busy junction and that any overflow parking could prevent access to and from the fire station.

15/00444/FUL

Proposal: Erection of detached building for ancillary living accommodation

Location: Cockers Dyke Farm, 307 Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (five councillors voted against and the Mayor exercised his casting vote) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

15/00493/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of existing agricultural building to B2 use for car repairs in association with existing business (resubmission of 14/00590)

Location: Park Lane Garage, 400 Park Lane, Preesall

By a majority (three councillors abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

15/00484/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of existing agricultural building to car repairs (B2 with associated MOT testing and car sales)

Location: 390 Park Lane, Preesall

By a majority (two councillors abstained and two voted against) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal. Councillors asked that the applicant adhere to all conditions set.

15/00512/FUL

Proposal: Two storey side and front extension to existing bungalow

Location: Ivydene, Burned House Lane, Preesall

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

15/00527/FUL

Proposal: Erection of two dwellings

Location: Former public conveniences, 57 Lancaster Road, Knott End

By a majority (one councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that it is overintensive for the site and could have a negative impact on the trees at the site.

(15-16)059 Finance

a) Payments received:

Lancashire County Council (PROW) £200.00

b) Payments to be approved:

2865/66	Staff Costs	£2154.24
2865	Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£33.19
2867	HMRC	£323.88
2868	PM Groundworks Ltd	£432.00
2869	Signpost Solutions Ltd	£28.50
2870	Wyre Building Supplies	£113.94
2871	Stalmine Parish Council	£12.00
2872	The Information Commissioner	£35.00
2873	BDO LLP	£480.00
2874	Harrison Drury & Co	£1200.00
2875	Preesall Auto Discount	£148.73

24	CY McCann (In Bloom) (reimbursement)	£22.17
25	Mrs J Wilson (In Bloom) (reimbursement)	£133.20
26	Mrs S Barlow (In Bloom) (reimbursement)	£166.65
27	F H & M Davies & Son	£1086.96

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.82
LCC pension	£660.82

c) Statement of Accounts – June 2015

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for June which shows:

Current account	£55,627.05
Reserve account	£23,662.22
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil
In Bloom Account	£3,540.35

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

(15-16)060 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Tourism

Cllrs Drobny and Black outlined ideas for promoting the village including proper signage to shops at the Fleetwood ferry slip and at the Knott End landing, advertising on the ferry and an information point at one of the shelters. Councillors noted that signage at the Knott End slip formed the second part of the Lowry project and the other proposals involved budget issues which would need to be considered at the appropriate time.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)

The next meeting is on 16 July.

Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reported that the flooding problem at the junction of Park Lane and Lancaster Road had been reported.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that all the money for the BMX track had now been obtained. Three trees had been damaged.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the Wyre in Bloom judges would be in the township on 20 July at 9.15am and asked councillors to pick up any litter they saw that morning. Some plants had been stolen but had been replaced. There are new black planters along the sea wall and a new wooden planter near the new flats have been planted up. She expressed her appreciation for all the work done and councillors agreed that the planting was very attractive.

Planning Ambassador

Cllr McCann reported on the consultation process on the Issues and Options document which will be used to formulate the new Local Plan and will govern development in the area for the next few years.

(15-16)061 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

None.

(15-16)062 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

In June the Lengthsman has installed the new community notice board. He has ground off the steps on Wyre Junior's container to help stop children climbing on to it and will soon be painting the container and applying anti vandal paint. He assisted with Civic Sunday, collecting road signs from Wyre Council, and acting as a marshal on the day. He has dug out the burned turf from the playing field following the bonfires lit on the Saturday before Civic Sunday and will replace it either with bought turf or turf from elsewhere on the playing field. He continues to water planting in the beds.

Bus Shelter – Saracen's Head

Following the agreement with the new owner Wyre Council has indicated that it does not have the money to purchase a new bus shelter as their budget is for repairs rather than replacement.

Community Notice Board

The notice board has now been installed on the perimeter of the playing field car park and is for the display of notices relating to community groups and events. Keys are held by Cllr Orme and the Lengthsman.

Policing Policy

Following the last meeting a letter was sent to the Chief Constable on 11 June asking for clarification on the enforcement of 20mph speed limits and the investigation of minor matters. In a response dated 12 June the Chief Constable stated that he had passed the letter to Superintendent Peter Lawson, the Operations Manager at West Division. In an email dated 22 June Chief Superintendent Noble of West Division replied that he had passed the letter to Inspector Jo Jackson at Fleetwood Police Station. Inspector Jackson emailed on 23 June to say that she was discussing the two issues with the relevant departments and would send a response when she had the information.

Tiles

Adrian Cross has confirmed that he has been relaying tiles and the councillor tiles will be laid shortly.

Lancashire Green Leaf Grants

Green Leaf Grants has replaced the Green Partnership Awards and will be run by the Lancashire Environmental Fund rather than the County Council and its partners. The Green Leaf Grants are to

support and encourage communities to improve the local environment. Details are available from the Lancashire Environmental Fund website www.lancsenvfund.org.uk or by contacting Jennifer Tidy at jennifertidy@lancsenvfund.org.uk.

Salvation Army Textile Recycling

The Salvation Army has enquired whether a textile recycling bank could be placed in the playing field car park. John Bettle, Wyre Council's Operations Area Officer (Rural and Over Wyre) advised that such facilities can attract unwanted side waste and litter. In addition such a recycling bank could attract anti social behavior and, as a result, the request has been refused.

End of Public Subsidies for Onshore Wind Farms

The Government has announced that new onshore wind farms will be excluded from Government subsidy from 1st April 2016, a year earlier than expected. There will be a grace period for projects which already have planning permission. The Government also said that it may look at options to continue support for community energy projects. The Government has already announced measures in the Queen's speech to change the law to give local communities the final say on onshore windfarm applications.

Guides on Neighbourhood Planning

Planning Aid England has produced a suite of resources to assist those developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The resources provide practical tips and advice on various stages of the Neighbourhood Plan process from designating the neighbourhood area to submitting the plan for examination. They are designed for parish councils and community groups to use. They include a series of how to guides, templates and videos. Topics include project planning, resourcing your Neighbourhood Plan, engaging with landowners and developers, developing a vision and objectives and writing planning policies.

Lancashire County Training Partnership

The Partnership will run a Community Engagement workshop on 10 September from 7-9pm at a cost of £25. There will also be a Chairmanship workshop on 19 November from 7-9pm at a cost of £25. If any councillor wishes to attend either workshop please contact the Clerk.

(15-16)063 Mayor's Report (information only)

None.

(15-16)064 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Greenhough asked councillors if they were available to meet Cat Smith MP on Friday 17 July at 3.30pm in the Youth and Community Centre.

(15-16)065 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) and 1(3) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, councillors **resolved** to exclude the press and public to discuss matters relating to the playing field lease on the grounds that the discussion involves confidential details and advice from sources other than members.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.50pm.