

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 March 2013 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

Present: Councillors C Lamb (Mayor), R Drobny, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, P Moon, J Mutch, K Nicholls, P Orme and V Taylor

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council; PC Matt Butcher and PCSO Terry Molloy (Item 4).

195. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Black and G Carter and the reasons accepted.

196. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 17 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group.

197. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2013 be agreed as a true record.

198. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING A VERBAL POLICE REPORT)

At the request of the Deputy Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow non-councillors to speak.

PC Butcher and PCSO Molloy introduced themselves to councillors and apologised that there had been no police representative at the last two meetings as a result of personnel changes and reported that PC Gary Cross will replace PC Stuart Thompson from April 2013.

PCSO Molloy reported that there had been 9 crimes reported in February 2013 compared to 10 in the same period last year. The crimes related to incidents of burglary, theft and criminal damage. He also reported that there had been significant anti-social behaviour problems with a group of young people but that there were now measures in place aimed to improve the situation.

Councillors raised a number of issues including drugs, drink driving, speeding, metal thefts, suspicious vehicles and children not wearing seat belts and the police representatives agreed to look into the problems.

PC Butcher encouraged councillors to report in order to provide an evidence base and help police to spot emerging patterns.

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

199. DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2013/14

Cllr Drobny, the Mayor Elect, announced that he had invited Cllr Carter to be his Deputy Mayor and that Cllr Carter had accepted.

200. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Having considered a number of internal control documents, councillors **resolved:**

- a) that no changes be made to the Risk Management Plan, the Risk Register and the Annual Town Meeting Standing Orders

- b) that the changes proposed to Standing Orders and to Financial Regulations outlined in the paper entitled Annual Governance Review be approved
- c) that the Schedule of Assets as at March 2013 be approved with the proviso that the value shown for the mayoral chains be checked, that the donated urn planters and the Jubilee finial be included and that the Clerk check whether the Council owns the panorama/tableau on the Esplanade and include it if that is the case
- d) that Cllr Moon discuss the location of the Council's shed with former councillor Derek Nuttall

201. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR YEAR ENDING 31.3.13 AND APPROVAL OF INTERNAL AUDIT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillors **resolved** to appoint Gillian Benson as the Internal Auditor for year ending 31.3.13 at a fee of £100 and further **resolved** to agree the terms of reference for the internal audit.

202. POLICING RESPONSE TIMES AND RESOURCING

Councillors noted the response from the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the reducing police presence in the area and expressed concern that, although he stated that he was working with the Chief Constable to make sure communities are still supported through neighbourhood policing, this does not appear to be reflected on the ground.

In relation to the Civic Sunday parade, the Clerk reported that, in addition to no longer being able to close the road, the Police would not now be able to marshal the parade once the licence had been obtained from Wyre Council.

As a result of their serious concerns, councillors **resolved** to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet with the Town Council and to write to the Chief Constable to ask that police resources be made available to marshal the short parade as they had done in recent years.

203. S106 AGREEMENT – RESPONSE FROM WYRE COUNCIL

Cllr Nicholls reported that she had researched the original S106 conditions relating to the Pinewood development and that, rather than shared ownership, the properties were being rented and it appeared that the conditions had been changed by an officer at Wyre Council. She referred to a response from Wyre's Chief Executive, Garry Payne, in which he had explained the situation but that she remained concerned. Councillors **resolved** to ask Cllr Moon, in his role as a Wyre councillor, to pursue the matter on behalf of the Town Council and to report back to a future meeting. Cllr McCann mentioned that a report by the Affordable Housing Task Group would be considered by Wyre's Cabinet shortly and that one of the recommendations related to extending the period of local connection for eligibility for affordable housing.

204. PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Cllr Nicholls reported that she had recently met with an officer of LCC and found that there were a significant number of issues relating to parking signs and road lines which LCC hoped to address in the new financial year. Councillors **resolved** to ask Cllr Nicholls to report progress to a future meeting.

205. YULETIDE FESTIVAL

Cllr Nicholls reported that she had attended a recent meeting with the Gala Committee to discuss a possible Yuletide Festival and asked if any councillors would be prepared to work with the Committee and others to try to start such a festival. Councillors Orme and Lamb volunteered.

206. CHANGE OF SIGNING AUTHORITY

Councillors **resolved** to remove former Cllr Nuttall from the bank mandate and to include Cllr Nicholls on it in his place.

207. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYRE

Councillors noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission has adopted a council size of 50 councillors for Wyre Council and is now consulting on warding arrangements to accommodate the reduced number. Councillors **resolved** not to make representations as the wards covered by the Town Council are not affected.

208. INSURANCE 2013/14

The Clerk provided two quotations for insurance cover for 2013/14 and an analysis of cover. Councillors noted that Aon had quoted a price of £440.65 and the current provider (Zurich) a price of £436.56. Came and Company had declined to quote as they could not better the price provided last year of £661.65. Councillors **resolved** to continue to insure with Zurich for 2013/14.

209. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13/00118/FUL

Proposal: Formation of roof terrace to rear of property

Location: Lancaster Farm, Burned House Lane, Preesall

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

210. FINANCE

a) Receipts:

Kepplegate tree donation	£110.00
Cllr reimbursement of training costs	£50.00
Reserve account interest	£0.79

b) Accounts for payment:

Staff costs	£1577.54
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£56.94
HMRC	£113.17
Wyre Building Supplies	£58.30
Knott End Hardware and Electrical	£43.88
Thornton Facilities Management	£11.05

Payments by Standing Order for Noting

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

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for February which shows:

Current account	£10,268.15
Reserve account	£6,140.33
Mayor's Charity Account	Nil

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

211. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)

Wyre Flood Forum

Cllr Orme reported that the Sunnyside group had met with the Environment Agency and there has been some progress, although some work by United Utilities and LCC is still awaited. Cllr Taylor

reported that, as a result of problems contacting Wyre's emergency duty team, a different mobile provider had been introduced to ensure better mobile coverage.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that Mrs McCann had been very successful in gaining sponsorship from local businesses. As a result of the in principle decision to make a donation to the Bloom group to plant the new bed, the two planters and the library garden beds taken at the February meeting of the Council, Mrs McCann had identified the costs involved and this will be put onto the next agenda for a decision to be made. The Clerk reported that she had submitted the paperwork for the new bank account immediately after the last meeting but it had not yet been opened.

Wyre Road Safety Committee

Cllr McCann reported that he had raised the issue of resurfacing Park Lane at the meeting last week but, as it was not in the budgeted programme it was unlikely that it would be done. Cllr Taylor, in her role as county councillor, reported that she was in discussions at a senior level in the Environment Directorate and was hopeful of a positive outcome. Cllr McCann also reported that he had thanked the Highways team for the resurfacing of the Park Lane/Cemetery Lane/Burned House Lane junction, acknowledging that it had made life difficult while it was being done but recognising that it had been completed in 3.5 days rather than the 6 days planned. He had also asked how the £35m for roads and transport received by LCC would be spent and had been informed that this was a political decision.

212. VERBAL REPORTS FROM WYRE AND LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Taylor reported that, in response to her request that Park Lane be made into an A road, she had been informed that there was insufficient traffic to warrant a reclassification. She reported that she had also passed her congratulations onto the Highways team for completing the resurfacing in a speedy manner and to those working on the flooding in February for their prompt response.

Cllr McCann referred to the affordable housing task group report (see minute 203) and reported that Wyre Council had finalised its budget with no increase in council tax. Councillors noted that LCC was reducing its council tax by 2%.

213. CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Lengthsman's Report

The Lengthsman has reported an increased amount of dog fouling on the playing fields and particularly on the playing pitches. Hopefully the introduction of the new dog control orders and their enforcement will have a positive effect. There has been a significant amount of litter, dog fouling and broken glass in other parts of the villages and the Lengthsman has tried to clear litter from hedge bottoms before the new growth begins.

The Lengthsman has painted the new handrails black in accordance with the grant conditions and has applied the Smartwater to the war memorial and the Battle of Britain memorial. The Lengthsman and Clerk met with Mrs McCann to mark out the new raised flower bed on the triangle of land opposite the police station so that he can begin building it. LCC's Public Realm Manager has confirmed that he will arrange for drainage holes to be drilled into the asphalt and will also arrange for the area to be resurfaced once the bed has been built.

Location of Civic Awards

In response to a letter to the Head of Libraries, the Portfolio Holder and the Parish Champion, a site visit has been arranged to discuss the issues on 12 March. Cllr Orme who raised the issue will attend with the Clerk.

War Memorial Handrail

Following installation of the new handrail and resiting of the original handrail, both have been painted and Smartwater applied. The grant application has now been approved.

Land Behind the Library

The Green Partnership Award grant application has been successful and the Council has been awarded £500 towards the cost of the bird cherry trees. Notification of the formal registration of the land is awaited.

Council Furniture

Parrox Hall representatives have indicated that they would like to meet the Clerk to discuss the project and a date is awaited.

Electoral Review of Wyre

Following consultation on warding arrangements the Local Government Boundary Commission will publish draft recommendations in June 2013.

Wyre Together Information Event

Wyre Together will be holding their 2nd Information Event on Wednesday 24th April, 9.30 - 1pm at Thornton Methodist Church. The subjects at this event are changes to Welfare Reforms (what they are, what they will mean to you and where to get help) and an update from the new Clinical Commissioning Group (what has happened since their last talk to Wyre Together in August 2012, what their priorities are and how their commissioning process will work). The event is free to attend and open to both groups and local residents. To book contact Jane Williams 01253 887437 or 07932 335268.

Slipway Works

Wyre Council has been carrying out works on the slipway and the steel piles which have been on the beach for some time have been removed. The piles were originally left for use in forming a new access ramp to the beach. However, when Wyre Council applied to the Marine Management Organisation, who are responsible for works on sea defences, about the planned works at Knott End, they were informed that they would need to apply for a FEPA licence to undertake the works. As this would involve a great deal of consultation with environmental groups and interested parties and would delay the works to put in the slipway at Knott End by several months while consent was sought, Wyre took the view that the effort and cost involved to get the ramp constructed outweighed the benefits. Wyre is currently looking at an alternative construction that does not require a FEPA licence.

Dog Control Order Signage

The new dog control order signage will soon be displayed at the entrances to the playing field. The signs will be backed up through enforcement.

Shared Lives Service – Recruiting Shared Lives Carers

Lancashire County Council is promoting its Shared Lives Service. Shared Lives is adult fostering for people with learning and physical difficulties or for older people who are struggling to manage on their own and the County Council is now trying to recruit more Shared Lives carers. Further information can be obtained from the team on 01257 516036 or by email at sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk

Tourist Information Point – Knott End Cafe

The racking for leaflet display is now on order and the tourist information point should be open for business in time for the new season.

Millennium Tiles

Adrian Cross has confirmed that he will begin work on cleaning up the tiles taken up but that it is a slow and laborious process at a time when he is very busy.

214. QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS

Cllr Moon asked Cllr Taylor to find out how many tar lorries LCC has for the county.

Cllr Drobny asked the Wyre councillors for an update on the legal position in respect of the travellers' site and was informed that it is at the appeal stage and that legal action is now being taken over the unauthorised extension to the site.

Cllr Lamb asked, on behalf of St Oswald's Church Hall which is an emergency evacuation centre whether the landline phone is still required and was told that a phone capable of contacting the emergency services must be available if children use the centre.

215. 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 9pm.