

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 May 2014 at 6.00pm at Knott End Library, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors R Drobny (Mayor), R Black (from Item 7), P Greenhough, 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.

(13-14)238 Apologies for Absence

None.

(13-14)239 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item Item 15 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 Playing Field Development as he is Chairman of Friends of Preesall Park.

(13-14)240 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2014 be agreed as a true record.

(13-14)241 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 gave a short report on crime and anti-social behaviour. In April 2014 there had been 13 crimes compared to 8 in April last year and 20 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 28 in the same period last year.

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

(13-14)242 2013/14 Budget Outturn and Annual Return

Councillors had discussed the detailed budget outturn and analysis of expenditure for 2013/14 at the April meeting and there were no further questions on the detail. The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit work had been completed and the report of the Internal Auditor would be presented to the June meeting of the Council. Councillors considered Section 1 (Accounting Statements) and Section 2 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2014 and **resolved** that the Accounting Statements and the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

(13-14)243 Draft Annual Report

Councillors considered and **resolved** to approve the Annual Report and to make it available to the public in hard copy and on the website.

(13-14)244 Localised Council Tax Support

Councillors noted the response from Richard McDonagh in the Council Tax Division of the Department for Communities and Local Government and two letters from the Minister to local authorities. Councillors expressed disappointment that, despite the Minister's clear expectation that localised council tax support funding be passported to town and parish councils, he was not prepared to take action against those local authorities which did not do so. Councillors further noted that NALC and LALC are fighting the issue at a national level and **resolved** to ask that the matter be raised again at the LALC Wyre Area Committee.

(13-14)245 Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership

Councillors noted that the County Training Partnership is holding an Employment workshop on 12 June and a new Councillors and Clerks workshop on 5 and 19 July and **resolved** that the Town Council would pay for any new councillor to attend the new Councillors and Clerks workshop should the councillor wish to attend.

(13-14)246 Playing Field Development

Councillors noted that the first phase of the development programme is now complete and that the last part of the grant funding to pay the invoice is expected shortly. Councillors further noted that, for practical purposes, some additional works to Phase 1 had been carried out and that all but £2036.50 could be met from VAT reclaims. However, although FOPP has the money in its account to make this grant to the Town Council, doing so would leave no money for contingencies. Councillors **resolved** not to ask for an immediate grant from FOPP to cover this amount but, instead, to wait until the outcome of further grant applications is known. Councillors further **resolved** to revisit the decision in six months if the grant had not been made by that time.

(13-14)247 Allocation of Affordable Housing by Regenda

Cllr Hudson informed councillors that he had concerns that Regenda was not adhering to the local lettings policy and councillors **resolved** to write to Regenda in the first instance to ask for an explanation in relation to a particular property.

(13-14)248 Wyre Council Car Parking Regulations

Cllr Hudson asked and councillors **resolved** to defer this item to the next meeting.

(13-14)249 Enforcement of Dropped Kerbs

Cllr Hudson expressed concerns over drivers parking across dropped kerbs to the detriment of the elderly and disabled. Councillors **resolved** to write to the Police and LCC to seek clarification of the law in relation to dropped kerbs and to ask for regular enforcement.

(13-14)250 Finance

a) Payments received:

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|--|------------|
| Wyre Council (playing field development) | £39,000.00 |
| HMRC (VAT refund) | £3,026.90 |
| Stalmine Parish Council (Inv 14/001) | £92.00 |
| Friends of Preesall Park (playing field development) | £10,000.00 |
| Wyre Juniors (Inv 14/002) | £44.00 |
| Sponsorship (In Bloom) | £80.00 |
| Coffee morning fundraising (In Bloom) | £352.00 |

b) Payments to be approved:

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|---|-------------|
| Staff costs | £1985.05 |
| Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council | £69.20 |
| HMRC | £265.55 |
| Moran's Wood Components | £42.00 |
| PM Groundworks Ltd | £95,000.00* |
| Wyre Building Supplies | £73.19 |
| Childflight (Mayor's Charity) | £150.00 |
| RNLI (Mayor's Charity) | £40.00 |
| 2 nd Preesall Brownies (Mayor's Charity) | £50.00 |

*cheque to be released only when final grant funding received

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

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|-----------------------------|---------|
| Easy Websites (hosting fee) | £36.00 |
| O2 (mobile phone contract) | £22.81 |
| LCC pension | £406.11 |

c) Statement of Accounts - April 2014

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for April which shows:

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| Current account | £108,287.88 |
| Reserve account | £20,150.31 |
| Mayor's Charity Account | £240.00 |
| In Bloom Account | £2,324.64 |

Councillors **resolved** to note the receipts, the payments by standing order/direct debit and the statement of accounts and to approve the accounts for payment, noting the use of £6000 earmarked reserve in the payment of the PM Groundworks invoice.

(13-14)251 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that Protect Wyre Group had made a detailed response to the invitation to provide additional information on a number of key points prior to the Minister's redetermination of the issue.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that Phase 1 is now open and being used. There are a small number of teething problems which need to be resolved.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the certificate had been presented to St Oswald's. New plants have been purchased to replace those that had died in the library garden and the Bloomers are measuring beds and choosing plants for the summer planting.

(13-14)252 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

None.

(13-14)253 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

The notice board windows have been repaired and will hopefully last until the new notice board is received. The Lengthsman has reported incidents of fly tipping to Wyre Council and worked with the street cleaning team to remove it. He has replaced the broken flagstone on the Jubilee Garden path. Anglers are breaking through the newly planted hedge on the perimeter to get to the fishing pond and the Lengthsman will plant a large bush to discourage them from accessing the pond from the Jubilee Garden. He has collected sandbags from around the village and these are stored on pallets at the side of The Coastguard Station. If councillors are aware of any other sandbags that need collecting please let the Clerk or Lengthsman know.

Wyre Council Parish Charter

Wyre Council is in the process of reviewing its charter governing the relationship with town and parish councils. The draft will be discussed at the July Wyre Area Committee meeting.

Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund

A grant application has been made to the Fund towards the cost of the new notice board.

New Notice Board

The new 3 door notice board has been ordered and delivery is expected between the end of May and the middle of June.

Shared Lives Service – Recruiting Shared Lives Carers

Lancashire County Council is promoting its Shared Lives Service. Shared Lives involves caring for an adult in your family home, because they cannot live with their own family or live on their own. It is family-based care provided by individuals or families, enabling adults to share in family and community life, as well as supporting them to develop their strengths, abilities and independence. People who require Shared Lives support come from a variety of backgrounds and may be an adult with a learning disability or an older adult. An extensive matching process is put in place between the carer and the person to be placed. Carers come from many different backgrounds and no formal qualifications are required. What really matters are personal qualities – you need to be patient, positive, flexible and have a person-centred approach. Carers receive a generous financial allowance and a dedicated support team. Further information can be obtained from the team on 01257 516036 or by email at sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk

LCC Parish Champion Grant

Lancashire County Council's Parish Champion has awarded the Town Council a grant of £300 towards the cost of the new notice board.

(13-14)254 Mayor's Report (information only)

The Mayor had nothing to report.

(13-14)255 Questions to Councillors

None.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 6.50pm.