

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 November 2012 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall.

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

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and PC Stuart Thompson (Item 4). There were 3 members of the public.

A G E N D A

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

113. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs McCann and Moon declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 as Wyre councillors.

114. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2012 be agreed as a true record.

115. 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.

The three members of the public (who are also Gala Committee members) spoke about the Gala Committee's wish to work with the Council to organise a winter festival to coincide with the lighting of the Christmas Tree next year.

PC Thompson reported that, in October 2012 there were 9 reported crimes with 3 detected. This compares with 13 crimes in the same period last year. There were 11 reports of anti-social behaviour last month, 4 of which were youth nuisance, compared to the same period last year when there were 17 reports of anti-social behaviour, 8 of which were related to youth nuisance.

In response to a question PC Thompson confirmed that PCSO Natalie Johnstone would become a police officer early next year but he did not know whether she would be replaced. He confirmed that PCSO Emma Brown would continue to spend 4 days a week in the area.

Cllr Nicholls referred to two incidents in late October when young people had called the police but there had been long delays before they attended. The Clerk had brought this to the attention of Sergeant Frearney and, in her absence, a response had been received from PCSO Natalie Johnstone. PC Thompson explained that a call to the control room could be picked up anywhere in Lancashire and there is therefore no local knowledge of the area. For that reason a precise location needs to be given so that the police know where to attend. He also confirmed that, as a result of staff shortages, it was sometimes possible that an officer from further afield could be sent and this increased the response time.

Cllr Nicholls raised the issue of people parking illegally and PC Thompson explained that it was the responsibility of Lancashire County Council's on street parking enforcement contractor. The Clerk had made contact and a commitment had been given that enforcement visits would take place when resources became available.

At the conclusion of the public participation and at the request of the Mayor, councillors resolved to **reconvene** the meeting and asked the Clerk to put an item on the next agenda to discuss the winter festival.

116. CASUAL VACANCY

Councillors noted that there has been no request made to Wyre Council for an election to be held and that the Town Council is now required to co-opt a suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy. The vacancy will be publicised in the Green Book, on the notice board and on the website.

117. PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL FURNITURE COLLECTION

The Mayor confirmed that he had had further discussions with Parrox Hall and had provided them with the approximate sizes of the pieces of furniture. In anticipation of final agreement councillors **resolved** to ask the Clerk to prepare a document outlining the terms of the loan and any conditions in line with the original agreement between the Council and the Museums Service.

118. CONSULTATION ON WITHDRAWAL OF RURAL PARISH GRANT

Cllrs McCann and Moon, as serving Wyre councillors, left the room for this item. Councillors noted that Wyre Council is proposing to withdraw the payment of the Rural Parish Grant and has asked for a response by 31 December 2012.

Councillors expressed their concern at the impact on the Town Council's budget and felt that the urban areas should take an equal share of any cuts. Councillors **resolved** that the response of the Council be that any withdrawal of the grant should be staggered over at least two years and that it be Wyre Council who explain to local people the reason for any increase in precept arising from their decision.

119. DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2013/14

Councillors discussed the first draft of the budget and **resolved** to hold a budget workshop before the next meeting in order to finalise the budget at that meeting.

120. QUALITY STATUS UPDATE

Councillors noted the progress to date outlined in the action plan and **resolved** to set up a Quality Status Working Group (Councillors Moon, Carter, McCann, Orme and Nicholls) to progress the action plan with the Clerk.

121. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Having previously agreed to develop a Community Engagement Strategy as part of the action plan for pursuing Quality Status, councillors **resolved** to adopt the Community Engagement Strategy.

122. DEVELOPING A PARISH PLAN

Having previously agreed to develop a Parish Plan as part of the action plan for pursuing Quality Status, councillors **resolved** to include an amount in next year's budget to take the Parish Plan forward and to establish a Parish Plan Steering Committee with the Council's representatives being the members of the Quality Status Working Group.

123. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYRE

Councillors noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission has begun the first stage of the electoral review of the authority and is consulting on a proposal to reduce the number of seats on Wyre Council from 55 to 50. Councillors **resolved** to support the proposal but to propose that there be no change to the number of representatives for the Town Council area.

124. PROMOTING THE USE OF CYCLING HELMETS (CLLR CARTER)

Councillor Carter explained that he had been approached to ask if the Town Council would help to promote the use of cycling helmets, particularly by children. Councillors noted the work done by local schools to promote using cycling helmets and **resolved** to raise the matter with the Police representative at the next meeting.

125. DOG FOULING (CLLR CARTER)

Councillor Carter explained that, despite the work done by both Wyre Council and the Lengthsman to clear up dog fouling, it is still prevalent on both pavements and the Esplanade. Councillors noted that John Bettles of Wyre Council had committed to providing more patrols and that there appeared to have been an improvement recently. Councillor Moon explained that he had raised the issue of dog control orders with the Wyre Portfolio Holder, Cllr Murphy, and asked him to expedite their introduction in the area. Councillors **resolved** to monitor the situation.

126. DONATION OF URNS BY NW PRECAST OF PILLING

Councillors noted that the two urns donated by NW Precast have now been received and are in storage awaiting councillors' decision on where they should be located. Councillors **resolved** that the two urns be placed at the corner of Grasmere Road and that the Clerk write to thank Mike Quinn, the Managing Director, for the donation.

127. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – GETTING STARTED WORKSHOP

Councillors noted that LALC and the Campaign to Protect Rural England are holding a free one day workshop at the Leyland Hotel on 19 January. Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk and Cllr Carter attend.

128. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

12/00690/FUL

Proposal: The construction of a par 4 310 yard 8th hole and a 9th tee

Location: Knott End Golf Club

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

12/00726/FUL

Proposal: Erection of two-storey front extension

Location: 7 Barton Avenue, Knott End

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

12/00728/FUL

Proposal: Erection of rear extension and creation of rear dormer

Location: Aysgarth, 29 Beach Road, Preesall

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

12/00696/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of an existing workshop to a live/work unit

Location: Willow Trees, Cart Gate, Preesall

By a majority (two councillors were against and two abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

12/00745/FUL

Proposal: Two storey and single storey rear extensions

Location: Woodfield, 158 Park Lane, Preesall

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

129. FINANCE

a) Receipts:

Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council (printing)	£9.10
Wyre Juniors	£152.63

b) Accounts for payment:

Staff costs	£1595.22
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of the Council	£57.66
HMRC	£116.96
Wyre Building Supplies	£87.48
Preesall Auto Discount	£32.25
Stalmine Parish Council	£100
Royal British Legion	£17.00*

c) Statement of Accounts – October 2012

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for October which shows:

Current account	£18,861.80
Reserve account	£6,138.77
Mayor's Charity Account	Nil

Councillors **resolved** to note the receipts and the statement of accounts and to approve the accounts for payment including, in accordance with the powers conferred by S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the sum of £17.00 in respect of a poppy wreath* for Remembrance Sunday.

130. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES (INFORMATION ONLY)

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme reported that 4 Open Floor Hearings had been held during October and the Group now awaited the Planning Inspector's decision.

Over Wyre Seniors' Forum

Cllr Carter reported that the next meeting will be a Christmas Party at St Aidan's School in early December.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that they had received a Silver Award this year and were aiming for Gold next year. Two new members from the Gardening Club had joined. Having seen what others do at the awards presentation at Southport, they were planning to make a flower bed on the bank at the top of Cartgate.

Cllr McCann asked that the Wyre Road Safety Committee be added to the list of reports and that the next meeting was on 28 November. He would therefore report at the next meeting.

131. VERBAL REPORTS FROM WYRE AND LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr McCann reported that the Business Support Plan which aimed to help small businesses before they had to shut down was being funded to the tune of £45,000. He also reported that the improvement project for the library garden put forward by Cllr Taylor had not received funding. Cllr Moon reported that the Travellers had moved back onto the site. Their application to appeal to the High Court had been turned down and the only legal recourse left to them was to the European Court of Human Rights. Enforcement action was being taken by Wyre in response to what appeared to be an extension to the site.

132. CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Project Update

There is no further progress to report on registering the land behind the library. An amount has been put into the draft budget for 2013/14 to continue to improve the area. The Jubilee oak tree was planted on 31 October and the bird cherries, following a site visit by Barton Grange, are likely to be planted in December. The Lengthsman has costed the provision of a triangular flower bed made of timber for the triangle of land opposite the Police Station and provision has been made for it in next year's budget if it cannot be funded in 2012/13. There is nothing further to report on the millennium tile project as progress is now dependent on Adrian Cross.

Lengthsman's Report

The Lengthsman has been kept busy clearing fallen leaves and litter blown about by some windy days. He will install the plaque at the flagpole before Remembrance Sunday and will give the area around the Battle of Britain Memorial a general tidy up in time for the Royal British Legion service at 11am. The Lengthsman continues to mark the pitches for the football clubs and the first recharge for his time and for consumables was sent at the end of October and will be sent monthly thereafter. The Lengthsman is much happier with this arrangement.

Wyre Together Awards

These are awards for individuals and groups who deserve to be recognised for their work in the community. Nomination forms and guidance can be found on the Wyre Together website (www.wyretogether.org) and the closing date for nominations is 14 December with a special awards ceremony taking place in January.

Planning Appeal Decision

An appeal in respect of the variation of condition 3 on planning application 08/00851/FUL (Rydal House, Park Lane, Preesall) to remove the word 'let' from the condition to allow occupation of the building other than ancillary has been allowed.

Festive Lighting – Licence

A licence from LCC is required for any festive lights that are on the highway or use an unmetered electricity supply. In order to obtain the licence an unmetered supply certificate is required from Electricity North West and the Council must be registered with a supplier in order to pay for the electricity used (this only applies to the tree). The licence and the unmetered supply agreement have now been obtained.

Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm - Supplementary Documents Consultation under 42 of the Planning Act 2008

DONG Energy is consulting on a proposal for an additional cable route option detailed in a landfall memorandum and related maps as route 2a. A briefing paper has been produced on the scope for land restoration, landscaping and mitigating measures for impacts on natural habitats associated with the Project. Both documents can be found on their website at:

<http://www.dongenergy.com/walneyextension/downloads/pages/default.aspx>

All comments must be received on or before **23rd November 2012**. Feedback and comments can be sent to DONG Energy Walney Extension (UK) Ltd, 33 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7HY

LCC – Prospective Candidates Information Evening

LCC will be holding a Prospective Candidates information evening on **Wednesday 28 November, 5.30pm – 7.30pm**, at County Hall Preston. Prospective candidates will have an opportunity to find out more about the work of councillors, ask questions about the election process and informally speak to council staff about the role and what support is available. Anyone interested in becoming a County Councillor can attend to find out more and places can be booked using the link

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/delegate/conferenceDetails.asp?cid=6276>.. Further

information about becoming a councillor (including a video, Prospective Candidates information booklet and key contacts) can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/beacouncillor.

Litter Bin – Sea Dyke Cottages

John Bettle has confirmed that the bin was taken away as it was both corroded and damaged and there is no funding for a replacement. He has further confirmed that he has not received any significant or specific complaints about excess littering as a result of the bin being removed and that there are other bins en route.

Litter and Dog Fouling on the Esplanade

Following my reporting these issues to John Bettle after the last meeting, he has confirmed that there have been a number of litter incidents around the Esplanade and that he has issued two fixed penalty notices (penalty £75.00) to people (who he describes as “of a certain age and not young people”) who were standing “feet” away from very clear very obvious litter bins. He confirmed that he had passed details onto the street cleansing team for a thorough clean up as soon as practicable.

Online Flood Portal

There is a new interactive online portal which has been launched by the Flood Protection Agency for people at risk of flooding – www.thefpa.org.uk

133. QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS

Cllr Orme asked whether other councillors would be prepared to contribute to the cost of one of the cherry trees and all present agreed to a donation of £10 each.

Cllr Carter asked where he should report problems of leaf litter on the road and Cllr Moon told him to report it to Wyre Council. He also asked when the flood boards are fitted and informed that this was also Wyre Council.

134. ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Councillors noted that, following the next meeting on 10 December, they were invited to attend a Carol Service at the Bethel Church followed by supper provided by the Mayor and Mayoress for councillors, their partners and invited guests in the Youth and Community Centre. The next meeting will start at 6pm and the Carol Service is at 7.30pm.

The Mayor reported that his stall selling home made cakes and sweets at the Bonfire had raised £150 with £50 being donated to each school; the Variety Show had raised £150 to go to Professor Nearey’s dementia work. Forthcoming events were bagpacking in 4 stores with proceeds going to the Air Ambulance Service and the Lifeboat amongst others.

135. ITEMS FOR THE 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.

136. 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.