



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Youth and Community Centre Preesall

Present: Cllr P Orme, Cllr C Rimmer, Cllr S Dobbie, Cllr R Drobny, Cllr A Shewan, Cllr K Tunstall,
In attendance: Debbie Smith clerk to the town council, and thirty members of the public.

1. 1 (2026/27) Election and investiture of Mayor for 2026/27

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Karen Tunstall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Mayor invited nominations for Mayor.

Cllr Robert Drobny gave a short speech ending with the **proposal** that Cllr Sharon Dobbie be elected to the office of Mayor of Preesall Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

Cllr Phil Orme **seconded** the proposal.

Councillors **resolved** to agree to the proposal.

2.2 (2026/27) Investiture of Mayor

The Mayor read out and then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the proper officer.

3.3 (2026/27) The Mayor addressed the meeting

The Mayor, Cllr Sharon Dobbie, addressed the delegates and disguised guests and thanked them for their support for the evening. The Mayor thanked her husband Mr. Gavin Dobbie for his love and support. The Mayor gave thanks to the previous Mayor Cllr Tony Johnson and Deputy Mayor Cllr Karen Tunstall for their dedication and service they have given the community during their term of office. The Mayor stated she will work hard to improve opportunities for residents, support local businesses, strengthen neighbourhoods and ensure every voice is heard. The Mayor informed delegates that she understands her responsibilities held within the position of Mayor and will serve with integrity, compassion and determination. The Mayor informed guests that her chosen charities are Brian House and Trinity Hospice, with Parrox Hall Preservation Trust being close to her heart, this project will run in conjunction with Hope Community Care Hub who support Bay and the Wildlife Trust. This project is to help vulnerable adults with mental health by utilising the outdoors. The money will be used to contribute to the outdoor scheme providing boxes for bats, owls buzzards, and birds in its grounds. The Mayor stated that today marks the beginning of a new chapter to move forward to build an even stronger future for the community.

4.4 (2026/27) Election of Deputy Mayor for 2026/27

The mayor gave a short speech ending with the **proposal** that Councillor Andrew Shewan be elected to the office of Deputy Mayor of Preesall Town Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

Councillor Robert Drobny **seconded** the proposal.

Councillors **resolved** to agree to the proposal.

The Deputy Mayor read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor, witnessed by the proper officer.

The Mayor invested Cllr Shewan with the chain of office.

5.5 (2026/27) Apologies for absence

Cllr Hayes, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Tony Johnson, Cllr R Kelly, and Cllr Cawley

6.6 (2026/27) Declarations of Interests

Nil

7.7 (2026/27) Appointment of members to existing committees

Councillors **resolved** the following appointments:

Civic events: Cllr Orme, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Shewan, Cllr Dobbie, Cllr Drobny (if Cllr Johnson was unable to attend).

Finance: Cllr Orme, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Dobbie

Personnel: Cllr Rimmer, Cllr Orme, Cllr Tunstall, Cllr Shewan

8.8 (2026/27) Appointment of members as subject leads and outside body representatives

Councillors **resolved** to appoint the following:

Outside body representatives:
Best Kept Village – Nil as the competition is not active this civic year
FOKEL – Cllr Shewan
Gala – Cllr Rimmer
Health (all aspects) – Cllr Shewan
Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr Orme
Over Wyre Parishes joint meeting – Cllr Orme
Preesall Youth and Community Association – Cllr Rimmer
Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme
Wyre In Bloom – Cllr Tunstall

Subject leads:

Highways – Nil (not required)
Housing – Cllr Shepherd
Planning Ambassador – Cllr Orme
Tourism – Cllr Johnson / Cllr Rimmer
Environment – Cllr Rimmer

9.9 (2026/27) Calendar of Town Council Meetings for the 2026/27 Civic Year

Councillors **resolved** to approve the dates of the meetings for the 2026/27 civic year:

8th June 2026
13th July 2026
14th September 2026
12th October 2026
09th November 2026
14^h December 2026
11th January 2027
8th February 2027
8th March 2027
12th April 2027 - Annual Town Meeting
12th April 2027 – Ordinary Meeting
10th May 2027 – Ordinary Meeting
10th May 2027 - Annual May Meeting (Mayor Making)

Cllr Orme remarked that he found it very disheartening that there is now a list, where members know exactly when the meetings will be held for the next year, and there should be no excuse why councillors cannot attend meetings, unless due to ill health. The council **noted** the comment.

10.10 The Mayor will close the meeting.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.pm.