



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8th September 2025 at 7pm at Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Centre

Present: Cllrs T Johnson (Mayor), K Shepherd, P Orme, A Hayes, K Tunstall, C Rimmer, R Drobny, R Kelly, J Jenkinson and S Dobbie

Also present – the Clerk, Lancashire County Councillor Matthew Salter and 4 members of the public.

531.1 Apologies

Cllr A Shewan

532.2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Orme – Agenda item no 9 as a Friend of Preesall Playing Fields and the Green Paper item.

Cllr Jenkinson – Agenda item no 15.

533.3 Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 14th July 2025

Cllr Orme noted that item 524.20 was incorrect and should state that the council were to purchase four Tommy statues not two and that none would be purchased by the Over Wyre Veterans Group. It was resolved that the minutes of the above meeting are approved as a true record with this amendment made.

534.4 Public participation

The poor condition of Rosslyn Ave was raised. It was agreed to add a proposal for the council to write to Lancashire County Council about this on the agenda for the October meeting.

The issues with the pharmacy in Knott End and the impacts being felt in Preesall and Knott End and surrounding villages was raised. It was confirmed that the council can not get involved in commercial situations but it was resolved that the clerk write to the Over Wyre Medical Centre Manager to raise these concerns. It was resolved that the clerk would investigate any communications that could be made through the Integrated Care System.

Cllr Salter updated the meeting on a number of items:

- Rosslyn Ave – the state of the road has been raised with the Senior Highways Engineer at LCC.
- Quarry proposal – the next meeting to discuss this application is scheduled for 15th October.
- Highways – the Highways department are looking at new technology for the repairs to roads and how these repairs can last longer.

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- Special Needs Education – as cabinet member for education Cllr Salter advised that an extra £5m was being invested to improve the provision of special need education in the county.

535.5 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

536.6 Quarry Planning Update

Nothing to add following the update from Cllr Salter.

537.7 Finance

Councillors noted

7.1 Bank statements balances Unity 31st August 2025 £43,319.19 and Virgin 31st July 2025 £58,159.95.

7.2 Cllrs noted and resolved to approve payments made for August 2025.

7.3 Agreed as a correct record the bank reconciliations to 31st July 2025.

7.4 Finance Committee advised that work has been completed to revise the Cost Centre and Cost codes to be used for the 2026/27 budget. A first cut budget proposal will be discussed as part of the October meetings.

538.8 Clerk Pay Increase

It was resolved that the clerk pay be increased to £16.35 per hour and that this is back dated to 1st April 2025.

Cllr Drobny asked the Personnel Committee to review this to resolve if a further increase can be justified.

539.9 Feasibility of taking back the lease for Preesall Playing Fields

Discussion took place around this with three possible options to be considered.

1. Ask Wyre Borough Council if Preesall Town Council can be given the playing fields.
2. Lease the playing fields with WBC still maintaining them.
3. Agree a peppercorn lease with Preesall Town Council taking over the maintenance.

Concerns were raised around grass cutting, the condition of the car park, outstanding boundary issues and the master plan for the development of the park which continues to stall.

It was resolved to add this to the agenda for the October meeting.

540.10 Budget Setting 2026/2027

The timelines for this and any councillor submissions were noted.

541.11 Spraying licence

This proposal was rejected.

It was resolved that the clerk will investigate other options to tackle the problem and to put on the agenda for the October meeting for further consideration.

542.12 Councillor vacancies

The clerk advised that there have been two applications to join the council. It was resolved to hold interviews on Monday 29th September at 7pm and 7:30pm.

543.13 SPID's Report

Nothing to raise.

Cllrs Hayes and Jenkinson advised that there had been reports of issues with motorbikes but nothing obvious from the reports.

Cllr Salter was asked to raise the issue of mobile Spid's being put up by Lancashire County Council and to ask if any reports were available regarding speeds recorded.

544.14 Trees at the Cenotaph

It was resolved to accept the quote provided and to advise that work can be scheduled.

545.15 Kelly's Corner

It was resolved that the lowest quote was accepted and that the clerk communicate with the provider to advise.

This work will see a two paving stone width path around the outside of the current stoned area to allow better disability and buggy access and to membrane the centre and add new golden gravel.

546.16 Wyre Area Committee

It was resolved that Cllr Rimmer would represent Preesall Town Council on this alongside Cllr Orme. A vacancy still exists and councillors can raise any interest with the clerk.

547.17 East Irish Sea Transmission Project

Discussion took place around this project and one plan to bring the power supply into Rossall and then underground to Penwortham. It was suggested that pylons from Stanah to Penwortham re under capacity and that this should be considered. There is no immediate impact on the Preesall and Knott End area.

548.18 Document Review

All documents were accepted apart from the Grant Policy. It was resolved to look at this with a view to going back to a twice yearly process and add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

549.19 Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

Cllr Orme advised that we were not successful in getting to the next round of the Best Kept Village voting.

Cllr Orme advised that the next Flood Forum meeting is on Thursday 11th September. The work to be done at Sunnyside is currently on hold due to access issues with the land owner.

550.20 Verbal reports from Wyre councillors

Cllr Rimmer advised that there is a full council meeting this week and an update on the contamination from Hillhouse is expected.

551.21 Clerk's report

The clerk advised:

The revised mandate information is now with Virgin Money.

We have received payment from the Parrox Trust for the hedge cutting on Park Lane.

There is an issue with npower and invoices for the unmetered supplies we have. This is currently being investigated.

Work on the Cenotaph will commence on Tuesday 9th September. The cleaning company have been asked to schedule their work for early October.

Road closure requests for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas lights switch on are now with Wyre Borough.

A Cheque has been received from the Legacy Trust for £92,164.40 to cover a water bowser, the two heritage shelters in Knott End, a telescope, an accessibility telescope and the purchase and legal fees for the storage facility on St Bernards Road.

The grant application for Christmas Lights is to be submitted by the end of September.

The clerk will be on leave from the 23rd to 29th September incl

Cllr Orme asked about the following:

Grit bins – the clerk has approached LCC about these but the places being considered do not meet their criteria for placing them. The bins will need to be bought by the council.

Fordstone flower box – these have been maintained by a resident but this seems to have stopped. The clerk to try and find out more details and ask the plantsman to look at them.

NatWest corner and Barton Square – nothing has been received from Wyre Borough regards the council taking over these areas.

Finger posts – quotes have been received from two companies. Need to review the quotes and determine best value for money.

Blue Plaque for Raymond Bradburn – we have so far been unable to contact the owner of the pet shop premises to determine if the plaque can be put on the outside wall.

552.22 Mayor's report

Cllr Johnson updated:

Attended the Over Wyre Social Activities club.

Attended the VJ Day commemoration at the Battle of Britain Memorial.

Attended saints naming day at St Bernard's Church.

Opened an art exhibition at the library.

Took part in the friendship line.

553.23 Questions to councillors

Cllr Shepherd raised the issue of councillors not knowing or finding out late about certain events taking place. It was resolved to add an agenda item to the next Civic Events and Celebrations Committee regarding the creation of a Civic Events calendar that can then be published on the web site and used to communicate reminders to both councillors and residents.

Cllr Drobny raised the issue of the accessibility telescope at the ferry and access for disability scotters. The clerk will look at this with the lengthsman to see what can be done.

Cllr Orme updated on the fund raising efforts for the memorial bench for Ray. It was resolved that the council would purchase the bench and then be re-imbursed from the donations. Any donations left to be used to buy planters for alongside it. Cllr Drobny suggested that the flower beds near to the bus stop could perhaps also be planted as a memorial.

554.24 Items for next agenda

The next full council meeting will be held **on Monday 13th October 2025 starting at 7pm** – councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and provide updates from working groups by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 2nd October 2025** at the latest. The item should specify the business which it is proposed be transacted, in such a way that the members who receive it can identify the matters which they will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

555.25 Green Paper Item

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This item was discussed after the public left the meeting due to the confidential nature of it. A note of the outcome will be sent to councillors under separate cover and not made public.