

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 January 2018 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

**Present:** Cllrs G McCann (Deputy Mayor), R Black, B Burn, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, P Orme,

**In attendance:** Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 10 members of the public and 2 police representatives.

## **187a(1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs T Reilly, J Mutch, L Woodhouse.

## **187b(1) Absent without apology**

None

## **188(2) Declarations of interests and dispensations**

Cllr Orme – items 11,12,13

## **189(3) Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** 1).That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December be agreed as a true record subject to item 176(17-18)9 being amended to read Cllr Black, Cllr Drobny and Cllr Woodhouse.

## **190(4) Public participation**

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

- A member of the public asked the clerk whether a formal request had been received from Lancashire County Council or Wyre Council to make a financial contribution towards dredging works in respect of the ferry.  
*In response:* The clerk replied that a formal request had not been received, merely the agenda item. Monies had been put into the 2017/18 budget in case they were needed to save local services.
- A resident of Sunnyside Terrace addressed councillors in relation to the recent floods and the impact that Halite's new road might have on the flooding problem, including the backing-up of Grange Pool.  
*In response:* Work is continuing with the county council and the relevant agencies to improve the drainage system. The correct place to raise concerns is at the flood forum attended by those who have the technical knowledge; this meets every three months (dates are notified in advance).
- A resident of Pilling Lane asked what could be done in respect of the culvert on Pilling Lane and whose responsibility it is to clear it.  
*In response:* Work has been done to clear the dyke in the past. Responsibility for maintenance and clearing lies with the riparian owner. Wyre has acknowledged that work needs to be done in the vicinity of the Meadows estate, which should help with land drainage in the area. The problems in November were exacerbated by the pump on Sandy Lane being unable to cope with the volume of water experienced that day. Portable pumps had needed to be brought in to assist with the removal of water. The resident was asked to provide councillors with their contact details.

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- The police were asked whether a report on Facebook that a paedophile was living within the area after being given unconditional bail was correct and if so, what the police were doing to safeguard children.

*In response:* The police apologised, stating that this is not something within their control. The Crown Prosecution Service sets bail conditions, not the police. The individual is not required to sign in or stay within the confines of his residence, the police are not aware of his address and to try to identify him would be a potential breach of the Data Protection Act.

- The police were asked whether any action was being taken in respect of parking in the vicinity of Preesall Hill, particularly at peak times.

*In response:* A reduction in police numbers has meant that it is not possible to continually monitor each school. Triangles have been issued to schools and attempts have been made to educate the public, unfortunately the offenders do not see that the rules apply to them. A police recruitment exercise is taking place this month that could mean an additional 200 officers across the county. The advice is for residents/parents to keep reporting transgressions.

*At the conclusion of the public participation (7.30pm) and at the request of the Deputy Mayor, councillors resolved to reconvene the meeting.*

#### **191(5) Parish champion invitation**

Councillors considered the request to invite County Councillor Paul Rigby, the parish champion, to a meeting of the council to give a county perspective of services.

**Resolved:** for the clerk to send a letter inviting County Councillor Rigby to a daytime meeting with councillors.

#### **192(6) LCC highways**

It was agreed that there had been an unacceptable lack of response to and handling of communications over a number of months by LCC highways in respect of more than one issue along with a perceived failure of that department to fulfil its duties to residents. Cllr Orme stated that whilst he agreed with the facts re the service provided by LCC he had reservations about the effect a vote of no confidence would have and the possibility of aggravating officers to the detriment of the township.

**Resolved:** to pass a vote of no confidence in LCC highways department and Keith Iddon, the cabinet member for highways and transport. (Cllrs G McCann (Deputy Mayor), R Black, B Burn, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson in favour; Cllr P Orme abstained).

#### **193(7) Council contact with outside body**

**Resolved:** that it would be beneficial for Preesall Town Council to open lines of communication with LCC highways. This would be best achieved by the appointment of a named contact - Cllr Hudson.

#### **194(8) Park Lane resurfacing**

**Resolved:** for the clerk to write to LCC highways to ascertain when resurfacing work on Park Lane and Fordstone Avenue is scheduled.

#### **195(9) Pathway on sea wall**

Councillors discussed usage of the sea wall and were made aware that the coastal access team would shortly be issuing its report. The issue of cyclists on the pathway, sometimes at speed and in groups, following an alleged cycling magazine story that the pathway is cyclists only would be looked into. Councillors were of the belief that the path had been used by both cyclists and pedestrians for many years and that tolerance and respect for other users' rights was needed.

**196(10) Signage**

**Resolved:** that the possibility of replacing the fingerpost near the Co-op with a more traditional cast iron version would be investigated.

**197(11) Ferry contribution**

**Resolved:** to reject the proposal to add £10,000 to the ferry fund reserves to cover any council contribution to the ferry over the full eight-year contract.

**198(12) Dredging work**

**Resolved:** to make an immediate one-off payment of £5,000 (from reserves held) towards the dredging work that needs to be undertaken before the start of the ferry contract.

**199(13) Council contact on ferry management board**

**Resolved:** for Cllr Orme to act as the town council's representative on the ferry management board/working party, which will oversee the running of the ferry for the next eight years.

**200(14) Possible off-street parking at Methodist Church**

**Resolved:** 1) for a letter to be sent to the Rev. Paul Critchley, asking him to approach officials within the church, for agreement to proceed with the proposal to create five or six parking spaces in the grounds of the Methodist Church. 2) to make additional budget provision of £5,000 for the proposed project.

**201(15) Parking improvements – Plantation Avenue**

Councillors considered the proposal for a joint project with Wyre Borough Council whereby Wyre would provide kerb edging to create parking bays and Preesall Town Council would provide infill material to park on.

**Resolved:** that discussions be undertaken with Wyre to ascertain the feasibility of the project but that the town council would not make any budget provision in 2018/19.

**202(16) Finalisation of budget 2018/19**

Councillors considered the revised budget.

**Resolved:** to remove £10,000 from the draft budget (see resolution 197(11)), and to set a precept for 2018/19 of £84,101.

**203(17) Use of social media**

Councillors objected to Cllr Drobny making allegations against the Mayor, especially as the Mayor was absent from the meeting. Cllr Drobny was advised that if he had a specific issue with the conduct of any councillor then this should be referred to the monitoring officer.

**204(18) Battle's Over committee terms of reference**

**Resolved:** to approve the terms of reference for the Battle's Over committee.

**205(19) Flag flying**

**Resolved:** to approve the 2018 flag flying diary.

**206(20) Review of Community Engagement Strategy**

**Resolved:** to approve the Community Engagement Strategy without amendment.

**207(21) Planning applications****17/01133/FUL****Proposal:** Erection of an agricultural storage building**Location:** Land to the east of Park Lane, Preesall, Poulton le Fylde

**Resolved:** that the council unanimously objected to the proposal on the grounds that the plans submitted were incorrect in respect of the proposed access point and that the building would be on land earmarked in the local plan as the 'green' zone between Preesall and Preesall Hill

**17/01134/FUL****Proposal:** Two storey rear extension involving demolition of existing ground floor extension**Location:** Westridge 101 Pilling Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde

**Resolved:** that there was insufficient evidence provided for a decision to be made as no documentation relating to the application had been provided by Wyre planning nor was it available on the website.

**17/01157FUL****Proposal:** Proposed two storey rear extension with balcony and pitched roof**Location:** The Haven 22 Beach Road Preesall Poulton le Fylde

**Resolved:** to raise no objections.

**17/00178/FUL** – notification of an appeal regarding the proposal to erect a detached dwelling and change the use of domestic stables to a stud and operate a mobile farrier business from the site.

**Resolved:** for the clerk to submit previously agreed comments to the planning inspectorate, revised to show recent flooding issues.

**208(22) Finance**

<b>a) Councillors noted the following receipts</b>		
Current account		9.20
Business reserve account		1.22

<b>b) Councillors approved the following payments</b>		Cheque	
Payroll	233,234,235		2602.04
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	233		85.99
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	234		40.00
Cartridgesave (invq. 29477)	236		22.65
Fordstone General Store (inv 43)	237		155.00
Simon Dickinson (inv 1) In Bloom	20		280.00
FH&M Davies (inv. 05152)	238		408.00
Wyre Building Supplies (inv. 0149282)	239		43.82
Wyre Borough Council (re dredging)	240		5000.00
LALC re Cllr Hudson planning workshop	241		25.00
LALC re Cllr Hudson and Cllr Woodhouse chairman course	242		50.00

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<b>c) Councillors noted</b> the following payments by standing order/direct debit	
Easy Websites (hosting fee)	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	13.80
LCC (contributions)	749.09
LCC (deficit) October	8.33

<b>d) Councillors accepted</b> the statement of accounts for December 2017	
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### **209(23) Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)**

**Housing** – the clerk stated that Wyre was looking at visiting the property on Elmwood Avenue again given the issue of black mould at this address and the neighbouring property.

**Youth** – Cllr Orme reported that the youth club would start again this week.

**Wyre Flood Forum** – Cllrs Orme reported that there had been suggestions that the Garstang and Catterall flood basins would be closed. This had not been well received and officers on the ground were looking at putting together a better case for keeping it going. Wyre had held a drop-in session after the November floods that had been well received. The advice as always is that individuals also need to look at how they can best protect their home and that there are grants available to offset the costs.

**Preesall Youth and Community Association** – The installation of the donated kitchen is almost complete. An order has been placed for CCTV at the premises.

**Co-op** – Cllr Orme wished to thank the Co-op for its generosity and for allowing P&KE Youth Club to have a tombola outside the shop.

**G & KE light railway** – Cllr Drobny stated that posts would be discussed at the AGM, and there had been an invitation to speak on Lancashire television.

### **210(24) Verbal report from Wyre councillor (information only)**

None

### **211(25) Clerk's report (information only)**

#### **Lengthsman's report**

In December the lengthsman cleared a number of gullies of leaves and debris. He has taken the opportunity to take some leave over the Christmas period.

#### **Vacancy on Preesall Town Council**

Four applicants have applied for the casual vacancy on the town council. The closing date was 31 December 2017 and councillors will be sent formal details of the interview arrangements for 27 January after this date.

#### **Notice of elections**

Formal notifications for the election of a county councillor for Wyre Rural Central and a borough councillor for Preesall on Thursday 11 January 2018 have been received. Notices will be displayed on the parish noticeboards on 4 January 2018.

#### **Pay award offer to local government staff**

Council staff have been offered a 2% pay increase from April 2018 for staff earning more than £19,430 and a further 2% in April 2019. The National Employers have made the two-year deal to unions, which

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would also see employees on lower salaries given higher rises of up to 16% over the two years. Trade unions Unison, Unite and GMB are to consult members on the pay offer and will meet in February to decide their next steps. Any agreement reached will apply to all local council staff on National Joint Council terms and conditions and those employed under the SLCC/NALC model contract. The proposals also include a revamp of the NJC pay scales.

**212(26) Mayor’s report (information only)**

None

**213 (27) Questions to councillors**

Cllr Black made councillors aware of repeated comments in respect of dog fouling. He also reported a red wheelie bin that had been at the ferry slip for more than a week and the need for the drains near 143 and 145 Pilling Lane to be cleaned out. Cllr Orme said he would arrange this. It was also reported that large rats had been seen in the vicinity of the ferry slip.

**214(28) Exclusion of the press and public**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) and 1(3) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council resolved to exclude the press and public to:

- a) resolve the attendees at an extraordinary meeting of the council
- b) update the council on a recent post-court action event.

**215(29) Items for next agenda**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 February 2018. Councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda by notifying the clerk **in writing** by Thursday 1 February at the latest. A summary of the reason for raising the matter should be provided.

There being no other business the Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 9.40pm.