

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 8 June 2015 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

**Present:** Councillors P Orme (Mayor), R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, J Mutch, T Reilly and V Taylor

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and one member of the public

### **(15-16)020 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McCann and the reason accepted.

### **(15-16)021 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 12 (Playing Field Development) and 13 (Gala – Playing Field Inspection and Bond Conditions) as he is involved with the development of the playing field, Item 7 (Shop Preesall) as he has a business in the village and Item 14 (Date for Christmas Lights Switch On) as he is involved with the Christmas Fair.

### **(15-16)022 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 and 27 May 2015 be agreed as a true record.

### **(15-16)023 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.

A member of the public asked whether the number of members of the public attending each Town Council meeting could be mentioned in the Green Book article and councillors agreed that a reminder that Town Council meetings were open to the public could be included.

Cllr Greenhough reported that she had received a number of complaints in respect of a caravan being parked in a garden but noted that residents can do so on private land.

Cllr Reilly reported that there had been 3 occasions when there had been a visible police presence in Preesall and Knott End recently and he had written to thank the Police for their attention to the issues. He further reported that a number of local residents in that area felt that there were few benches and planted areas in their part of the township and he had asked them to come up with ideas for discussion by the Town Council.

Councillors noted that there was no police report on crime and antisocial behavior and asked that their disappointment be communicated to Sgt Freaney.

Cllr Hudson reported that a number of Chief Constables had publicly stated that they no longer had the resources to pursue minor matters and questioned what Lancashire's policy is in this regard. Cllr Reilly stated that the police will not enforce the 20mph speed limits and councillors asked that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable to ask for clarification on the policy on both matters.

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

### **(15-16)024 Co-option to Vacancies**

Councillors noted that formal notification has now been received from Wyre Council that the vacancies remaining after the elections in May can now be filled by co-option. Councillors **resolved** to advertise the

vacancies on the notice board and website and in the July issue of the Focus magazine with a closing date of 17 July.

**(15-16)025 Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme**

Councillors considered an invitation from LCC to undertake public rights of way maintenance work on their behalf. The scheme provides for an up-front payment of £200 for administration, assessing work and some minor strimming jobs and pays a rate for each job accepted. Councillors **resolved** to accept the invitation for a further year.

**(15-16)026 Shop Preesall**

Cllr Drobny reported that he, Cllr Lawson and Cllr Black had agreed to that the Shop Preesall scheme be discussed as a tourism subject lead item and councillors **resolved** that it be deferred to the July meeting.

**(15-16)027 Parking on the Esplanade**

Councillors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of asking for a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit long term parking on the Esplanade but **resolved** to take no action on the basis that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

**(15-16)028 Campaign to Protect Rural England**

Councillors noted that the CPRE currently has 62 parish councils in Lancashire who are members and is now asking the Town Council whether it wishes to take up membership at a cost of £36 per annum. Cllr Orme agreed to ask some of the member councils what value they received from membership and councillors **resolved** to defer the matter to the July agenda.

**(15-16)029 Town Guide**

Councillors discussed the Town Guide and **resolved** that the editorial content and photos be drafted by the "Raising the Profile" Working Party for approval by the Council at the meeting.

**(15-16)030 Internal Audit Report**

Councillors **resolved** to accept the internal audit report and the responses to the recommendations in it.

**(15-16)031 Playing Field Development**

Councillors noted that, at the May 2014 meeting, councillors agreed (minute (13-14) 246 refers) not to ask FOPP for an immediate grant in the amount of £2036.50 for the additional works to Phase 1 but, instead, to wait until the outcome of further grant applications was known and revisit the decision in six months. At the November 2014 meeting councillors agreed (minute (14-15)128 refers) to further defer the decision for a further six months. Councillors further noted that the Council had earmarked £2,000 in the 2015/16 budget for a contribution to playing field improvements. Councillors **resolved** that, rather than give the money to FOPP only for them to return it as grant, it would use this money to offset the majority of the outstanding grant and that FOPP should provide the remaining outstanding amount of £36.50.

**(15-16)032 Gala – Playing Field Inspection and Bond Conditions**

Councillors noted that, at the April meeting, the council had resolved to agree to a request from the Gala Committee for use of the Playing Field from Monday 6 July to Tuesday 14 July 2015 on the following conditions:

- a) that a bond of £500 be required with the full amount being returned as long as the playing field is undamaged and in good order
- b) That the costs of any work required to reinstate the playing field or to return it to good order be deducted from the bond
- c) That councillors and a representative of the Gala Committee inspect the playing field immediately before and after the Gala to determine whether the bond should be returned in full or in part

Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs Taylor and Orme conduct the the pre and post Gala playing field inspection with representatives of the Gala Committee.

Councillors considered a request by the Gala Committee that they be permitted to trial a “Beer Tent” this year in an attempt to reduce antisocial behaviour arising from the consumption of alcohol by young people. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the request.

**(15-16)033 Date for Christmas Lights Switch On**

Councillors **resolved** that the date for the Christmas lights switch on will be Saturday 28 November and that this will coincide with the Christmas Fair.

**(15-16)034 Pensions Auto Enrolment**

Councillors noted that every employer with at least one member of staff must automatically enrol those who are eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. The Pensions Regulator has notified the Town Council that it must comply with this legal duty on 1 January 2017. As the Town Council enrolls its employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme and the scheme is deemed to meet set criteria it should be little more than an administrative process. Councillors **resolved** to ask for regular updates to be provided.

**(15-16)035 Bloom Project**

Councillors considered a request from the Bloomers to create a children’s seating area for story time in the Jubilee Garden. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the project in principle.

**(15-16)036 Planning Applications**

**15/00388/TEL**

**Proposal:** Prior notification for installation of a 12m high telecommunications pole with one new antenna (14.8m height in total) two equipment cabinets and 2.2m high fencing/enclosure to new site compound  
**Location:** Muffys Platt Farm, Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (2 councillors voted for the proposal) It was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the location is too close to the properties in the area.

**15/00354/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension  
**Location:** Saunton, Lancaster Road, Knott End

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

**15/00436/FUL**

**Proposal:** Change of use of existing detached garage to form a dog grooming parlour  
**Location:** 37 Coniston Avenue, Knott End

It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that it could lead to increased traffic and parking on a bad bend, there may be an increase in animal noise and it is out of character for the area and will impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties.

**(15-16)037 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

Lancashire County Council (PROW)	£713.00
Reserve Account Interest (April)	£0.90
Reserve Account Interest (May)	£0.94

**b) Payments to be approved:**

2857/58	Staff Costs	£2142.29
2857	Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£67.20
2859	HMRC	£323.68
2860	Fordstone General Store	£247.00
2861	Viking	£80.11
2862	Wyre Building Supplies	£4,473.51
2863	The Flower Shop	£25.00
2864	Preesall Auto Discount	£10.43
22	Europlanters Ltd (In Bloom)	£721.52
23	CY McCann (In Bloom) (reimbursement)	£33.40

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£24.02
LCC pension	£660.82

**c) Statement of Accounts – May 2015**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for May which shows:

Current account	£63,505.11
Reserve account	£23,662.22
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil
In Bloom Account	£4,295.27

Councillors **resolved** to note the payments by standing order/direct debit and the statement of accounts and to approve the accounts for payment.

**(15-16)038 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)**

**Housing**

Cllr Hudson reported that he had resolved a complaint from a Regenda resident that had initially been made to Wyre Council and that the complainant was satisfied with the outcome.

**Health**

Cllr Greenhough raised the issue of the possible rerouting of the 2C bus to enable patients to get to the medical centre and councillors agreed that this should be discussed at the July meeting. She reported that she and Cllr Drobny will attend a meeting of the new mental health support group.

**Tourism**

Cllr Drobny reported that he and Cllr Black would meet shortly to identify what they could do to increase tourism.

**Youth**

Cllr Orme reported that he, the Clerk and a local youth worker had met with representatives of Garstang Town Council to discuss how they approached their youth council and young mayor. This will be an item for the July meeting.

**Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting would be in July. He had attended the LALC conference where the new Chief Executive of NALC had spoken and stressed the new government's commitment to the town and parish sector.

### **Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting was on 11 June and Cllr Drobny asked if the flooding problems at the junction of Park Lane and Lancaster Road could be raised.

### **Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that the Secretary of State would not make the decision personally as there was a perceived conflict of interest with her brother effectively working Halite. Instead the Parliamentary Under Secretary Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth will make the decision.

### **Wyre Road Safety Committee**

Cllr Reilly reported that the planned meeting could not take place as there was no highways representative available. The Secretary was trying to rearrange the meeting.

### **Wyre Festive Lights Committee**

Cllr Reilly reported that the next meeting will take place in October.

### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that a number of trough planters were being purchased to be filled with perennials and placed along the river walk. A number of beds had been replanted.

### **Preesall Youth and Community Association**

Cllr Orme reported that the Centre was short of money and, as the Young People's Service had not responded to a request for an increase in funding he had simply sent a bill.

### **(15-16)039 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr Taylor reported that she had changed portfolio and was now Wyre Council's portfolio holder for Health, Wellbeing and Community Engagement and is looking to improve the relationship with town and parish councils.

Cllr Hudson asked when the state of Lancaster Road might be improved and Cllr Taylor, in her role as County Councillor, said that she had received no information on when that might be. She added that the County Council has criteria on how bad a defect has to be before it is put right and the ones identified by Cllr Hudson do not meet the criteria.

### **(15-16)040 Clerk's Report (information only)**

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

#### **Lengthsman's Report**

In May the Lengthsman has ground off the steps on the Wyre Junior container to prevent children climbing onto it. He will paint the container and apply anti vandal paint to both containers to further deter children. He assisted with Mayor Making, transporting tables and chairs from the PYCC and returning them the next day. He plans, with the assistance of Cllr Reilly, to reinstall the ornamental welcome sign on Head Dyke Lane before the end of the month.

#### **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](mailto:sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk)

### **Wyre Council Rural Affordable Housing Survey**

Wyre Council has commissioned North Star Consulting & Research to carry out an important survey to understand the need for Affordable Housing in rural areas. It is important to get information on the housing circumstances of as many residents as possible whether they are in need of affordable housing or not. The more feedback we receive the more accurately we will be able to plan for future housing need in the area. North Star has recently sent a survey to each household in eight rural ward areas. The survey collects basic information about the household and its future housing needs. They have provided a FREEPOST envelope for households to submit their responses and the survey can also be completed online. Large print versions of the survey are also available on request via FREEPHONE 0800 689 0220. There is a series of community drop in events to inform local residents about the study and gather views on affordable housing. The nearest one is in Stalmine Village Hall on Wednesday 17 June between 3pm and 7pm. For further information telephone 07917468312 or FREEPHONE 0800 689 0220 or via [Freya.lees@northstarcr.com](mailto:Freya.lees@northstarcr.com)

### **Bus Shelter – Saracen’s Head**

The details of the owner of the site have been obtained from Wyre Council and an email sent to ask if there is an opportunity to site a bus shelter on the perimeter of the site. It had been anticipated that Wyre Council would undertake this task. The site owner has confirmed that he is happy for a bus shelter to be set back into the site and Wyre Council has been asked if it would now be prepared to install a bus shelter that is in keeping with the area.

### **Playing Field Matting**

The additional matting has been installed in time for this year’s Gala. The Gala Committee has provided 50% of the cost.

### **Jubilee Garden Path Replacement and Litter Bin**

The path has now been laid and the contractor is awaiting a spell of dry weather to point it. The froggy litter bin has now been received and will be put in place shortly.

### **(15-16)041 Mayor’s Report (information only)**

The Mayor reported that he has been busy attending Mayor Making and Civic Sunday events.

### **(15-16)042 Questions to Councillors**

None.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.55pm.