

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 March 2014 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

**Present:** Councillors G Carter (Deputy Mayor), R Black, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, P Moon, J Mutch, K Nicholls, P Orme and V Taylor

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

### **(13-14)203 Apologies for Absence**

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

### **(13-14)204 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 15 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group.

### **(13-14)205 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2014 be agreed as a true record.

### **(13-14)206 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 member of the public informed councillors that he had a background in planning and would be happy to provide assistance on planning matters. He asked if the Town Council was aware of Neighbourhood Planning and was informed that the Council had considered whether to put together a Neighbourhood Plan but had decided not to on the grounds of cost : benefit. He informed the Town Council that there is some money available from government to help organisations formulate such plans.

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk gave a short report on crime and anti-social behaviour. In February 2014 there had been 10 crimes compared to 9 in February last year and 9 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 13 in the same period last year.

Cllr Carter said that he had had an alert from the Police to say that there had been a number of cattle rustling incidents and trailer thefts as well as more scam emails. Cllr Hudson asked if the Police were aware of sheep rustling taking place in other parts of the country and asked for information on what the Police were doing about it here.

Cllr Nicholls said that she had received complaints from residents about skateboarders and their behaviour. Incidents have been reported to the Police who move the skateboarders on but they return as soon as the Police have left. Cllr Orme said that Friends of Preesall Park have made two grant applications to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the basis that activities on the playing field would lead to a reduction in antisocial behaviour but both have been refused. The Police are helping to put a case together for a further grant application. Councillors related incidents where skateboarders are using the mini roundabout on Pilling Lane and asked that the Police take more active steps to stop this before a serious accident occurs.

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

#### **(13-14)207 Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2014/15**

Cllr Orme, the Mayor Elect, announced that he had invited Cllr McCann to be his Deputy Mayor and that Cllr McCann had accepted.

#### **(13-14)208 Annual Governance Review**

Having considered a number of internal control documents, councillors **resolved**:

- a) that no changes be made to Financial Regulations, the Risk Management Plan and the Annual Town Meeting Standing Orders
- b) that the changes proposed to Standing Orders and to the Risk Register outlined in the paper entitled Annual Governance Review be approved
- c) that the Schedule of Assets as at March 2014 be approved

#### **(13-14)209 Appointment of Internal Auditor for Year Ending 31.3.14 and Approval of Internal Audit Terms of Reference**

Councillors **resolved** to appoint Edwina Parry as the Internal Auditor for year ending 31.3.14 at a fee of £100 and further **resolved** to agree the terms of reference for the internal audit.

#### **(13-14)210 Insurance 2014/15**

The Clerk provided two quotations for insurance cover for 2014/15 and an analysis of cover. Councillors noted that Aon had quoted a price of £342.92 and the current provider (Zurich) a price of £365.00. Came and Company had declined to quote as they could not better the price provided last year of £661.65. Councillors **resolved** to continue to insure with Zurich for 2014/15 on the basis that their policy was clear and easy to understand despite being slightly more expensive.

#### **(13-14)211 Spring Newsletter**

Councillors noted that the next edition of the newsletter is due in the spring (May) and **resolved** that the incoming Mayor write a message for the front page and that councillors provide the Clerk with ideas for articles.

#### **(13-14)212 Wyre Three Tier Forum**

Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Wyre Three Tier Forum is on 3 April 2014 and **resolved** to ask for the non-passporting of Local Council Tax Support monies and additional money for road repairs to be added to the agenda.

#### **(13-14)213 Location for the Annual Meeting of the Council and Investiture of the Mayor 2014**

Cllr Orme proposed that the Annual Meeting of the Council and Investiture of the Mayor be held at Knott End library. He had checked that the library was available and that food could be served afterwards. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the proposal.

#### **(13-14)214 War Memorial – Proposal by Royal British Legion**

Councillors considered a request from the Royal British Legion that the Town Council put eye bolts at each corner of the memorial base to which wires could be attached in order to prevent wreaths from being blown away. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the proposal and to do the same with the Battle of Britain Memorial. Councillors noted that the War Memorials Trust had agreed to fund 50% of the cost of replacing the path around the war memorial.

#### **(13-14)215 Planning Applications**

##### **14/00070/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension and pitched roof over first floor side extension

**Location:** Rosemead, Lancaster Road, Preesall

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

**14/00085/FUL**

**Proposal:** Removal of conditions 02,03, 04 and 15 on application 07/00795FUL to allow continued residence of the dwelling following the retirement of the occupier

**Location:** 174 Pilling Lane, Preesall

By a majority (2 councillors voted for and one abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that it would result in the loss of rural business space.

**14/00074/FUL**

**Proposal:** Variation of condition 03 on application 09/00893/FULMAJ to allow hours of operation between 0600-1800

**Location:** Units 2 and 3, The Old Coal Yard, Hall Gate Lane, Preesall

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

**14/00094/FUL**

**Proposal:** Two storey rear extension

**Location:** Dale End, Burned House Lane, Preesall

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

**14/00092/FUL**

**Proposal:** Change of use of existing detached games room to dwelling

**Location:** 6 Little Tongues Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor voted for and 2 abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that it would result in overdevelopment of the site.

**14/00136/FUL**

**Proposal:** Front and rear extensions

**Location:** 2 Rosemount Avenue, Preesall

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

**14/00126/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey rear extension, including balcony

**Location:** Oak Dene, Burned House Lane, Preesall

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

**14/00121/FUL**

**Proposal:** Proposed dropped kerb

**Location:** Morden, Lancaster Road, Knott End

By a majority (2 councillors voted against and 1 abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

**(13-14)216 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

Stalmine Parish Council	£26.88
Wyre Juniors	£128.00
Reserve account interest	£2.54

**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£1927.96
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£28.68
HMRC	£304.34
e-on	£7.93
Thornton Facilities Management	£11.05

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.57
LCC Pensions	£417.74

**c) Statement of Accounts - February 2014**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for February which shows:

Current account	£11,610.69
Reserve account	£20,147.83
Mayor's Charity Account	£240.00
In Bloom Account	£357.12

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

**(13-14)217 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

**Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting is imminent and asked for items to be raised.

**Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that the decision was back with the Minister for reconsideration. Cllr Taylor reported that she understood that the Minister has challenged the Court's decision but had no information on the timescale or process.

**LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that there is to be a conference in the summer on the subject "What's Next for Localism?".

**Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that the team should have started on site today and asked the Clerk to begin the process of obtaining the S106 monies from Wyre Council. He reported that the Community Payback team had been working on site planting more trees and litter picking and generally tidying the area. They will do further work in one corner to tidy the area and fill in the depression which holds water.

**Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that Wyre Council had done an excellent job on the corner of Grasmere Avenue and councillors agreed to thank them for the work they had done. She further reported that the Bloomers would meet shortly to plan the planting for this year.

**Wyre Road Safety Committee**

Cllr McCann reported that he and Cllr Orme had attended the recent meeting and had raised the lack of a filter lane on Mains Lane, the disruption that will be caused by the sewer replacement work on Mains Lane, the state of Park Lane (resurfacing will begin in early May) and the traffic problems caused by Co-op delivery vehicles. The Clerk is to contact the Co-op's distribution manager to discuss the issues.

### **Planning Ambassador**

Cllr Orme reported that there is to be a meeting of the parish planning ambassadors to discuss the Local Plan.

### **(13-14)218 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr Taylor reported that LCC had agreed a 2% rise in Council Tax. Cllr McCann reported that Wyre Council had successfully bid for £1.5m from the Coastal Communities Fund, most of which will be spent in Fleetwood. He reported that Wyre Council is currently conducting the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and is looking for more sites since government increased the number of houses needing to be built in Wyre.

### **(13-14)219 Clerk's Report (information only)**

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

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

The Lengthsman has removed most of the sandbags from around the village and these are stored at the Coastguard station in case they are required again. As a result of the mild winter he has had to cut the grass on the football pitches and this will be recharged to Wyre Juniors.

#### **Best Kept Village Competition**

Entries are now being invited for the competition and are required by 31 March. Further information is available from the Clerk.

#### **Knott End on Sea Post Office**

The Post Office will carry out works to change the post office to one of the new main style branches. This will mean the post office closing for refurbishment on Monday 17 March at 17.30 and will reopen on Saturday 29 March at 13.00. Customers are asked to use the alternative branches at Stalmine and Hambleton.

#### **Car Park**

A resident has emailed asking that the car park at the playing field be resurfaced to get rid of the rain puddles. The Clerk has informed the resident that the costs of resurfacing are significant and that there is no money in the budget next year to carry out the work. Councillors agreed that an earmarked reserve be created in future years to enable the Council to save toward the cost of resurfacing.

#### **Police Reorganisation and Resourcing**

A response has been received from Chief Superintendent Bayly. In it he confirms that response policing for the Over Wyre area will continue to be provided from the Wyre Operating Centre at Fleetwood and that Over Wyre will retain its dedicated CBM and PCSO who will use Preesall Community Fire Station to ensure a greater proportion of their working day is spent in the area. Neighbourhood policing will remain unchanged and be supervised by Sgt Freaney from Garstang. He closes by stating "The only reduction in staffing has occurred due to Wyre Council withdrawing their part funding of PCSO posts across the Wyre area which resulted in the loss of one PCSO post from Over Wyre." No response has been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **Town and Parish Charter, the Rural Grant and Localised Council Tax Support**

A response has been received from Wyre Council's Chief Executive. Following the Rural Parish Grant as part of the Town and Parish Charter being raised at the LALC meeting on 21 January an email was sent to the Secretary confirming that the Charter does need to be updated to reflect the withdrawal of the Rural Parish Grant and the review will also reflect the Shaping Your Neighbourhood Initiative as a method of further developing consultation and engagement with parish and town councils. The withdrawal of the Rural Parish Grant and Localised Council Tax Support is a result of the reduction in the financial settlement and Wyre's priority is to protect front line services. Wyre has frozen council tax for 4

years running and hopes to be able to do so again in 2015/16. He values the role of town and parish councils and hopes that the Town Council will continue to work closely with the Council to help them meet the needs of our communities.

An acknowledgement has been received from Eric Ollerenshaw MP who has indicated he will provide a fuller response when he has more information.

### **Knott End Beach Clean**

The Wyre Catchment Partnership has organised a beach clean at Knott End on 18 March. The event is being led by Love My Beach and will take place between 12:00 and 14:00. For further information contact Tom Myerscough on 07528 840708 or by email at [tom@wyreiverstrust.org](mailto:tom@wyreiverstrust.org)

### **Elmwood Avenue Dog Fouling**

The Operations Area Officer (Rural and Over Wyre) has recently patrolled this street following a customer complaint and found that it contained 13 separate incidents of dog fouling. He has cleaned the area but plans to card drop in the area, put up dog foul signs and increase patrols. He has also asked that the Town Council include something in the next newsletter. He is considering highlighting specific hot spot streets and giving them priority attention in turn in order to send out a clear enforcement message and to demonstrate intent. He asks whether councillors feel that this initiative would be beneficial.

### **LALC – Planning, Insurance and Investment Workshop**

This workshop is being held at the Leyland Hotel on Saturday 17 May from 9.30 to 15.45 at a cost is £40. Any councillors interested in attending should contact the Clerk.

### **Recycling Banks – Ferry Car Park**

Wyre Council has asked the owning companies to remove the recycle banks as they have proved hazardous in the recent storms and strong winds. In addition they are prone to vandalism and attract unwanted side waste and fly tipping.

### **(13-14)220 Mayor's Report (information only)**

In the absence of the Mayor there was no report.

### **(13-14)221 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Hudson thanked Cllr Taylor for all the work she had done to get Park Lane resurfaced and on the proposal to withdraw the bus subsidy. He asked Cllr McCann whether Wyre Council had considered building an industrial estate on the land previously owned by ICI. Cllr McCann responded that whoever owns the land could put in an application to develop it. Cllr Carter reported that he will be standing down as a councillor at the end of the civic year and thanked all for their support.

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