

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 November 2015 at 7pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors P Orme (Mayor), B Campbell, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, T Reilly and L Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and 3 members of the public.

(15-16)136 Apologies for Absence

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

(15-16)137 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 17 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group.

(15-16)138 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on 12 October 2015 be agreed as a true record.

(15-16)139 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.

Two representatives from the Over Wyre Medical Centre spoke in support of the possible rerouting of the 2C bus service so that passengers would be able to use it to get to appointments. They confirmed that patients would be able to wait in the waiting room until the next bus was due to save them standing out in inclement weather.

Councillors noted the police report which showed that there had been 10 crimes in October compared with 15 in the same period last year and 11 incidents of anti social behavior compared with 17 in October last year.

Cllr Hudson asked whether the Town Council had received confirmation that the Police and Crime Commissioner would be coming out to meet councillors and the Clerk confirmed that she had no information on this. Cllr Hudson reported that he had an email from Cat Smith MP in which she has told him of the proposed visit and he would discuss it again with her.

Cllr Campbell reported that it had been a bad weekend for the area with a number of burglaries reported.

Cllr Drobny reported that he had intended to raise the open letter written by the Chief Constable in relation to the proposed funding formula and its impact on police resources but he had since learned that Lancashire Constabulary would now receive more than had initially been proposed, although the cut was still significant.

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

(15-16)140 Draft Budget for 2016/17

Councillors considered, in detail, a first draft of the budget for next year and **resolved** to consider a further draft either at the next meeting.

(15-16)141 Attendance at Finance Workshop

Councillors **resolved** that Cllr McCann attend the LALC finance workshop to be held on 26 November and that the Council meet the cost of £25. Councillors further **resolved** that the Council should pay for training for councillors as a matter of policy.

(15-16)142 Bus Shelter – Saracens Head

Cllr Hudson explained the difficulties he had had in getting in touch with Paul Long at Wyre Council to discuss the bus shelter and councillors **resolved** that Cllr Hudson should now contact the Chief Executive at Wyre.

(15-16)143 Identity Cards for Councillors

Cllr Campbell reported that Wyre Council had agreed to provide identity cards for any councillor who wished to have one and councillors **resolved** that any such councillor contact Cllr Campbell who would make arrangements for them to visit the Civic Centre. Councillors further **resolved** that councillors may have Town Council business cards as long as there was no cost to the Council.

(15-16)144 Possible Rerouting of Bus Service 2C

Cllr Greenhough updated councillors on her discussions on the possible rerouting of the 2C service so that it incorporates the medical centre and **resolved** to support the move by writing to the bus company.

(15-16)145 Traffic on Smithy Lane/Mill Street

Cllr Hudson reported that he was to meet with a police inspector on 10 November in respect of these matters and would report back at the next meeting. He also reported on complaints received in relation to parking outside the former Saracen's Head. Councillors **resolved** that a letter be sent to the schools asking them to write to parents on the subject.

(15-16)146 Authority to Transfer Funds Between Accounts

Councillors noted that there are occasions when there is a need to transfer money between the council's bank accounts and **resolved** to authorise the Clerk to do so either by letter or by phone. Councillors further **resolved** that two authorised signatories sign a letter to that effect.

(15-16)147 Playing Field Lease

Cllr Drobny outlined the various costs involved in leasing the playing field from Wyre Council and referred to the revised Heads of Terms for the new lease which he felt placed additional responsibility and therefore cost on the Town Council. He therefore proposed and councillors **resolved** that the current lease be terminated with immediate effect and that the Town Council no enter into the new lease.

(15-16)148 Best Kept Village Competition

Cllr Orme reported that he had recently handed out the best kept village awards and felt that the Town Council should get involved. Councillors **resolved** to enter the competition next year.

(15-16)149 Walney Extension Community Fund – The Way Forward

Cllr Hudson referred to the results of the first stage of consultation on how the community fund should be spent. He felt that the Council should get involved early and councillors **resolved** that the Council get involved in the next round of consultation in order to influence how the area might benefit from the fund.

(15-16)150 Planning Applications

15/00823/FUL

Proposal: Front and rear hip to gable alterations to roof incorporating window at first floor of the front elevation and Juliet balcony at first floor in the rear elevation

Location: 18 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

15/00849/FUL**Proposal:** Extension to existing rear dormer and creation of a rear balcony**Location:** 105 Pilling Lane, Preesall

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

15/00837/LAWE**Proposal:** Certificate of lawful development for existing use of land for the manufacture of decorative garden ornaments, fencing and furniture**Location:** 1 Gaulters Lane, Preesall

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

15/00831/FUL**Proposal:** Erection of single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear extension**Location:** 29 Elmwood Avenue, Preesall

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

(15-16)151 Finance**a) Payments received:**

RBS compensation (Sept)	£250.00
LCC PROW payment	£20.00
Cancelled cheques 2812 and 2814	£30.00
Reserve account interest	£1.52

b) Payments to be approved:

01/02 Staff Costs	£2239.83
01 Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£10.00
03 HMRC	£373.90
04 Royal British Legion	£17.00
05 Viking	£61.76
06 Wyre Building Supplies	£181.93
07 Lancs County Training Partnership	£25.00
29 C Y McCann (reimbursement) (In Bloom)	£83.13
30 F H & M Davies & Son (In Bloom)	£126.00

Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£13.21
LCC pension	£694.66
Fleetwood's Charity Primary School	£50.00
Carters Charity Primary School	£50.00

c) Statement of Accounts – October 2015

The Councillors noted the statement of accounts for October which shows:

Current account (Natwest)	£16,539.65
Current account (RBS)	£10,250.00
Reserve account (NatWest)	£nil (account now closed)
Reserve account (RBS)	£23,665.00
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil (account now closed)
In Bloom Account (NatWest)	£2,131.37
In Bloom account (RBS)	£nil

d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 2

Councillors noted the Q2 Budget Monitoring statement and noted that there are overspends on two budget heads. The legal costs paid in July were coded to the Admin budget head and there are further legal costs to come. Councillors are therefore agreed to vire £1200 from the Contingency budget head to the Admin budget head to cover those legal costs already met and to agree that the further legal costs be met from reserves. There is also an overspend on the training budget head as a result of four councillors attending the new councillors and clerks workshops. Councillors agreed to vire the amount of the overspend (£152) from the Contingency budget head to the Training budget head and agreed to set a more realistic budget for training as part of the budget setting process.

e) Bank Account Update

The NatWest Reserve Account and Mayor's Charity Account have now been closed.

Councillors **resolved** to note the payments by standing order/direct debit and the statement of accounts, to approve the accounts for payment and the budget virements. Councillors noted that the NatWest reserve account and the Mayor's Charity account had now been closed.

(15-16)152 Verbal Reports from Subject Leads and Outside Body Representatives (information only)

Housing

Cllr Hudson reported on the successful outcome of an individual issue he had been dealing with with Regenda.

Health

Cllr Greenhough reported that she had been working with the medical centre and Wyre Council on the issue of housing for key workers.

Youth

Cllr Orme reported that he would be attending the December meeting of the Garstang Youth Council.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)

Cllrs Orme and McCann reported that there had been both the AGM and ordinary meetings on 4 November and that the Clerk (in her capacity as a parish councillor) was now Chair and Cllr Orme Vice-Chair. Cllrs Orme and McCann are also representatives to the Executive Committee.

Protect Wyre Group

Cllr Orme reported that he and other councillors had been invited to a meeting by a local community group set up to protest against gas storage. The Protect Wyre Group is still working actively on the issue.

Friends of Preesall Park

Cllr Orme reported that he has the money in the bank for the BMX track but it would not be done until the weather improves.

Wyre Festive Lights Committee

Cllr Reilly reported that there had been a meeting recently but he had been unable to attend given traffic problems on his journey. He further reported that NatWest are happy for the Christmas lights to stay on the building.

Wyre in Bloom

Cllr Mutch reported that the Bloomers had won a silver gilt award this year and councillors offered their congratulations. They had planted up with winter bulbs and plants.

Planning Ambassador

Cllr McCann reported on problems with the Local Plan and that it was likely that the timetable would have to be extended. He mentioned recent planning approvals in areas where there were drainage problems and the fact the United Utilities were not objecting to the applications. Cllr Orme agreed to raise this at the Flood Forum in early December.

Christmas Fair

Cllr Orme invited everyone to the Fair on 28 November.

(15-16)153 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)

Cllr Orme reiterated Cllr McCann's point in respect of the Local Plan.

(15-16)154 Clerk's Report (information only)

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

Lengthsman's Report

In October the Lengthsman has been using the leafvac to collect fallen leaves around the villages while the weather has been dry. He has also been cutting back overgrown hedges where they impact on pedestrian safety and has built up the sheep fence at the back of the library to stop woolly jumpers! He has inspected 3 public rights of way jobs for LCC and provided costs so that LCC can either give permission to go ahead with the work or not.

Invitation to Halite

Following an invitation to Halite to meet councillors and update them on their future plans Halite's Chief Executive, Keith Budinger, has responded as follows "At the current moment in time Halite remains fully engaged in securing additional investment for the project. As you will no doubt be aware, the project took 12 years to get consent. Because of this timeframe the investment community understandably became somewhat sceptical that the project was ever going to get planning permission. Now that it is approved it has come as a shock to some, hence it has meant Halite having to engage on a grand scale with global investors. As you can imagine Preesall is quite an interesting project to explain! In this respect I would suggest it would be time better served to wait until we have more definitive and clearer information to share with you regarding our future plans. I will make contact with you early in 2016 unless I have anything to report sooner. Thank you again for your email."

Walney Extension Community Fund – Community Consultation

The online community consultation survey has now closed and the 392 responses summarised. Almost 47% of people surveyed favoured supporting environmental and wildlife projects. This was closely followed by a response rate of 45% for both community building provision / improvements and grants for social and community enterprise initiatives. Projects targeted towards parks and open spaces also received strong backing (44%) as did sports and recreation schemes (41%) and job creation / apprenticeships (41%). The survey results indicate a clear preference for the Fund to support local voluntary and community groups, with over 87% selecting this option. This is followed by almost 74% in favour of supporting local charities. Funding for school and education facilities was also well received (48%) as was supporting Social Enterprises (47%) and projects being delivered by Town and Parish

Councils (44%). The survey results show a very clear preference for funding to be made available for both capital and revenue funding (70% of respondents). One recurring comment was that the Fund was an opportunity to support projects that would provide a legacy for the future. Over 86% of respondents indicated that the Fund should award medium grants between the range of £5,000 and £50,000. 65% of people surveyed supported a Fund that awarded small grants between £500 and £5,000. Support for large projects between £50,000 and £100,000 was lower at 43%, and support for flagship projects (projects over £100,000) was lower still at 25%. The survey therefore clearly shows that a Fund offering grants up to £50,000 is considered to be the priority by respondents. When asked if groups applying to the Fund should be required to secure other sources of match funding for their projects a clear preference was shown by respondents. Almost 7 out of every 10 respondents believe that match funding should be required. There will be additional consultation undertaken by the end of December 2015 with Local Authorities and the community and voluntary sector. Public events will also be held early next year, which all members of the community are invited to attend, to find out more about the Fund and to further share their views on where and who should benefit. Details of the events will be announced on the GrantScape website and circulated to all contacts on our distribution list nearer the time.

Footway Repairs on Wyre View

LCC has confirmed that the footway has been inspected and a loose kerb and 12 loose flags have been identified. Arrangements have been made for these to be repaired and this work will be carried out within the next 4 weeks.

Lancashire Care Services Directory

Following the success of the first edition of the Lancashire (including Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) Care Services Directory orders are now being taken for the second edition in 2016. Anyone wanting to receive copies of the directory which are available free of charge should call Care Choices Ltd on 01223 206953. This comprehensive guide lists all registered care homes and home care providers. There is also advice in the form of expert editorial including choosing the appropriate care option, paying for care and legal considerations. The publication can also be found on the website (www.carechoices.co.uk) and a Browsealoud option for those requiring the information in the spoken word is available too. For any questions please contact David Mulry on 01223 206953 or e-mail david.mulry@carechoices.co.uk

Stronger Protection Against Unauthorised Occupation by Caravan Users

Special planning rules designed to support England's travelling community will only apply to those who lead a genuine travelling lifestyle, under changes that came into force at the end of August. The measure is part of a wider crackdown on unauthorised occupation of sites, to ensure all communities are required to abide by the same planning rules. Under a new package of reforms there will also be greater protection for the countryside and Green Belt, while councils will continue to have a range of powers at their disposal to tackle the illegal encampments that make their law-abiding neighbours' lives a misery. The new policy makes clear the need to ensure fairness in the system, with planning policy reflecting the requirement that caravan sites should be made available for those who travel permanently. In addition, it will mean any application for a permanent site, including caravan sites, by someone who does not travel will be considered in the same way as an application from the settled population – rather than being considered under policies relating to travellers.

The changes also tackle the current situation, where councils without an up-to-date supply of caravan sites can find that protections of the Green Belt can be eroded. The new planning policy ensures this is no longer the case where proposed developments are in protected areas – such as Green Belt land, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Parks. In addition, where previously councils were required to provide sites for people evicted from large-scale unauthorised encampments that happened to be in their area this will be removed.

Smart Metering

Smart Energy GB is the national campaign for the smart meter rollout and their role is to help everyone in Great Britain understand smart meters, the national rollout and how to use their new meters to get their gas and electricity under control. Smart Energy GB has provided two video links which can be seen on website and will provide councillors with an information leaflet since they do not have the resources to make visits. They have also offered to give a more detailed briefing on the telephone to one councillor and Cllr McCann's name has been put forward as the councillor who initially raised this issue.

(15-16)155 Mayor's Report (information only)

The Mayor reported that he had been invited to the senior presentation evening at St Aidan's and to an event by the Over Wyre Singers.

(15-16)156 Questions to Councillors

Cllr Campbell referred to a recent planning approval for a business to be run from a domestic property and his concerns that such a business could undercut one run from business premises but he had been assured that those responsible for business rates that all such matters are looked into. Cllr Orme agreed that he would take up the issue if parking by customers became a problem but there were no problems so far. Cllr Hudson asked for contacts for the Gala and the Summer Fair so that he could contact them about taking part.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.20pm.