



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on
Monday 13 June 2022 at 7.00pm at Preesall and
Knott End Youth and Community Centre**

Present: Cllrs K Shepherd (Mayor), R Drobny, T Johnson, J Lewin, P Orme, B Renwick, S Rossall, A Tarpey-Black, K Woods.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council. Two invited guests. One member of the public.

16a(1) Apologies for absence – Cllrs Jepson, Patrick and Williams

16b(1) Absent without apology – none.

17(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Woods, events in history and application 22/00454/FUL; Cllr Shepherd, legacy group; Cllr Orme, planning application 22/00510/FUL; Cllr Johnson, events in history; Cllr Lewin, medical centre issues.

18(3) Minutes of the last meetings

Resolved: to approve as a correct record the minutes of the full council held on 9 May 2022 and the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 9 May 2022.

19(4) Councillor discussion with invited guests from the Over Wyre Medical Centre

At the May meeting the clerk was asked to approach the medical centre with a view to inviting the practice manager and a doctor to the June meeting to discuss criticisms of the medical centre received by the council from members of the public. It also wanted to gain a greater understanding of the changes being proposed at the centre.

20(5) Public participation

Resolved: to adjourn the meeting to allow non-councillors to speak.

The practice manager from the Over Wyre Medical Centre explained to the council that a patient satisfaction survey had shown that satisfaction had fallen during the pandemic, something that was common across the whole of the NHS. The difficulty faced is that what patients want outstrips the supply available. The whole of the NHS is under pressure, there are backlogs and this leads to customer frustration and staff put under increased pressure. The problems are not due to a lack of effort or motivation and GPs at the practice are providing more appointments than before Covid. The practice has advertised for a GP but has as yet been unsuccessful.

However two new advanced nurse practitioners (ANPs), have been recruited as has a second co-ordinator pharmacist.

The increased workload has taken its toll on staff and the practice is looking at wellbeing training for them as they have also suffered from verbal abuse.

He went on to say that it is disheartening to see patient satisfaction faltering and a recent spike in appointment waiting times hasn't helped. This was partly due to staff absences in April with a number of them in self-isolation. Two of the doctors had Covid and one suffered a family bereavement.

To help ease the problem appointments are now being staggered throughout the day, GPs are coming in on their days off and a locum GP has been appointed. As a result, appointment times have been reduced to a two-week wait for non-urgent treatment and it is hoped to be able to reduce this further. Urgent appointments are still available on the day.

The session then opened to councillor questions:

Cllr Drobny asked if the problem was an increase in illnesses Over Wyre or an increase in patients from all the new builds.

In reply it was said that the population has gone up and that people are now presenting from the backlog caused by Covid. The practice, like many in the country, is struggling to recruit a new GP. The government says that a safe number of patients to see in a day is 22; GPs at the practice are seeing 30-plus per day.

Cllr Tarpey-Black asked if there is any indication that more GPs are coming through the training process.

In reply it was said that doctors are currently being trained by the NHS but this will take a number of years. There is talk that the government could fund a course for less well-off students.

Cllr Tarpey-Black asked how the practice was communicating the availability of staggered appointments.

In reply it was said that there was an item in the Green Book.

Cllr Tarpey-Black asked about the rate of non-attendance.

In reply it was said that non-attendance with a GP isn't high at the moment, the problem is more with people not turning up for nurse appointments.

Cllr Johnson asked how hopeful the practice is of reducing appointment waiting times further.

In reply the practice is hopeful that it will reach its target reduction in two weeks.

Cllr Johnson asked how the proposed new building work would help.

In reply it was stated that the process is under way with new staff already in post and the practice has signed up to be a training practice. It will be funded by government to take extra staff, a pharmacist, a pharmacy technician and care co-ordinators. The practice is being encouraged to work as a Primary Care Network (PCN). This means it would work with other practices to produce hubs. This works well where there are clusters of local practices but is not ideal for rural areas.

The practice needs to be prepared for network working to be accommodated otherwise it would be limited as to the service it can supply.

Dr Simpson and Dr Hopkins do carry out minor surgery, Dr Homes runs a joint injection clinic. This is not part of their contract. If this was stopped it would create more time for general appointments but would reduce the service provided.

Cllr Lewin stated that she receives many phone calls from the public and people are often frightened to complain in case they are struck off. She asked what the procedure is if a patient has concerns about their treatment.

In reply it was said that there is a complaints manager who would trto deal with the issue in the first instance. Only if they can't resolve the problem does it move on for the practice manager to investigate. A full complaints procedure is in place.

Cllr Lewin asked why some patients are directed to Fleetwood.

In response it was said that it is unfortunate that the same day walk-in centre is in Fleetwood. The practice tries to see as many patients as possible in Preesall and does a lot of dressings for which it isn't paid. It cannot do all of them and tries to prioritise those patients that can't travel. It is a matter of trying to manage expectations.

Cllr Lewin asked if rural practices receive extra funding.

In response it was said that they do not receive as much as those practices in areas with higher levels of deprivation.

Cllr Lewin asked if the practice is still asking patients to take photographs.

In reply it was said that in certain cases, yes as it is useful to see if something is changing in size over a period of time.

Cllr Woods asked about physiotherapy services and whether these would be available.

In reply it was said that this is a specialist service provided elsewhere.

Cllr Woods asked whether there was any chance that a midwife could be provided.

The response was that midwives from elsewhere would be more than welcome to use the rooms.

Cllr Orme asked how the new extension would affect the number of car parking spaces.

The response was that there would be a loss of some spaces, but not many as the building would mainly occupy the grass verge.

Cllr Shepherd thanked the visitors for coming and said that the session had been very helpful.

The practice manager stated that there are no plans or architect yet and that the practice is still at the consultation phase.

Resolved: at the conclusion of the public session to reconvene the meeting.

21(6) Planning applications

Application Number: 21/01488/FUL

Proposal: Two-storey rear extension and the rebuilding and repositioning of the existing gable wall

Location: Iona Cottage 202 Park Lane Preesall Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire

Resolved: to raise no objections to the application providing that LCC highways' comment regarding the removal of the proposed driveway and the creation of a traffic management plan are made a condition of approval.

Cllr Woods leaves the room.

Application Number: 22/00454/FUL

Proposal: Two-storey rear extension, two storey and single storey side extension with living accommodation in the roof and front dormers

Location: Mapledene Sandy Lane Preesall Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire

Resolved: to raise no objections to the application as same as the earlier application (unanimous).

Cllr Woods returns to the room.

Application Number: 22/00472/FUL

Proposal: Erection of two front dormers (re-submission 22/00203/FUL)

Location: 35 Hawkshead Road Knott End-on-Sea Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire FY6 0QE

Resolved: to raise no objections to the application (unanimous).

Application Number: 22/00510/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of land and former classroom building to ancillary living accommodation (granny annexe)/domestic curtilage in association with 1 Springbank Cottage, erection of front balcony to 1 and 2 Springbank Cottages and changes to external finishes and window openings (resubmission of 21/01407/FUL)

Location: Spring Bank Cottages Wyre Side Knott End-on-Sea Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire

Resolved: to raise the same comments as in February, namely the proposed ancillary accommodation is not attached to the existing property and could be treated as a dwelling in its own right. Given that the proposed changes are within flood zone 3 further evidence would be required to ensure the suitability and sustainability of the annexe.

Should planning be of a mind to approve the application the council would also like to raise its concern regarding the access arrangements of supplies/building materials to the site. It would like to recommend that no access be made along the riverside pathway. The pavement in this area is fragile and is known to have given way approximately 15 years ago as the land is man-made and not natural riverbank. (8 against, 1 abstention).

Cllr Orme was asked to make a request in his Wyre councillor role to ask planning to remove references to 'granny annexe' from applications.

22(7) Reports from committees and working groups

i) Finance committee

Councillors **noted** that the committee met at 6.30pm, prior to full council.

Councillors were informed that the finances for payment in June had been approved and that the proposals for investment of the council's funds had been approved.

ii) Civic Events committee

- Councillors **noted** that the committee met at 5.30pm, prior to full council.
- Councillors were provided with the committee's decisions/suggestions on the change in arrangements in respect of the English Civil War enactment.

Resolved: If the necessary licences and paperwork aren't in place and approved by Wyre Council by 30 June then the event should be cancelled. If the event proceeds then Cllrs Drobny, Johnson, Lewin, Renwick, Rossall and Shepherd would be present on gala day, Cllrs Jepson, Pattrick, Tarpey-Black and Woods would be present in their roles as gala volunteers and Cllr Orme would be present in a Wyre capacity.

- Councillors **noted** that Saturday 3 December is the date when the Christmas lights will be switched on.
- Councillors **noted** that 18 September was the date agreed for Civic Sunday and that arrangements were being made with the church for this to be a volunteers service.

23(8) Year end

a) Councillors noted the balances at year-end were:

Cashbook 1 - £82,786.33

Cashbook 2 - £40,745.48

Cashbook 3 - £nil

Cashbook 4 - £57,239.71

Cashbook 5 - £10,010.12

b) 2021/22 Budget Outturn and Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Councillors were provided with copies of the detailed budget outturn, which the finance committee had inspected and recommended for approval.

It was **noted** that the Internal Audit was carried out on the 8th, 14th and 15th of May 2022.

Resolved: To accept the Internal Audit report as presented and accept the auditor's recommendations.

i) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Resolved: To approve Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 and

agreed questions 1 to 8 could be answered yes and question 9 was not applicable. The statement was signed by the chair (Mayor) and the clerk.

ii) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/2022.

Resolved: To approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/2022. Councillors acknowledged that it had been prepared and signed by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO/clerk) as confirmation that the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They also **resolved** to accept the figures as presented and for the Mayor to sign and date the form to confirm that the accounts had been approved by the council at the 13 June meeting.

24(9) Draft Annual Report

Resolved: to approve the draft Annual Report for publication and distribution.

25(10) Parish and Town Council Charter 2022 – 2024

Resolved: To ratify the Parish and Town Council Charter, which sets out the relationship between Lancashire County Council and parish and town Councils in Lancashire.

The clerk to provide a list of comments to Cllr Orme to be passed to LCC as possible future amendments.

26(11) Jubilee benches

Resolved: For the clerk to purchase a Jubilee bench from David Ogilvie at a cost of £1,650 + VAT+ delivery + a stainless-steel dedication plaque 120x80mm accommodating up to 45 words of engraving for £67 +VAT and a set of underground leg extensions for for £36 +VAT.

27(12) Adoption of Wyre flower beds

Resolved: That the clerk would write to Wyre Council asking for permission for Preesall Town Council to formally adopt the three flower beds between the public telephone kiosk and Lune View and the large flower bed at the Battle of Britain memorial.

28(13) Chatty corner

Resolved: That the clerk would write to Wyre Council asking for permission to place a sign on two of the curved seats near the Lowry statue, marking them as 'chatty seats'. The proposed wording is "Take a seat if you don't mind having a chat".

29(14) Councillor training

Resolved: not to approve the request by a councillor to undertake the Introduction to Local Council Administration course (ILCA) run by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) as it is a qualification for clerks.

30(15) Grant applications

Councillors **noted** that no applications were received by the 25 May deadline. The clerk to advertise the next deadline in the Over Wyre Focus.

31(16) Previous resolutions

Resolved: the council would no longer proceed with the project to create a Platinum Jubilee walk through the woodland on Park Lane. The field adjacent to the wood is no longer available for lease, therefore, a great number of trees would need to be removed to create an accessible pathway. The conclusion reached was that this work in conjunction with the costs of the tree work to make the area safe would be excessive and put a burden on the council in terms of both cost and public safety liability.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

32(17) Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

It was **noted** that no written reports have been received. Cllr Shepherd reported that Jigsaw Homes has taken four individuals to court, two from one household and two from separate households. It was asked that the clerk put an item in the Over Wyre Focus regarding collaborative working between Jigsaw Homes the police and the council to help stamp out anti-social behaviour within the parish.

33(18) Verbal reports from Wyre councillors

Cllr Shepherd asked Cllr Orme whether he had raised the matter of non-payment of council tax by a number of residents on Willowgrove Park. He replied that the council tax team had said that Wyre Council would not pursue tenants where there was a danger that they would be left homeless as a consequence.

34(19) Clerk's report

Jubilee finial – the clerk was asked to pursue the possibility of putting a circular plaque on the rear of the kiosk to mark the jubilee.

35(20) Mayor's report

The Mayor reported that she had attended an event at Carter's Charity School to mark the jubilee and that the deputy mayor had attended one at Fleetwood's Charity School. She asked that councillors make an effort to turn up to events to support the community where possible.

36(21) Questions to councillors

Eight councillors confirmed that they would be attending the pre gala brunch.

Cllr Drobny to provide the wording for a letter to be sent to the Queen congratulating her on the jubilee.

37(22) 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 discuss a legal matter. **Resolved** that the clerk write to the legacy trustees again requesting a breakdown of costs.

At the conclusion of business it was **resolved** to re-open the meeting to the press and public.

38(23) Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be held on **11 July 2022** - councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and provide updates from working groups by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 30 June** 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.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.47pm.