



PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.00pm at Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Centre

Cllr Rollason tendered her resignation prior to the meeting

Present: Cllrs K Shepherd (Mayor), R Drobny, S Jepson, T Johnson, P Orme, S Rossall, K Woods.

179a(1) Apologies for absence – Cllr Lewin.

179b(1) Absent without apology – none.

180(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Johnson – union interests.

181(3) Minutes of the last meetings

Councillors **resolved** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December subject to Cllr Woods being shown as present and 17 December 2022 subject to Cllr Johnson not being shown as absent.

182(4) Public participation

Councillors **resolved to agree** to adjourn the meeting to allow non-councillors to speak.

- It was asked whether any progress had been made on the chatty bench wording. The clerk responded that one response had been received from Wyre Council approving the proposed wording for the bench and another response was awaited.

At the conclusion of the public session councillors **resolved to agree** to reconvene the meeting.

183(5) Planning applications

Application Number: 22/01064/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from bakery (Class E) to cafe (coffees/paninis etc) & meeting establishment (motorcycle display) (sui generis) including new signage

Location: The Old Coal Yard, Hall Gate Lane, Preesall, Lancashire FY6 0PJ

Resolved: the council raised no objections to the proposal (5 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention).

184(6) Reports from committees and working groups

i) Finance committee

Councillors **resolved to note** that the finance committee met prior to the meeting to approve January's expenditure and made a recommendation that full council accept version 3 of the draft budget for 2023-24 at item 8 subject to any amendments moved by full council at the 9 January meeting.

ii) Civic Events committee

Councillors **resolved to note** that a date for the next civic events committee was yet to be confirmed.

iii) Personnel committee

Councillors **resolved to note** that the personnel committee met on 14 December and produced draft questions for the interview of a potential new clerk.

185(7) Flag flying

Resolved: to approve the flag diary for 2023 subject to the month of the coronation being changed from June to May. It was further resolved to purchase two large Coronation flags.

186(8) Projects for 2023/2024

Resolved: to approve version 3 of the draft budget for 2023-24 subject to the allocation of £1,000 for the purchase of two grit bins and grit (one to be sited by the shops in Preesall, the other near the library or church in Knott End until a permanent location can be secured - both to be liveried with the PTC logo). Funds to be made available by reducing the contingency reserve by £1,000.

The agreed budget of £98,186 (£1,230 lower than 22/23) will increase the precept by 65p per year for a band D property. The increase, despite less expenditure, is because fewer households are paying council tax than in the previous financial year.

187(9) Policies and procedures

i) Review of Community Engagement Strategy

Resolved: to approve the Community Engagement Strategy unamended from last year.

ii) Review of disciplinary and grievance policies

Resolved: to approve the disciplinary and grievance policies unamended from last year.

iii) Adoption of a co-option policy

Resolved: to adopt the co-option policy and co-option application form presented to councillors subject to the wording 'schedule 12 para 39' being inserted prior to 'LGA' at the second sentence of para 1.5 in the policy.

188(10) Nativity

Resolved: to adopt the Christmas crib that was financed and constructed for the community by the Churches Together. The crib is to be stored in the council's container on Preesall Park.

189(11) Councillor vacancies

Councillors **resolved to note** the council currently has the following vacancies:

- i) One active vacancy (that of ex-councillor Renwick), which is advertised on the council's website and noticeboards, with one expression of interest having been received.
- ii) One vacancy (that of ex-councillor Patrick) created within six months of the next elections in May that does not need to be advertised prior to the elections in 2023.

They further **resolved** to declare:

- iii) One casual vacancy created on 29 December under section 85 of the 1972 Act arising from the disqualification of Cllr David Williams for failure to attend any meetings of Preesall Town Council for a period of six months without being subject to any of the special exceptions. (Once an elected member has missed meetings for a period of six months without being subject to a special exception, the Town Council must formally declare the seat to be vacant.) As the vacancy was created less than six months from the next elections it would be filled at the next ordinary elections of councillors on 4 May 2023.

Councillors further **resolved** that the the vacancy created prior to the start of the meeting by the resignation of Cllr Rollason (again within six months of the next elections) be filled at the next ordinary elections of councillors on 4 May 2023.

Resolved: councillors to meet at 6.15pm and conduct a co-option interview at 6.30pm on Monday 16 January for the one interested party.

Resolved: to hold a civic events committee at 7.00pm and the finance committee at 7.30pm.

Resolved: Cllr Jepson to join the finance committee.

190(12) Public Realm Agreements - Lancashire County Council Scrutiny Task Group Survey

Resolved: not to formally respond. Cllr Orme to raise the issue of signage cleaning via LALC.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

191(13) Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

No written reports had been received.

192(14) Verbal reports from Wyre councillors

None.

193(15) Clerk's report

Councillors noted:

CCTV

The camera has been installed on lighting column 20 in Barton Square and is now fully functional. Cllr Woods expressed an interest in viewing the camera output at Wyre Council.

Vacancy on Preesall Town Council

Councillors noted the agenda item and that one vacancy on the council is still available for co-option.

Damage to boundary sign

Payment of £282.20 has now been received from the insurer of the vehicle that damaged the Preesall boundary sign and flower bed on Hall Gate Lane in 2021.

Clerk vacancy

To date no applications had been received for the readvertised post. Details of the vacancy had been posted free on Indeed.

Cllr Rossall was appointed to the climate change working group.

Cllr Orme reported that Wyre Council was not happy with the proposal for fruit trees to be planted on Preesall Park and that it was proposing to plant oak trees with the monies granted for that purpose.

194(16) Mayor's report

The Mayor reported that she had attended a number of Christmas events and had presented the council's grant to the Ladies of Over Wyre, who were very grateful.

195(17) Questions to councillors

Cllr Woods raised the issue of road closure training licences coming to an end later in the year and the lack of new people being trained along with the potential impact on community events. Cllrs Drobny, Jepson, Rossall and Shepherd asked for their names to be added to the list at Wyre that already included Cllr Johnson and Cllr Orme.

Cllr Woods asked if it might be possible to remove the grass verge outside the telephone exchange and replace it with parking. It was thought this is a non-starter given the shortage of funds at Lancashire County Council.

Cllr Drobny asked that thanks be expressed to Cllr Williams for his time on the council.

196(18) 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 staffing matter and potential property purchase.

Resolved: that the council would advertise the clerk's vacancy more widely. The clerk to approach the schools to see if the vacancy could be mentioned in their newsletters.

Councillors **resolved** to readmit the press and public.

197(19) Items for next agenda

An extraordinary meeting would be held on Monday 16 January to interview the candidate for co-option.

The next full council meeting will be held on **13 February 2023** - 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 2 February 2023** 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.