



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs J Lewin (Mayor), T Johnson, S Dobbie, P Orme, K Shepherd, K Woods, Jenkinson and Tunstall
Also present – 3 Members of the public

77.1 Apologies

Cllrs Drobny, Rimmer and McMurray

78.2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Johnson declared his TU activities as HR issues were due to be discussed.
Cllrs Lewin declared interests in Planning Application 23/00869 as she had already had a conversation with a neighbour.

Cllr Orme declared an interest in 23/00869 as he had previously represented a neighbour in his previous role at Wyre.

79.3 Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 11th September 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the above meeting were approved as a true record, unanimously accepted.

80.4 Public participation

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

Resident 1

The Hope Community Care Hub has been set up as a Limited Company rather than CIC, there will be no profit and nobody will be paid for their time, eventually it will be converted to a Charity. It was reported that they could apply for funding for other smaller groups with a similar focus a condition being that services cannot be charged for.

A new Flood Forum Group is due to meet at the Bourne Arms on 10th October and support was requested. Mayor Lewin agreed to attend.

Regarding Quarry application – Concern raised regarding the change of language a doctor had instructed the Development Control to carry out Health Impact Assessment, the Development Control stated that they had been advised to request a Health Impact Assessment. The Anti-Quarry Group would like the Health Impact assessment to be added to the agenda to protect residents. Pollution and Noise recording machines have been delivered to allow base data to be collected to be

used as a comparator. If Quarry goes ahead, and this results in waste on roads, householders can request Local Authority to clear (Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part III). Request raised that Town Council add element to future budget to support residents in any resulting court cases. Cllr Orme reported that they could not support individuals but could support, as an example, a whole street.

Resident 2

Reported that they had visited their GP as he had an existing lung condition, after explaining the situation regarding the Quarry, the GP stated that the dust would likely kill him.

It was resolved that the meeting recommence.

80.5 Planning Applications

23/00927/FUL Change of use of land to mixed use for keeping of horses and residential caravan site for gypsy family with 5 caravans, including no more than 2 static caravans, together with conversion of part of stable building to ancillary dayroom (retrospective)

Location: Blueberry Stables Lancaster Road Preesall.

It was reported that there was a lifelong injunction on this land that, as far as the Council were aware, had not been lifted. Wyre Planning Enforcement Team have been involved in this case previously and it was felt that all comments on the previously refused application (20/01171) still stood as no significant change had been made to the application.

Concern was raised regarding the use of the term "Gypsy" as this was a discriminatory term. The application included errors including the maps and the reference to the 10m rule. There was no provision in the application as to how electric and water would be managed.

The applicant had been previously instructed to take down a building, but this request had not been adhered to. The land is not fit for the keeping of horses in a healthy manner.

It was resolved that the Town Council would strongly object to this application.

23/00869/FUL Retrospective application for front/side facing dormer with clear glazing

Location: Red Roofs Rosslyn Avenue Preesall.

The Wyre Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the property and advised that opaque glass should be used as the window allows residents to look inside a neighbouring property. The applicant chose to ignore this advice. As the development was completed without planning approval it demonstrates the lack of adherence to the planning process. It was felt that the passage between the property and its neighbour looks out of keeping. It was suggested that neighbours be encouraged to report to Wyre Planning Enforcement Officer.

It was resolved that the Town Council would object to this application.

81.6 Finance

Finance – Cllr Shepherd raised concerns re the lack of Finance Meetings held, the August meeting was cancelled, and having less than 3 days to review payments. Further concerns raised re the process to accept the Clerks contract and that the Annual Audit report had not been published. The Locum Clerk had not been authorised at full Council. A budget report needed to be produced and they had no RFO. Mayor Lewin responded that the previous Locum Clerk, training the new Clerk had set a precedent as this was agreed at the Personnel Committee . Cllr Orme also responded that the August meeting had not been set and therefore was not cancelled, he felt that it was not worth taking place due to the incapacity of the Clerk and therefore lack of available reports for consideration. Cllr Shepherd felt that payments could not be approved without a Finance Meeting. She also queried why August included Clerk Expenses when the Clerk was off ill. Cllr Orme explained that expenses were paid in arrears and so related to July and the payments being made and due to be paid were contracted. Cllr Orme raised concerns regarding the Rialtas system as, he felt, that it was over complicated for their needs. Mayor Lewin suggested adding to the Agenda for November to allow proper consideration. Further issues were raised but it was felt that they be better addressed under the Personnel Committee rather than Finance.

81.7 Reports from committees and working groups.

Civic Events Committee – Met on 2nd October with 3 Councillors in attendance.
Remembrance Day – No military planned to be in attendance. Pilling Band will play, and Cllr Cat Smith and the Fire brigade had confirmed that they will be attending, some responses still outstanding. Battle of Britain Memorial will be on 11th November starting at 10.45 and Remembrance Parade on 12th November assembling at 1pm for 1.15 start. Cllr Orme reported that Wyre Councillor Bowen is scheduled to attend, Cllr Johnson felt that it was important that the Preesall Mayor lay the Wreath. Cllr Johnson reported that he had met with the Knitting Club and they had explained the plans for poppy decorations at the Cenotaph and an airplane shaped spread of poppies for the B of B Memorial, lengthsman to be involved in the placement. Cllr Orme to investigate purchase of Wreath and report back to Committee.

Christmas Lights – switch on to be held on 2nd December, Cllr Woods was taking the lead in planning.

May Bank Hol – 80th Anniversary, planning to start in January.

Personnel Committee – Met on 25th September with all present.

Clerk – Clarification given of Clerks contract and details of her absence. Cllr Woods reported that she had written to the Clerk wishing her a speedy recovery and setting out what needed to happen for her return. Cllr Orme reported that the Clerk had been overpaid and that the overpayment would be recovered in the following month.

It was further reported that a Locum Clerk had been employed to cover some aspects of the Clerks role.

Lengthsmen – Cllr Johnson and Woods had met with lengthsmen, they reported that they needed PPE, it was agreed that this would be ordered. The purchase of a machine to clear weeds was raised, investigations to take place. Need to consider a Road Closure Course and Ladder usage Course. It was reported that the Lengthsman had removed an unsafe bench at the Bourne Arms, they had a black bench in stock. It was resolved that this would be used to replace the unsafe bench. Quarry Working Group – Met several times and demonstrated a good example of the Community working together. Cllr Johnson thanked Cllr Rimmer for their hard work in taking notes and producing the final submission.

82.8 Budget Setting for 2024/2025

Cllr Orme requested that any ideas for inclusion in the 2024/25 budget to be provided to the Clerk email address.

83.9 Cenotaph Grounds

The Parish In Bloom Group had requested that, to reduce annual planting, they wanted to hard landscape a poppy design around the Cenotaph with space for planters in the middle so reducing the planting area. The Council agreed that it was not against such a plan, but further details must be provided and agreed before permission given.

A discussion took place re the provision and use of light projectors around the Cenotaph and Christmas Trees, different designs could be used for different occasions. It was resolved that further investigation was required.

84.10 Deputy Mayors Regalia

Cllr Johnson showed the Regalia to the attendees and explained that, at events, the Town Council appeared to be the poor relation and an upgrade was required. It was thought that maybe a chain to replace the ribbon be sufficient. It was resolved that prices be sought and added to the 2024/25 Budget.

85.11 Policy/Documentation review

It is resolved that the following all be readopted without changes.

- i Star Award Policy
- ii Freedom of Information Policy

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

86.12 Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

No reports

87.13 Reports from Wyre councillors

Mayor Lewin reported that all had seen the email from ???

88.14 Clerk's report

Cllr Orme reported that they had received the result of the External Audit and that no issues had been raised. It was resolved to accept the outcome of the External Audit. SpIDs – A report had been received from LCC and it was now to be progressed, Cllr Orme agreed to review and take the next steps.

Shelters – No update but there was still time left before the deadline.

Kelly's Corner – Cllr Orme reported that he was to meet with WBC representative to discuss, he also agreed to raise the issue of the seafront shelters.

LALC Conference and AGM – Mayor Lewin to query attendance with Cllr Drobny, Mayor Lewin and Cllr Shepherd would also like to attend. Decision to made following discussion with Cllr Drobny. Cllr Orme requested that any motions for the AGM be sent to the Clerk email account.

Esplanade Painting had started but was hampered with the weather. Cllr Orme reported that gold paint would be required at some stage. The painting of loose fittings would be left until replaced/repaired. Need to add thanks to the painting contractor in the Green Book entry and attendees asked to mention the company carrying out the painting in discussions with others.

89.15 Mayor's report

Mayor Lewin and Cllr Johnson had attended the opening of the Hope Community Care Hub.

90.16 Questions to councillors

Further discussion took place regarding the use of a Locum Clerk and the Training of the new Clerk and how this was approved. It was believed to be at Personnel Committee not full Council.

Cllr Woods agreed to produce Green Book entry to include Remembrance Events, Christmas Lights switch on and the painting of the railings.

Cllr Johnson reported that the next Civic events meeting to be held on 23rd October at 6pm.

A query was put to the newly elected Councillors regarding the setting up of the Town Council emails, some problems were reported.

Concern was raised as several Police matters had been raised but the Council had received no feedback. The Locum Clerk agreed to contact the PCSO for an update (following receipt of an incident number from Cllr Shepherd).

Cllr Johnson reported that the Landlord of the Bourne Arms wanted a date for the dedication of the bench. 21st October was suggested and agreed as a potential date.

91.17 Items for next agenda

The next full council meeting will be held on **13th November 2023** - councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and provide updates from working groups by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 2nd November 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.

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 20.47.