

PRESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 29 April 2019 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Cllrs L Woodhouse (Mayor), R Black, B Burn, R Drobny, R Lawson, J Mutch, P Orme, N Pattrick, T Reilly.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council; 7 members of the public.

276a(1) Apologies for absence

None

276b(1) Absent without apology

277(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Orme – planning application 19/00253/FUL.

278(3) Minutes of the last meeting

Councillors **resolved** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on: 8 April 2019 subject to the NWAAC chq number being amended to 410 and the amount to £250.

279(4) Public participation

*At the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting at 7.03pm to allow non-councillors to speak.*

- No members of the public chose to speak

*At the conclusion of the public participation (7.04pm) and at the request of the Mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.*

280(5) Planning applications

Application number: 19/00344/FUL

Proposal: Conversion from garage to ancillary accommodation

Location: Wistonia, Back Lane, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

Resolved: that the council has no objection to the application, however, it did want its concern about access and traffic problems in the vicinity to be raised.

(5 in favour; 3 against, 1 abstention)

Application number: 19/00253/OUTMAJ

Proposal: Outline application for up to 11 new residential dwellings with access applied for off Cart Gate (all other matters reserved) (resubmission of 17/00933/OUTMAJ)

Location: Springfield Cottage Farm, Cart Gate, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire

Resolved: that the council objects to the application on the ground of flood risk, possible land contamination, unsuitable sewerage capacity, unsuitable access arrangements, impact on surrounding area and neighbouring properties, It was also noted that the documentation presented in support of the application was out of date.

281(6) Reports from committees and working groups**i) Finance**

a) Payments – councillors noted that the finance committee had met prior to the monthly meeting and signed off the known expenditure to 29 April 2019. They also noted that the committee had considered section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability return and made a recommendation to the council to accept the figures.

Councillors

a) noted the following receipt: Current account	97,560.00
---	-----------

b) noted the following payments and the change to the cheque numbers for payroll as a consequence of the NWAA cheque having been written after payroll cheques.	Cheque	
Payroll	405,407,409	2956.16
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	406	73.33
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	408	40.00
NWAA donation from 8 April	410	250.00
Smith of Derby (Inv.0109348)	411	250.80
Viking (Inv. 167879)	412	41.77
848 IT Services – Microsoft 365 (Inv.7715)	413	9.48
Europlanters Ltd (est 5666) In Bloom	035	376.80
Amberol Ltd (order 1832)	036	988.62
Mrs J Wilson (order W9090155)	037	14.94

c) noted the following payments by direct debit	
Easy Web Sites (hosting fee, 7 x councillor email, SSL certificate)	44.40
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.70
LCC (contributions)	847.10
LCC (deficit)	8.33

b) Councillors resolved to approve the removal of Cllr Mutch from the bank mandate as she will no longer be a councillor after 7 May.

c) 2018/19 Budget Outturn and Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Councillors were provided with copies of the detailed budget outturn, which had been inspected and recommended for approval by the finance committee. Councillors worked through the questions in Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 and **resolved** that they believed questions 1 to 9 could be answered yes

and question 10 as not applicable. They agreed that this was subject to satisfactory completion of the internal audit and they would finalise the paperwork once the internal auditor's report had been received.

Councillors acknowledged that Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2018/19 has 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 20 May meeting, subject to satisfactory completion of the internal audit.

ii) **Other** – Cllr Woodhouse thanked Cllr Mutch for all her input to the finance committee. Cllr Orme reported on developments in Fleetwood regarding beach wheelchair access and suggested that representatives from Preesall should attend the next meeting of the beach wheelchair access group.

282(7) Investment Strategy

Resolved: to adopt the revised Investment Strategy as presented.

283(8) Draft Annual Report

Resolved: to adopt the Annual Report subject to minor amendments for publication and distribution.

284(9) Creation of personnel committee

Councillors considered the benefits of establishing a personnel committee to enable the council to meet its statutory duties as an employer and to ensure proper operating mechanisms are in place for handling staff appraisals/welfare/grievances/complaints. They also considered the draft terms of reference for such a committee and whether to adopt a 'Dignity at Work, Bullying and Harassment advice note'.

Resolved:

- a) that the council would set up a personnel committee
- b) to adopt the terms of reference for the committee with a slight amendment to para 2 – to read – 'personnel committee' and para 8.2.1 – to read – 'The power to interview new staff and to recommend their appointment to Council'.
- c) to adopt the 'Dignity at work, Bullying and Harassment advice note'.

285(10) Councillor training

Resolved: to give approval for the following councillors to attend the 'new councillors and clerks' training course at Penwortham - A Tarpey-Black, A Cropper, J Cropper - at a cost per councillor of £33 for module 1 and £30 for module 2.

286(11) New bench for coastal path

Resolved: to approve the purchase of a bench for the sea wall from Glasdon at a cost of £531.38 ex VAT and for a suitable plaque to be purchased stating that the council had provided the bench.

287(12) Flagpole plaque at Battle of Britain memorial

Resolved: after viewing costings from three suppliers, to approve the purchase from Wyre Memorials of a plaque at the Battle of Britain memorial to show that the flagpole was purchased to commemorate 100 years of the RAF. This would be at a cost of up to £240.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

288(13) Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

Co-op – Cllr Patrick reported that work to set up a food bank was continuing.

Best Kept Village – Cllr Orme reported that litter picks were continuing.

G & KE light railway – Cllr Drobny reported that the group would have a stall at Transport Sunday.

Health – Cllr Drobny stated that there was a dispute between four doctors at the Over Wyre Medical Practice practice and that the practice was being run by Fylde CCG.

Highways – Cllr Patrick provided an update on planned resurfacing works on Pilling Lane in August.

Housing – Cllr Orme stated that contrary to rumours, Regenda does not let properties in advance of them being on the housing association register.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee) – Cllr Orme reported that there had been a presentation at the last meeting from David Thow on the newly adopted local plan.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme informed councillors that the next meeting would be on 13 June. A demonstration of the new pumps was planned.

Wyre In Bloom – Cllr Mutch reported that she and Mr and Mrs Cropper had attended the In Bloom steering group meeting at Wyre. Nine new tubs had been ordered by the group, which would not be seeking sponsorship this year from the businesses.

Youth – Cllr Patrick reported that the first supported night at the working men’s club had been very well attended but the second one had seen fewer attending. The initiative had been well received,

289(14) Verbal report from Wyre Councillor

Nothing further to add and no questions received.

290(15) Clerk’s report

Response from JPI media

The following response has been received from JPI media:

‘Ms May

Thank you for your correspondence and apologies for the delay in replying.

I would like to reiterate immediately, as the main thrust of your complaint is that you had no chance to reply, that our reporter contacted Preesall Council leader Lynda Woodhouse on several times over the course of two days prior to publication, using the number listed on the council website in the hope of discussing the issue.

A voicemail was left and a failure to respond to this does not constitute a failure to offer right of reply. Indeed more than a month on Coun Woodhouse has still not replied to that message and no-one has forwarded on any rebuttal of the article.

It may be that you feel persons unknown sending a councillor naked pictures through the post is not disgraceful behaviour, on that we will have to disagree but the story itself relied upon established facts.

The interview with Patricia Greenhough and Tom Reilly is presented in a straightforward way and did not specifically mention any individuals, other than those interviewed so I am not clear anyone personally feels defamed.

When initially contacted, we as courtesy, removed the story from the website but we would be happy to reinstate with a council response, should you wish to do so.

Regards, Nicola

Nicola Adam

Deputy Editor [Lancashire Post](#) & [Blackpool Gazette](#)

Group Editor: Chorley and Leyland Guardian, Lytham St Annes Express, Fleetwood Weekly News, Garstang Courier, Longridge News'

I have thanked her for the response and informed her that the council has referred the matter to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

The Mayor stated that no messages had been left on her phone by the press and that she had checked that her published phone number was the correct one, which it was. If a message had been received she would have immediately notified the clerk.

Data protection and ICO fees

The [Data Protection \(Charges and Information\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2019](#) came into force on 1 April and have changed the rules around paying the data protection fee and means members of the House of Lords, elected representatives and prospective representatives are exempt from paying a fee. The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) has updated the [local council FAQs](#) on its website and [data protection fee guidance](#) to reflect these changes.

NALC's analysis of the regulations is this also includes co-opted councillors, and the ICO has indicated it agrees with this view. Particularly pleasing is that this is another lobbying win for NALC that will save the sector up to £4m a year.

291(16) Mayor's report

The Mayor reported that she would be holding a charity afternoon tea at Dawn's Café on 7 May at a cost of £8 per person.

292(17) Questions to councillors

The clerk had received a request from of a member of the public to provide all councillors with a letter regarding who notified the press of the death of Cllr McCann and statements made by Cllr Drobny to the last meeting of the council. Cllr Drobny apologised for having misled councillors at the previous meeting and said that this hadn't been intentional. He clarified that he had notified a member of the press on the night of Cllr McCann's death.

293(18) Items for next agenda

The next meeting will be held on 13 May 2019 at 7.00pm – this will be the Annual Meeting of the council, with items limited to statutory duties.

The next full meeting of the council will be 20 May 2019. Councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the 20 May 2019 agenda by notifying the Clerk **in writing by Thursday 9 May** at the latest. A summary of the reason for raising the matter should be provided. Councillors are reminded that the Annual Town Meeting will take place at 6.00pm on Monday 20 May 2019.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.13pm.