

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

**Present:** Councillors G Carter (Deputy Mayor), R Black, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, P Moon, J Mutch, K Nicholls, P Orme and V Taylor

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and one member of the public.

### **(13-14)161 Apologies for Absence**

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

### **(13-14)162 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 15 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. The Clerk reminded councillors that they all had a pecuniary interest in item 6 (draft budget for 2014/15) as they were all council tax payers but that they had all been granted a dispensation by the Council which allowed them to discuss and vote on the precept. In response to a question the Clerk confirmed that Cllr Taylor had a dispensation as a member of Lancashire County Council to discuss and vote on matters relating to that organisation and confirmed that this applied to the proposed withdrawal of the bus subsidy by LCC. Cllr Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 13/00859 as the applicants were friends and Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 13/00860 as he is involved in a voluntary capacity with the applicant.

### **(13-14)163 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2013 be agreed as a true record.

### **(13-14)164 Public Participation (Including a Verbal Police Report)**

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

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk reported that, in December 2013 there were 10 reported crimes compared with 9 in the same period last year. There were 15 reports of anti-social behaviour last month compared with 11 in the same period last year. The Clerk read a commentary provided by the Police on the crime and antisocial behaviour in December.

Cllr Hudson expressed concern at the number of meetings where there had been no police presence and the Clerk reminded councillors that the Neighbourhood Policing Team sergeant had explained last autumn that she could not guarantee an officer would be present and that she would provide a monthly commentary on crime and antisocial behaviour in the area. Cllr Taylor expressed the view that she would prefer that officers were out doing the job rather than sitting in meetings.

Cllr Hudson reported that he had previously raised concerns about the use of fog lights for general driving and about the use of unmarked cars to catch drink drivers but did not feel that he had a satisfactory response.

Cllr McCann reported that he had been approached by residents to ask that the wave boards be put in when the clocks go back in autumn and left in until spring and the Clerk confirmed that she would raise this when she met the Head of Engineering from Wyre Council.

Cllr McCann reported that bushes next to the Saracen's Head needed cutting back as they are blocking the pavement. He further reported that there was a problem with an inspection chamber filling with water and the water was flowing down the pipework and freezing at the exit. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact the appropriate authorities.

Cllr Orme reported that, although LCC had taken swift action in relation to Footpath 51 the works had led to new problems in that the bridge is not wide enough for wheelchairs and most buggies and that the rise (equivalent to two steps) was inappropriate and prevented some from using it. The Clerk confirmed that she would take this up with LCC.

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

#### **(13-14)165 LCC – Proposed Withdrawal of Bus Subsidy**

Councillors had noted the views and concerns of members of the public who had attended an earlier public meeting and **resolved** to write to LCC incorporating all the issues raised by members of the public and to copy the letter to Eric Ollerenshaw MP.

#### **(13-14)166 Draft Budget for 2014/15**

Councillors considered the draft budget options. In the light of Wyre Council's decision to withdraw the rural grant and not to passport local council tax support monies, worth in the region of £13,000 to the Town Council, councillors **resolved** that the precept for 2014/15 be set at £51,683.

#### **(13-14)167 Festive Lights 2013**

Councillors **resolved** to make a differential donation towards electricity based on the meterage of lights powered by particular premises. Councillors noted that Redmans, Jubilee Garage and Preesall Auto Discount had declined to accept a donation and **resolved** to write to thank those businesses for their contribution to the community.

#### **(13-14)168 Parking Restrictions in Knott End**

Councillors noted that LCC had confirmed that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) relating to 1 hour on-street parking opposite the library dates from March 2009 and had not been reduced as a result of the recent "lines and signs" work. Councillors further noted a letter from a local business outlining the fact that the time restriction was causing some difficulties for older residents, particularly those with mobility problems. Councillors considered what effect an increase in the time allowed to two hours would have and felt that it would lead to lower turnover of parking spaces which would mean that fewer spaces would be available for others. As those older people with restricted mobility would either have or would qualify for a Blue Badge which would permit parking up to 3 hours, councillors **resolved** to take no action.

#### **(13-14)169 Lancashire & Merseyside County Training Partnership**

Councillors noted that the County Training Partnership will run a Finance workshop on 13 February 2014 from 7 to 9pm at a cost of £25 and a Chairmanship Workshop on 6 March. Councillors **resolved** that Cllr Carter attend the Chairmanship Workshop if he were available and he volunteered to pay his own costs.

#### **(13-14)170 Roadside Working Training**

Councillors noted that this training is required to ensure Lengthsman, drivers and pedestrians are as safe as possible when the Lengthsman is working at the roadside and **resolved** that he attend the course at Myerscough College.

#### **(13-14)171 Height Restriction Barriers**

Councillors noted that the height restriction barrier at the playing field car park was erected in December and the barrier has been locked in place since then. As this did not appear to cause any problems councillors **resolved** to leave it locked in place.

### **(13-14)172 Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment – consultation with parish councils**

Councillors considered the consultation questionnaire and **resolved** that the completed questionnaire be submitted.

### **(13-14)173 Planning Applications**

#### **13/00881/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey live/work unit, replacement stables and improved highway access

**Location:** Pointer Stables, Lancaster Road, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the access gives rise to potential highway safety problems through restricted visibility and the living accommodation elements are inappropriate.

#### **13/00863/FUL**

**Proposal:** Change of use of existing dwelling to two dwellings

**Location:** Horseshoe Barn, Bourbles Lane, Preesall

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

#### **13/00859/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of a 2m high boundary fence

**Location:** 1 Sandicroft Place, Preesall

By a majority (3 councillors voted against) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

#### **13/00860/FUL**

**Proposal:** Provision of open-sided canopy to provide undercover shelter from the weather

**Location:** Preesall Fleetwood Charity School, Mill Street, Preesall

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

#### **13/00903/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of detached dwelling

**Location:** Selbys Pig Farm, Little Tongues Lane, Preesall

By a majority (3 councillors voted against and 2 abstained) it was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

### **(13-14)174 Finance**

#### **a) Payments received:**

James Thompson Auctioneers	£143.10
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#### **b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£1965.41
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£26.66
HMRC	£461.26
Fordstone General Store	£60.00
Wyre Building Supplies	£263.82
Preesall Auto Discount	£38.05

<u>Festive Lights</u>	
One Stop	£10
Julie Binns	£15
The Black Bull	£15
Petals	£15
Julie Jenkinson	£15
The New Village Steakhouse	£20
Broomheads Estate Agents	£20
Claire Bradley	£30

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£25.01
LCC pensions	£417.74

**c) Statement of Accounts – December 2013**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for December which shows:

Current account	£23,903.54
Reserve account	£20,145.29
Mayor's Charity Account	£240.00
In Bloom Account	£357.12

**d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3**

Councillors noted the Q3 Budget Monitoring statement.

Councillors **resolved** to note the receipts, the payments by standing order/direct debit, the statement of accounts and the budget monitoring statement and to approve the accounts for payment.

**(13-14)175 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

**Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the Flood Risk Strategy is out for consultation. The next meeting of the Wyre Flood Forum is in March.

**LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting of the Wyre Area Committee and the Corporate Director of Resources would be doing a presentation on the localised council tax support scheme.

**Christmas Community Group**

Cllr Carter reported that he had spoken to most of the businesses and some did well and others not so well.

**Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that he had arranged a meeting with the groundwork team to finalise the location of the MUGA.

**Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that work on the extension of the footpath onto the Jubilee garden was complete but the rest of the path needed to be replaced. The Bloomers would discuss the area around the Jubilee marker stone to identify what could be done. The new benches are in place but the garden would benefit from an attractive litter bin. The Bloomers had agreed to plant the planters with poppies to commemorate the outbreak of WW1.

### **(13-14)176 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr McCann reported that the Wyre Growth Strategy would be launched shortly. Cllr Moon reported that the Planning Committee felt frustrated by the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **(13-14)177 Clerk's Report (information only)**

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

#### **Lengthsman's Report**

The Lengthsman spent much of his time during December on clearing up after the storm of 5 December and the subsequent high winds in the following weeks. He has taken some of the many hours owed to him over the Christmas and New Year period.

#### **Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

The 2012/13 Annual Report has been received and is available should any councillor wish to read it.

The Association's Conference will take place on Saturday 5 April 2014 at the Leyland Hotel (Junction 28 M6) and the programme includes a presentation by National Grid, Veterans in the Community, Marketing Lancashire and Employment questions and answers. The cost is £35 per person and, if any councillor wishes to attend, full details can be obtained from the Clerk.

#### **Sustainable Communities Act 2007**

The Act, which allows local authorities to submit proposals they believe will improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their communities direct to the Department for Communities and Local Government, has now been extended to town and parish councils. NALC has developed a 4 step process which they recommend should be followed before formally submitting proposals under the Act.

#### **Useful Publications**

The following publications are available to download from the NALC website ([www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk)):

- The Good Councillors Guide
- Making it Easier to Set Up a New Council
- Localism in Practice
- Being a Good Employer
- Whatever, Yeah – Local Councils and Youth Provision
- Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioner's Guide

There are also toolkits on Communications, Become a Councillor, Create a Council, Create a Youth Council and Elections.

#### **Lancashire & Merseyside County Training Partnership**

The following workshops are being offered in 2014:

6 March	Chairmanship
1 May	Certificate in Local Council Administration (Session 1 of 6)
12 June	Employment
5 July	New Councillors and Clerks – Module 1
19 July	New Councillors and Clerks – Module 2
25 September	Community Engagement
13 November	Chairmanship
4 December	Finance

If any councillor is interested in any of the workshops please let the Clerk know so that a place can be reserved.

## **Ageing Better Consultation**

Wyre Council is asking older people to complete a quick survey to help them to shape services to older people. The deadline for responses is 22 January 2014 and the survey can be accessed at [http://consult.wyre.gov.uk/portal/wyre\\_fulfilling\\_lives\\_ageing\\_better\\_consultation\\_1](http://consult.wyre.gov.uk/portal/wyre_fulfilling_lives_ageing_better_consultation_1)

## **Co-op Deliveries**

LCC has confirmed that it has a number of concerns regarding the proposal for double yellow lines on St Bernard's Road to allow access for delivery vehicles to the rear of the Co-op. They believe that, to introduce the length of double yellow lines required to enable a wagon to manoeuvre would reduce parking for residents and therefore generate objections to the proposal. In addition they believe highway and pedestrian safety would be compromised by a wagon trying to make the manoeuvre. Their proposal is to introduce a loading bay at the front of the store for use by all shops. A proposal will be drawn up in the new year and a consultation carried out with residents.

## **Letter of Thanks**

A letter of thanks has been received from Mr and Mrs Wilson, two of the "Bloomers" invited to supper after the last meeting.

## **Park Lane**

In response to requests to the emergency services for information on the possible effects on vehicles (and in the case of North West Ambulance Service patients) the following responses have been obtained.

Lancashire Constabulary – "We don't record that data so it's impossible for me to say". (Traffic Management Facilitator Mr M Proctor)

North West Ambulance Service – "At this current time we have had no untoward incident forms in about the condition of the road from road staff. I do know from personally driving that section that there are areas that need refurbishment but I am equally aware of the pressures that the local authorities are under. We as a service would welcome any resurfacing of any road, if it ultimately improves road safety and the comfort for our patients". (Sector Manager Mr D Rigby)

## **NHS Choose Well Campaign 2013/4**

This campaign is designed to help to direct people to the health services that can give them the fastest and most effective treatment over the winter period. The aim is to make sure people know about the range of health services available, and also how to keep fit and well. It promotes the message that A&E departments and 999 services are for those who are seriously ill or emergencies, asks people to think twice before calling their GP and gives information about the alternative services available. Promotional material is available to download from [www.blackpoolccg.nhs.uk/local-services](http://www.blackpoolccg.nhs.uk/local-services) and [www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk/campaigns/3348-choose-well](http://www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk/campaigns/3348-choose-well)

## **(13-14)178 Mayor's Report (information only)**

None.

## **(13-14)179 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Carter referred to a press article on the subject of six areas of Wyre to share £60,000 and asked Cllr McCann whether the Town Council could apply. Cllr McCann confirmed that any organisation could apply but needed a project. Cllr Orme confirmed that he had already submitted a bid in respect of the playing field.

Cllrs Taylor and Orme raised a question for the Mayor in his absence relating to why no Christmas cards had been sent from the Town Council last year.

Cllr Nicolls asked Cllr Orme whether he could again raise the issue of the clearing of the dykes on the Pinewood development. Cllr Orme confirmed that the social landlord had cleared the dykes relating to their properties in the autumn but it may be that the householders who also had responsibility had not cleared theirs.

Cllr Greenhough asked Cllr Moon if he could look into the number of parking spaces relating to the Hurstwood development as she felt there were insufficient for the number of apartments being built.

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Taylor whether it is a major project to ask for Smithy Lane/School Lane/Mill Street to be made one way. Cllr Taylor reported that she had asked the same in relation to another area and had been told that it would not be considered a priority.

There being no other business the Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 9.15pm.