

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 July 2014 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

**Present:** Councillors P Orme (Mayor), R Black, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch and K Nicholls.

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council and two members of the public (Item 10).

### **(14-15)028 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Taylor and the reason accepted. The Mayor read a letter from Cllr P Moon tendering his resignation with immediate effect. Councillors **resolved** to ask Wyre Council to begin the process of filling the casual vacancy and to ask the Clerk to write to Cllr Moon to thank him for his many years of good service to the Town Council.

### **(14-15)029 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item Item 20 (verbal report from Wyre in Bloom representative) as his wife is heavily involved in the group. Cllr Orme declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 Playing Field – Grass Protection as he is Chairman of Friends of Preesall Park.

### **(14-15)030 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the ordinary and annual meetings held on 9 June 2014 be agreed as a true record.

### **(14-15)031 Public Participation (Including a Verbal Police Report)**

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

The Clerk had circulated the crime figures and narrative provided by Sgt Freaney which showed that, in June 2014, there had been 15 crimes compared to 11 in June last year and 31 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 16 in the same period last year. Cllr Drobny informed councillors that comparisons can be made with other areas of Lancashire on the Lancashire Constabulary website.

The Clerk reported that the area had lost another PC and the post would not be filled. Cllr Hudson expressed his concern over the further reduction in staffing and his view that there was no commitment to the area by Lancashire Constabulary. He felt that the level of confidence on the part of residents had reduced further and councillors gave examples of incidents where either the Police had not responded or had taken a significant amount of time to respond. Cllr McCann expressed the view that residents were not getting value for money from the amount contributed through Council Tax towards the cost of running the police force. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to express the Town Council's views and to copy it to the Chief Constable, both local MPs and the Home Secretary.

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

### **(14-15)032 Allocation of Affordable Housing by Regenda**

Councillors noted a response provided by Regenda in relation to the application of the local lettings policy in relation to a particular property. Cllr Hudson reported that he had had a different response from Regenda and councillors had other questions they wished to ask them. As a result councillors **resolved** to ask for a meeting with representatives of Regenda to discuss the issue.

Councillors discussed the level of need for social housing in the area and **resolved** to ask Wyre Council and social housing providers for anonymised information on numbers and the types of properties they were seeking compared to the kind of properties available.

**(14-15)033 Community Transport**

Councillors noted that Wyre Council is bidding for several million pounds from the Big Lottery to reduce isolation amongst older people. This bid includes provision for setting up a Community Transport scheme. The Chair of Wyre Senior Forum is asking town and parish councils whether they believe that elderly residents are in any way disadvantaged as a result of poor transport facilities and to let him know their views. Councillors identified the removal of the tram subsidy, issues relating to those who cannot get to the bus route and a lack of transport to enable people to use local shops and facilities as the main issues and **resolved** to include these in the Town Council's response.

**(14-15)034 LCC – Draft Criteria for Assessing Local Bus Services**

Councillors noted that LCC is consulting interested parties on proposed new criteria for assessing subsidised local bus services. Councillors **resolved** that the reliance on the bus service by local residents getting to work and accessing education, the fact that the area is at the end of the peninsula and the high proportion of elderly and disabled people as the issues that should be given priority.

**(14-15)035 Review of Dog Control Orders**

Councillors noted that Wyre Council has recently reviewed dog control orders and **resolved** to support the proposals relating to a specified maximum number of dogs being extended to Preesall Playing Field and the requirement for dogs to be on a lead on Grasmere Road/Lancaster Road Gardens.

**(14-15)036 Parish Charter Refresh**

Councillors considered the draft revised Parish Charter prepared by Wyre Council. Councillors noted that there were a number of things which were not included and noted particularly the withdrawal of the rural grant and the failure of Wyre Council to passport the Local Council Tax Support money provided by government for town and parish councils. Councillors **resolved** that the Town Council will not sign up to a Charter when Wyre Council is withholding money intended for the Town Council.

**(14-15)037 LALC – 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Councillors noted that the AGM will be held on Saturday 8 November at 1.45pm. Councillors **resolved** that Cllrs Orme and McCann will attend and that Cllr Hudson may also attend if he is available.

**(14-15)038 Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2014**

The external audit has now been completed and councillors **resolved** to accept and approve the Annual Return and the Issues Arising report. Councillors noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be displayed on the notice boards and on the website.

**(14-15)039 Wyre Juniors – Use of Playing Field**

Councillors considered the current usage of the playing field in relation to the various policies previously agreed. Councillors **resolved** that the policy of the Town Council in relation to the use of the playing field during the off season is that there be no use of the playing field for training or friendly matches during June and July, other than in relation to the Gala.

Councillors further considered use by a private coach who had been given permission to use the field last autumn and which was continuing and **resolved** that he be informed that he is using the field without permission and must stop.

Councillors further **resolved** that anyone wishing to use the playing field for training or friendly matches (other than the Gala) during June and July must apply to the Town Council for permission.

#### **(14-15)040 Wyre Council Car Parking Regulations**

Cllr Hudson reported that there is no sign prohibiting overnight parking on Quailholme Road car park and that a number of motorhomes are using it for this purpose. Councillors **resolved** to ask Wyre Council to install the appropriate signage and to enforce it.

#### **(14-15)041 Playing Field – Grass Protection**

Cllr Orme asked councillors to consider the purchase of additional grass protection matting to extend the protected area for the vehicles associated with the Gala. Councillors **resolved** to purchase an additional 20 square meters and to ask the Gala Committee to contribute 50% of the cost.

#### **(14-15)042 Playing Field Car Park – Refurbishment of Side Border**

Cllr Orme explained that the height of the side border had built up over the years and become overgrown. He asked councillors to consider budgeting for the border to be reduced to the level of the car park and replanted with rowan trees and appropriate shrubbery. Councillors **resolved** to make provision for this in next year's budget.

#### **(14-15)043 Shop Preesall**

Cllr Drobny asked councillors to consider a scheme to reward those who shop locally similar to that operated in Clitheroe. Councillors **resolved** to investigate the Clitheroe scheme and consider the results at the next meeting.

#### **(14-15)044 Purchase of Litter Picking Sticks**

Cllr Orme asked councillors to consider purchasing a number of litter picking sticks for use by young people on the playing field or other community groups such as the Bloomers. Councillors **resolved** to purchase 10 of the more robust sticks used by Wyre Council.

#### **(14-15)045 Planning Applications**

##### **14/00449/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey live/work unit, replacement stables and alterations to existing access (resubmission of 13/00881/FUL)

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

By a majority (7 councillors voted against the proposal and 2 abstained) it was agreed that the Town Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the site is appropriate for horses but not for living accommodation; the new access onto Lancaster Road could have an effect on highway safety as visibility is obscured by fencing; the site is a Zone 3 Flood Risk area and the site is inappropriate for engineering use.

##### **14/00486/FUL**

**Proposal:** Extension of existing front dormer and creation of rear dormer

**Location:** 14 The Crescent, Preesall

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

##### **14/00450/FUL**

**Proposal:** Change of use of ground floor from retail shop to a two bedroomed flat

**Location:** 50 Lancaster Road, Knott End

It was unanimously agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of the loss of retail space.

**14/00464/FUL****Proposal:** Proposed front and rear dormers**Location:** The Hollies, 11A Links Road, Knott End

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

Councillors noted the following amended application for which no deadline extension had been available and further noted that they had no objections to the original application.

**14/00379/FUL****Proposal:** Erection of detached house with integral garage, including change of agricultural land to domestic curtilage (following demolition of existing building)**Location:** Land at Nickson's Lane, Preesall**(14-15)046 Finance****a) Payments received:**

Wyre Juniors (Inv 14/004)	£103.30
Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund	£250.00
RV, E and H Moon Charitable Trust	£500.00

Wyre Council (In Bloom)	£915.00
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**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£1991.40
Clerk's expenditure on behalf of Council	£41.29
HMRC	£265.95
Wyre Building Supplies	£145.13
BDO LLP (Inv 1288840)	£360.00
Fleetwood High School (Inv 140039)	£85.03
Greenbarnes Ltd (Inv 10879)	£2085.53
The Information Commissioner	£35.00
Viking (Inv 29976)	£53.98
Preesall Auto Discount (Inv 235)	£22.40
C&C Supplies (Collinson) Ltd (Inv 490420)	£40.37
Rigby Taylor (Inv 7707)	£210.90

F H & M Davies & Son (Inv 4752)(In Bloom)	£1006.08
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**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.58
LCC pension	£406.11

**c) Statement of Accounts - June 2014**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for June which shows:

Current account	£26,945.97
Reserve account	£20,150.31
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil
In Bloom Account	£1,739.60

**d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1**

The Q1 Budget Monitoring statement was noted.

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 and transfer.

#### **(14-15)047 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)**

##### **Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr Orme reported that the Forum had met in June. The work on the sea wall was progressing well.

##### **Friends of Preesall Park**

Cllr Orme reported that work was continuing on tidying the edges of the playing field. There had been a number of complaints from neighbours relating to nuisance on the field and work continued on clearing out the corners to reduce the number of hiding places. Fundraising for Phase 2 continues.

##### **Preesall Youth and Community Association**

Cllr Orme reported that more hirers were needed.

##### **Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that Bloomers had weeded the entire Esplanade as Wyre's contractor had sprayed the weeds too late for them to die off before the judging. The judging had taken place earlier today and Wyre and the Bloomers had worked well together to get the area looking its best. Cllr Mutch thanked everyone concerned for all their hard work and this was echoed by councillors.

#### **(14-15)048 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr McCann reported that Preesall had been given Assisted Area Status which would mean the award of EU money for the area. Councillors were asked to identify potential projects for submission to Wyre and the Clerk will obtain further information from Wyre Council.

#### **(14-15)049 Clerk's Report (information only)**

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

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

The Lengthsman provided sterling service at Civic Sunday transporting barriers and signs to meet the road closure notice requirements. As the Gala Committee provided sufficient marshals he was not required to act as a marshal on the day. The Lengthsman has noticed that weeds are proliferating all around the villages and he reports them to the Clerk who reports them to Wyre Council. A number of residents have complained about the weeds and the Lengthsman has to explain that he cannot spray the weeds as he has not had the training required under health and safety legislation. He has made two boxes to sit under the new welcome signs and the Bloomers have planted them up. The Lengthsman is now on watering duty to ensure all the beds are watered in the recent dry spell.

##### **Garstang and Over Wyre Neighbourhood Policing Team**

A number of personnel changes have taken place which has resulted in the loss of a further PC post and his work will be taken on by the rest of the team.

##### **Wyre Council Planning Department**

Wyre Council has announced that, as a result of a high workload volume combined with staff vacancies, planning applications will not be allocated to a planning officer has the capacity to deal with it and applications will be allocated in date order. Planning applications continue to be sent out for consultation and any representations received will be uploaded to the website as usual.

##### **Wyre Sports Stars**

Wyre Council is looking for the borough's most talented sports stars and those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support individuals and clubs. Nominations are invited in the following categories:

- Adult Volunteer of the Year (25+ years old)
- Coach of the Year
- Community Club of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Rising Star (under 21 years)
- School of the Year
- Service to Disability Sport Award
- Young Volunteer of the Year (14-24 years)

More information or to make a nomination [wyre.gov.uk/sportsawards](http://wyre.gov.uk/sportsawards). Closing date for nominations is 18 July.

### **Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership**

There will be a Community Engagement workshop on 25 September, a Chairmanship workshop on 13 November and a Finance workshop on 4 December. The workshops usually take place from 7 to 9pm at a cost of around £25.

### **Queen's Award for Voluntary Services**

Nominations for the award are open until 30 September 2014. The award is the equivalent to an MBE and winning groups may also be invited to a Royal Garden Party. Visit [www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service](http://www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service).

### **Open Spaces**

Town and village greens are land where local people have enjoyed informal recreation, for at least 20 years, without challenge or permission. Once the land has been registered as a green it is protected from development. Now landowners can submit a statement and map challenging the informal use of the land and thereby threaten the public's ability to register it as a town or village green. When such a statement is made local people have only one year to submit an application to register it as a green based on 20 years informal use.

### **Letter of Thanks From RNLI**

A letter of thanks has been received following the donation of £40.00 from the Mayor's Charity for the work of the Fleetwood Lifeboat Station

### **NALC Meeting with Brandon Lewis MP**

On 17 June a NALC delegation met with Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss local government finance and the 2015 parish elections. The Chairman updated the Minister on the latest situation regarding council tax support funding in 2014/15, welcoming the Minister's statement and letters to billing authorities as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, but expressing concern over the 15 billing authorities still not passing on grant funding in the current financial year. Further action by the Minister was requested and the Chairman again pressed him to identify funding in the financial settlement for 2015/16 or issue statutory guidance to billing authorities or fund parish councils directly. The minister agreed to hold a roundtable meeting involving officials and representatives from the sector including some of our largest councils to examine in detail how parish finances work, council tax support funding and referenda.

### **Onshore Oil and Gas Supplementary Planning Document – Notification of Scoping Consultation**

The minerals and waste planning authorities of Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (the Joint Authorities) intend to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document on Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution. The first stage in the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document is to consult with key stakeholders on the scope and level of detail that should be included in the Supplementary Planning Document. The purpose of this document is to advise stakeholders of the issues that the Joint Authorities consider should be addressed by the Supplementary Planning Document. This provides the opportunity for key stakeholders

to comment and to contribute any further issues and information that may be relevant for inclusion. A Supplementary Planning Document is a document which can be prepared to add further detail to the policies in the local plan and provide further guidance on particular issues. It cannot introduce new planning policies; they can only be contained in a local plan. It is intended that the Supplementary Planning Document will provide guidance on the interpretation and application of the policies in the adopted Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocation and Development Management Local Plan, describing how these policies can be applied to developments for onshore oil and gas exploration, production and distribution.

The main aims and objectives of the Supplementary Planning Document are to provide further guidance on the interpretation of policy contained within the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan and provide a reference document for the residents of Lancashire new to the subject explaining the planning and other regulatory processes, providing links to relevant publications and sources of information.

Any suggestions on the proposed structure and content of the Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution Supplementary Planning Document should be sent before 25 July to the Planning Team, Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate PO Box 100, Room C4, County Hall, Preston PR1 0LD, by email to [lmwf@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:lmwf@lancashire.gov.uk) or online at: <http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation/responses/response.asp?ID=241>

### **Casual Vacancy**

Since no electors asked for an election by the specified date (18 June) the Council can proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. An article advertising the vacancy has been placed in the July edition of the Over Wyre Focus with a closing date of 25 August. The article will be repeated in the August edition. The vacancy has also been advertised on the notice boards and on the website.

### **Electronic Dispatch of Agendas accepted under Sustainable Communities Act**

Current legislation requires that the agenda for town and parish council meetings must be delivered to the address of the councillor in hard copy. Stephen Williams MP, Minister for Communities and Local Government, has announced that he has accepted a proposal from Tenterton Town and Bleadon Parish Councils submitted under the Sustainable Communities Act (barrier busting) provisions relating to electronic dispatch of agendas. DCLG intends to introduce secondary legislation that will allow agendas to be dispatched electronically provided that the recipient has given their permission.

### **New Notice Board**

The new notice board has arrived and is waiting for the Lengthsman to erect it.

### **Wyre Flood Plan Revised**

Wyre Council has revised the Flood Plan taking into account lessons learned from the severe weather events over the last 12 months and the formation of site specific flood groups (including Preesall). View the document at <http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200144/emergencyplanning>

Cllr Nicholls raised the issue of the Millennium tiles and the fact that they were still not laid and councillors asked the Clerk to write to Pilling Pottery to ask for the work to be carried out. Cllr Orme reported that the new notice board is likely to be put into place shortly and that the new community notice board will be erected on the edge of the car park rather than on the wall of the Wyre Juniors building which would enable more people to read the notices.

### **(14-15)050 Mayor's Report (information only)**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Gala which had been a great event and had attended Wyre's Civic Sunday. He had been disappointed with the number of councillors who had attended his Civic Sunday. He has been invited to open an event relating to WW1.

**(14-15)051 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Orme asked councillors to confirm the date of the Christmas light switch on for Saturday 29 November which would incorporate a Christmas Fair as last year and councillors agreed.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.25pm.