

## PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 11 June 2018  
at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

**Present:** Cllrs L Woodhouse (Mayor), B Burn, R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, G McCann, R Lawson, J Mutch, P Orme, N Pattrick, T Reilly.

**In attendance:** Alison May, clerk to the town council, 3 members of the public.

### **018a(1) Apologies for absence**

Cllr Black

### **018b(1) Absent without apology**

### **019(2) Declarations of interests and dispensations**

Cllr Burn – item 7; Cllr Orme – item 9e and Wyre Council-related matters.

### **020(3) Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 14 May be agreed as a true record.

### **021(4) Public participation**

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

Members of the public raised the following matters:

-Cllr Hudson was asked if he could provide details of the proposed split from Wyre, staffing numbers etc.

*In response:* The item had been put on the agenda to enable it to be looked at seriously and to propose a paper be published describing how it could work in practice.

-Thanks were expressed for the work that had been done to address the highways issues, in particular the dedication of Cllr Pattrick and County Cllr Salter in their measuring and reporting of potholes. The difference this has made to the township is clearly visible.

-County Cllr Salter said that the repairs to the potholes were now slower than hoped as there is a backlog of work; he expressed his thanks to Cllr Pattrick for the work she had done. He also stated that funding for the resurfacing of Park Lane from Fordstone Avenue to Lindel Lane was in last year's budget and that the work should commence soon.

-Cllr Hudson thanked Cllr Salter for the work he had done over the past four months and stated that Fordstone Avenue was in need of resurfacing.

-Thanks were expressed on behalf of the Preesall and Knott End Gala team for the council's support of the gala and the suggested trophy. The trainee marshals would be undertaking their road closure course in Oldham on 12 June.

*At the conclusion of the public participation (7.15pm) and at the request of the mayor, councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.*

### **022(5) Internal auditors report and recommendations**

Cllr Orme commented that the positive internal auditor's report was an excellent reflection of the clerk's work.

**Resolved:** to note the report as provided and to approve the response as presented.

**023(6) Training policy**

The benefit of sharing information gleaned from attendance on training courses was seen as a positive step.

**Resolved:** for the policy to be re-adopted subject to additional wording being inserted to require those who attend non-generic training to write a brief summary of what they have learnt for dissemination to other councillors.

**024(7) Willowgrove council tax payments**

Councillors were made aware of the different types of residence on the site and the circumstances of when council tax payments have to be paid. The matter is one that affects a number of similar sites across the country and is part of the wider issue of individual tenant rights – it is something residents on the park would need to raise with the MP.

**025(8) Parking on grass verge outside library**

Councillors were informed that the issue of parking on Plantation Avenue had been brought to the attention of Wyre Council earlier in the year. The possibility of bollards had been suggested, but this would be only on the right-hand side (owned by Wyre Council) as the left-hand side is owned by Lancashire County Council.

**Resolved:** for the clerk to write a letter to LCC, requesting that the land on the left be protected in a similar fashion to the Wyre land.

**026(9) Flags for village**

**Resolved:** that from the flags offered, the council would make a charity donation of £2.50 per flag (x6 Union and x12 St George's 3'x2' flags).

**027(10) Grant application**

Councillors were of the opinion that they needed further information/clarification prior to making a decision on the grant application.

**Resolved:** for the clerk to make the applicants aware of the council's concerns and to ask for the paperwork to be resubmitted.

**028(11) Beach access via steps off the Esplanade**

Cllr Orme informed councillors that he had made contact with Natural England to obtain the requisite information on carrying out activities on Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The paperwork had been passed to the clerk who asked for a working group to be established to help take this piece of work forward.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Burn, Cllr Greenhough and Cllr Orme would form a working group to look at the possibility of installing a decked access to the beach.

**029(12) Feedback from Battle's Over committee**

Councillors were given sight of a draft itinerary for the event and updated as to the committee's progress in organising the event. As the minutes of the April meeting had been approved by the committee they were noted by the council.

**030(13) Legislation and council decisions**

At the request of Cllr Drobny councillors agreed to defer this item to the July meeting.

**031(14) Public Rights Of Way delivery scheme**

**Resolved:** that the council would take part in this year's scheme.

**032(15) Purchase of strimming and pruning equipment**

Having looked at the three quotes for the equipment it was decided to go with the cheapest option from a supplier based near Garstang.

**Resolved:** to purchase a STIHL combi with shrub cutter from Mowercare Ltd at a cost of £700 including VAT.

**033(16) Update on Preesall Hill**

Cllr Hudson informed councillors that he was undertaking a survey to gather the views of residents of Mill Street and Smithy Lane in respect of introducing permit parking and hoped to have an answer in a week to 10 days. He also raised concerns in respect of the dangerous road conditions at peak school times as a result of inconsiderate/illegal parking in the vicinity of Preesall Hill and the fear that someone is going to be seriously injured.

**Resolved:** for the clerk to write a letter requesting a police presence to address the school-time parking issues.

**034(17) Local administration**

The practicalities, significant costs and doubt as to the legal means by which this suggestion could be implemented were raised. The suggestion that a feasibility report could be produced was seen as impractical as the clerk and councillors do not have the skills base to produce such a document and to pay for one would be phenomenally expensive. It was suggested that with the increase in devolved government there could be more opportunities in the future for the council take on additional responsibilities.

**Resolved:** that the council does not wish to take the matter forward.

**035(18) Support for Preesall Flood Action group**

As this item potentially involved an employment issue it was **resolved** to move it into private session at agenda item 27.

**36(19) Inaugural flag-flying at new flagpole**

**Resolved:** to invite Wing Commander Tim McAuley from RAF Spadeadam to raise the first flag on the new flagpole on Monday 25 June at 2.30pm.

**37(20) Vivien Taylor memorial trophy**

Following a resolution at the May meeting to sponsor a trophy in memory of Cllr Vivien Taylor councillors were shown a picture of the proposed trophy.

**Resolved:** to purchase a 12" trophy at a cost of £149.99 and to waive financial regulations in accordance with standing order 11.1.d as research on the size and price of the cup had already been conducted by members of the gala committee.

**38(21) Finance**

Councillors:

a) <b>noted</b> receipts at the meeting Current account	2272.61
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<b>b) approved</b> the following payments:	Cheque	
Payroll	284,285,286	2700.30
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	287	122.40
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	288	40.00
Fordstone General Store	289	335.00
Cartridgesave (inv.74916)	290	106.73
Wyre Building Supplies Ltd (SI 0166192, 0166395, 0167231)	291	102.98
Mrs S Barlow (In Bloom 12.05.18)	23	91.66
Mrs S Barlow (In Bloom 12.05.18)(2)	24	50.31

<b>c) To approve</b> the following payments by standing order/direct debit	
Easy Web Sites (hosting fee)	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	14.35
LCC (contributions)	777.13
LCC (deficit)	8.33

<b>d) To accept</b> the statement of accounts for May 2018	
Current Account	£114305.13
Reserve Account	£30687.78
In Bloom Account	£4533.62
<b>e) To note</b> that chq 292 & 293 were incorrectly made out to Mrs Barlow and have now been cancelled	

### 39(22) Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

**Co-op** – Cllr Woodhouse

**Best Kept Village** – Cllr Orme reported that judging started on Saturday.

**G & KE light railway** – Cllr Drobny reported that discussions were continuing with the directors of NPL and that the business case was 75 per cent complete. The next meeting of the group will be on 23 June.

**Health** – Cllr Greenhough reported that she had been liaising with a company that provides diabetic eye screening to see if a clinic could be established in the township so that people don't have to travel long distances for their checks.

**Housing** – Cllr Hudson updated councillors regarding another problem property and that the clerk will try and establish who owns it.

**Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre Area Committee)** – Cllr Orme reported that NALC had issued a discussion paper re how we see the parish sector developing and encouraged everyone to have their say.

**Preesall Youth and Community Association** – Cllr Patrick reported that the AGM would be on 2 July at 7pm and that every building user will be invited to attend. The centre has received a grant from Moon's Trust to go towards the improvement work.

**Planning Ambassador** – Cllr McCann informed the council that he had attended the planning committee to oppose the planning application for 10 houses on Little Tongues Lane because of flooding concerns.

**Tourism** – Cllr Woodhouse reported that the landings had been extremely well attended with the information having been got out to the community on Friday. It was suggested that the Mayor write a letter thanking the organisers as events such as this are good for the commercial outlook of the village.

**Wyre Flood Forum** – Cllr Orme and Cllr Pattrick Sunnyside Terrace has now been give priority status for works to be undertaken so improvements should start soon.

**Wyre In Bloom** – Cllr Mutch reported that the team had planted up the new bed in front of the library. She also asked if any councillors would be prepared to allow the team to get water from their taps as the volunteers are all on water meters.

**Youth** – Cllr Pattrick reported that 25 children would be going on a residential break in September.

**40(23) Verbal report from Wyre councillor (information only)**

Cllr Orme reported that the Local Plan was now back with the inspector for scrutiny, with a decision expected in due course.

**41(24) Clerk’s report (information only)**

**Lengthsman’s report**

In May the Lengthsman has removed the decayed bench on the sea front and has replaced it with a new one. He has also carried out maintenance work on other benches. He assisted with the setting-up of the library for mayor making, moving furniture from the youth and community centre for the event. Following the spurt in growth of vegetation he has started cutting back and clearing pathways.

**External audit**

The relevant paperwork has been sent to the external auditor. The inspection period commenced on 4 June and will end on 13 July.

**GDPR**

Residents on the council’s list of contacts for civic events have been asked to confirm that they are happy for the council to keep their details on file. Twelve have confirmed that they consent to their details being held, details for the remainder have been deleted.

**Consultation on community transport in Lancashire**

The closing date has been extended to Sunday 24 June 2018.

-Cllr Hudson reported that he was still trying to get a response from Regenda regarding a possible allotment site – Cllr Orme reported that he had been approached by two potential tenants.

**42(25) Mayor’s report (information only)**

The Mayor reported that she had had an enjoyable first month, having attended the first anniversary of OWSAC and walked to school with Carter’s Charity primary followed by afternoon tea with Fleetwood’s Charity primary. She also attended both Mayor making and Civic-Sunday at Garstang, the Over Wyre Choral Society concert and the Lancashire Landings.

**43(26) Questions to councillors**

Cllr Burn requested an apology from Cllr Drobny for his having posted incorrect information on Facebook regarding Cllr Burn. Cllr Burn also suggested that Cllr Drobny should have checked with the clerk to ensure his facts were correct and should as a matter of courtesy have contacted the people he was naming before posting anything.

The Mayor reminded councillors that they should not be posting on social media without first thinking what the impact would be as even in a private capacity it is perceived they are posting as a councillor. Any queries should go via the clerk, not social media, as it is both upsetting and brings the council into disrepute.

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr McCann to investigate application 14/00051/FUL and whether what has been built

complies with planning requirements. Cllr Orme reported that the planning officers were aware of the development.

Cllr Hudson asked whether there will be a limitation on the opening hours of the takeaway at the bottom of Smithy Lane and Cllr Orme agreed to make enquiries.

Cllr Orme reported that the refused planning application for development on Cartgate had now been taken to appeal by the applicant.

Cllr Orme reported that the clerk's appraisal with the EWG had been scheduled for 9 July and for any comments to be passed to him.

**44(27) 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 at 9.50pm to discuss:

- a) previous green paper items and agenda item 18 that had been moved into private session.

**45(28) Items for next agenda**

The next meeting will be held on 9 July 2018. Deferred item 13. Cllr Patrick to become joint lead on highways with Cllr Hudson. Councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda by notifying the Clerk **in writing** by Thursday 28 June at the latest with a summary of the reason for raising the matter.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 10.15pm.