

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 08 May 2017
at 6.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall**

Present: Councillors T Reilly (Mayor), B Burn, R Drobny, P Greenhough, G McCann, J Mutch, R Lawson, P Orme, V Taylor and L Woodhouse.

In attendance: Alison May, Clerk to the Town Council, and six members of the public.

1(17-18)001a Apologies for absence

Cllr D Hudson

1(17-18)001b Absent without apology

Cllr Black

2(17-18)002 Declarations of interests and dispensations

None

3(17-18)003 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: 1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017 be agreed as a true record.

4(17-18)004 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 items:

- Congratulations were expressed to the Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect for later that evening and to Cllr Taylor for her re-election as County Councillor.
- Concerns were expressed that the break-in rate for the area is reputedly 42% higher than the national average and councillors were asked if this is correct.
In response – Cllr Drobny reported that he keeps a close watch on the statistics and that he has expressed his own concerns to the police in respect of the published clearance rates and was unhappy with the dismissive response he received. He offered to look at the statistics and raise this with the police again. It was also noted that the crime statistics for the previous month were not available for discussion at the meeting. Cllr Reilly asked that the matter be left with him and that he would liaise further with Cllr Drobny on the matter; he also reported that the police rely on a volunteer to prepare the statistics.
- Cllr Orme reported that he had been approached by a member of the public regarding many of the dropped kerbs in the village not reaching the Tarmac and a member of the public with a mobility scooter was experiencing difficulties. They had been advised to raise this with Cllr Taylor.
In response - Cllr Reilly asked that this be left with himself and the clerk to progress.

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

5(17-18)005 Update regarding breach of the Code of Conduct

The appropriateness of reading out the letter from the Monitoring Officer detailing the outcome of the standards hearing findings, in respect of an ex-councillor who had been found to have breached the Code of Conduct when in office, was raised. Cllr Drobny proposed and Cllr Burn seconded that the letter

be acknowledged and that a 'silent' copy be provided to all councillors. Cllr Reilly requested a recorded vote. Councillors Burn, Drobny, Greenhough and Woodhouse voted in favour of the motion; Councillors Lawson, McCann, Mutch, Orme, Reilly and Taylor voted against the motion. The clerk was asked to read the statement out. At this point Cllr Greenhough rose to leave the meeting and was asked by the Mayor not to disrupt the meeting, he also pointed out that this had been a democratic vote and he requested that she sit down to complete council business. The clerk was again asked to read out the following: *'The Monitoring Officer and Independent Person, having considered all the evidence presented, accept the Investigating Officer's findings and conclude that a former Town Councillor, who resigned in November of last year, by improperly impugning the integrity and professionalism of the former Clerk to Preesall Town Council, Miss Jan Finch, in an email of 9th February, through the grievance procedure to the Council meeting on the 9th May, did breach paragraph 1 bullet point 8 of Preesall Town Council's Code of Conduct by not promoting and supporting high standards of conduct, by the manner in which they pursued the argument concerning the existence of the Santander account and surrounding issues.'*

6(17-18)006 Disclosure of information

As this was to be a direct response to Cllr Hudson, who wasn't present, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the July meeting.

7(17-18)007 Public Rights Of Way delivery scheme

Resolved: That the council sign up to the public rights of way delivery scheme for 2017/18.

8(16-17)008 Attendance at new councillors and clerks training

Resolved: That Cllr Burn attend the new councillors workshop in August at a cost of £30.

9(17-18)009 2016/17 Budget out-turn and annual return

Councillors were asked to agree Section 1 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement. Cllr Drobny questioned the council's ability to sign off paragraphs 3 and 8 given that he believed he had been discriminated against under the Equalities Act for disability discrimination and harassment. Cllr Taylor pointed out that the finances in question for sign-off were those for 2016/17; discussion also focused on nothing having officially been received by the council regarding this allegation in 2016/17 and that the council cannot surmise the outcome of a possible claim in 2017 for something of which it had no detailed knowledge in 2016/17.

Resolved: by majority to agree items 1-8 and unanimously that item 9 be agreed.

Councillors were also asked to agree Section 2 of the Annual Return – Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Resolved: to agree section 2.

10(17-18)010 Draft annual report

Resolved: To agree the Annual Report for the financial year 2016/17 and for its publication.

11(17-18)011 Transfer of funds to business account

In order to meet the audit requirement for between three and six months' expenditure to be held in reserve councillors

Resolved: That £7,000 be transferred from the current account into the reserve account.

12(17-18)012 Action plan

Resolved: To adopt the action plan - as presented - for the financial year 2017/18.

13(17-18)013 Planning applications

17/00194/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single-storey rear extension to provide storage of antiques

Location: 2A Barton House Barton Square Knott End-on-Sea Poulton le Fylde

Resolved: that the council objects to the application on the grounds of inadequate access, parking and health and safety concerns

17/00236/FUL

Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling with garage and creation of new access

Location: Land adj to Brandlehow Nicksons Lane Preesall FY6 0NY

Resolved: by a majority (7 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention) to approve the application

17/00296/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary granny annexe

Location: Park House Farm 10 Burned House Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde

Resolved: unanimously to approve the application

17/00360/FUL

Proposal: Single-storey rear extension with new pitched roof over side dormer, widening of driveway to include an extension to the dropped kerb and a new side car port

Location: 21 Meadow Avenue Preesall Poulton le Fylde Lancashire FY6 0HA

Resolved: to unanimously approve the application, on the proviso that no work commences until the dropped kerb is in place.

14(17-18)14 Finance

a) It was **resolved to note** the following receipts:

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|---|-----------|
| Precept | £92588.00 |
| Easy-web (refund of extra direct debit) | £ 24.00 |
| Reserve account interest | £ 0.18 |

b) It was **resolved to pay** the following:

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|---|-----------|
| Payroll | £ 2858.34 |
| Clerk's expenses | £ 47.05 |
| Lengthsman's expenses | £ 40.00 |
| Preesall Auto Discount Centre (inv.694) | £ 25.97 |
| Towers and Gornall (inv.3035) | £ 528.00 |
| Wyre Building Supplies (inv. SI0121691) | £ 35.00 |
| Additional clerk's expenses for Mayor-making (see clerk's expense sheet) | £ 117.92 |

It was resolved **to note** the following payments:

Payments by standing order/direct Debit

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Easy Websites (hosting fee) | £ 24.00 |
| O2 (mobile phone contract) | £ 14.33 |
| LCC (contributions) | £ 604.52 |

c) It was **resolved to accept** the Statement of Accounts for April 2017 showing balances of:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Current account | £104,419.67 |
| Reserve account | £ 23,677.59 |
| In Bloom account | £ 4,795.68 |

It was **resolved** to suspend items 15 – 19 due to time constraints regarding attendance at the Annual Meeting.

20(17-18)015

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 to discuss:

- a) an item relating to an employment matters

Cllr Reilly handed chairmanship to the Deputy Mayor at this point and left the meeting in order to welcome guests at the subsequent Annual Meeting.

There being no other business the Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 18.55.

Item 17 on the agenda, the clerk's report (previously copied to all councillors) is attached for information only at this point.

Clerk's report

Lengthsman's report

In April the lengthsman has cleared the dyke off Pilling Lane of accumulated debris and has started trimming and weed killing pathways, particularly the ginnels around the Lakes estate. He tidied around the benches in readiness for the Easter holiday and has cleared fallen branches from around the library. Litter continues to be a problem.

Response from chairman of P&KE Y&CA

A letter of thanks (**enclosed**) has been received from the chairman of the youth and community association in respect of the grant made by the council. The letter outlines how this money will benefit the community, particularly the young people of Preesall and Knott End.

Internal Audit

Arrangements have been made to provide the internal auditor with the necessary paperwork on 12 May for her to be able to conduct this year's audit.

Pension Auto Enrolment

Towers and Gornall has now completed the official registration to comply with the council's staging date.

Signed.....