

PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 November 2017 at 7.00pm at Preesall Youth and Community Centre, Lancaster Road, Preesall

Present: Councillors T Reilly (Mayor), R Drobny, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, P Orme, L Woodhouse.

In attendance: Alison May, clerk to the town council, and 5 members of the public.

144a(17-18)1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs R Black, B Burn.

144b(17-18)1 Absent without apology

None

145(17-18)2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Orme – agenda items 7,9,13 and both planning applications; Cllr Hudson – planning application 17/00992/Ful; Cllr Reilly – agenda items 4,8,13,22c.

Councillors resolved to move agenda item 11 after agenda item 4; agenda item 24 to agenda item 14; agenda item 8 into private session at agenda item 22 and for the deputy mayor to chair the meeting for agenda item 22.

146(17-18)3 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 17 in both open and closed session be agreed as a true record and the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November be agreed as a true record. Cllr Hudson thanked the clerk for her clear reporting of planning application 17/00933/FUL.

147(17-18)4 Public participation

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

- The council was addressed by the local representative of Advocacy, a charity providing advocate support in person, by email and over the phone to individuals wishing to raise concerns relating to social care and health complaints. The service is free and confidential and encourages self-help by signposting people in how to make a complaint right through to the ombudsman. All volunteer staff are trained in how to make complaints but they do not get involved with litigation or compensation. The service is funded by Lancashire County Council. The council was informed that Advocacy is seeking accommodation in the township, on a bi-monthly basis, from which to operate.
- Councillors were asked for an update on CCTV provision.
In response: Funds are in the bank already with the final provision having been allocated to the budget for 2018/19. A meeting has also been arranged to discuss how this project can best be taken forward.
- Councillors were informed of broken flags outside the butchers in Knott End.
In response: The flags have been repaired on at least two occasions. Unfortunately vehicles park on the pavement and damage them. Cllr Orme stated that he would report the damage to LCC.
- Cllr Hudson stated that he was disappointed that there was no police representation at the meeting, especially considering the theft of the cash machine from the Co-op.
- Cllr McCann said that he would be asking for an item on the December agenda to look at proceeding with works at the war memorial for the commemoration of the end of WW1 and to propose dedicating the proposed flagpole at the Battle of Britain memorial to the RAF.

- Cllr Drobny reported that comments had been passed to him that there was too much talk about flags and war etc and that the council needs to be looking forward rather than back.
In response: Other than the Union Flag, all other flags have been donated to the council.
- A representative from the Co-op thanked the Mayor for judging the pumpkin carving at short notice. She also informed councillors that presentation of the monies from the latest round of donations from the Co-op would take place on 25 November at 2.00pm and asked the Mayor if he would preside over this. Offers were once again made to help with the festive light switch-on.
In response: Councillors suggested that a donation of mince pies would be much appreciated.
- Cllr Hudson asked when the cash machine was scheduled to be replaced.
In response: Staff at Preesall Co-op reported that it would be January.

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

148(17-18)11 Advocacy service

Cllr Orme, the chairman of Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Association, which is responsible for the building, stated that this was something that would be good to add to the portfolio of events held at the building. He went on to state that the council's donation ensured that the building remained open for the community and that the facilities provided a waiting area and private consultation area. The rooms are given free to a number of organisations within the community and provision every two months to Advocacy could be arranged.

Resolved: that the council the council is in favour of the service being established within the township.

149(17-18)5 Closer working with Co-op on projects to benefit the township

Resolved: that Cllr Lynda Woodhouse act as the initial point of contact between the council and the Co-op regarding closer working on community initiatives.

150(17-18)6 Problems with drink-driving

Councillors were made aware of Cllr Hudson's concerns regarding the blasé attitude of some residents who think that is acceptable to drink and drive.

Resolved: for the clerk to send a letter to the Chief Constable – Andy Rhodes – informing him of the council's concerns and asking for an increased police presence and roadside checks throughout the festive period in Preesall and Knott End.

151(17-18)7 FOPP - phase three of playing field development

Councillors were of the opinion that this was a positive development with health benefits for the community but were unclear how the monies, if loaned, would be able to be repaid. The clerk informed councillors that for the Friends of Preesall Park to comply with the requirements of the Lancashire Enterprise Fund grant they should have funds in place or at least a guarantee of the money. A loan would mean that FOPP had a debt obligation.

Resolved: that the council would make a grant of £1,848 to FOPP subject to completion of the necessary paperwork and agreement to comply with the terms of the council's grant policy.

152(17-18)9 Wyre Borough Council planning department

Cllr Hudson made it clear that his proposal of a vote of no confidence was in respect of Wyre's planning department and not the planning committee, which he believes does a good job. He cited examples of where he believed failures had occurred, namely travellers on Lancaster Road and developments on the Saracen's Head car park and Mill Street. It was pointed out that planners can only act on the information they have and if the consultative organisations do not provide the necessary input then that restricts what they can do as they also have to comply with planning legislation. The problem of administrative errors

was raised and Cllr Orme said he would find out what had happened and ensure the problems were rectified.

Resolved: to reject Cllr Hudson's proposed vote of no confidence in Wyre Borough Council planners.

153(17-18)10 Finance committee membership/cheque signatory

Resolved: that Cllr Woodhouse be appointed to the finance committee and set up as a cheque signatory.

154(17-18)12 Draft budget for 2017/18

Having worked through the first draft of the budget for 2018/19 councillors accepted the proposals and

Resolved: that a further draft be considered once information regarding the ferry funding and revised Wyre Borough Council tax base is known.

155(17-18)13 Provision of special chair

Councillors were of the opinion that for a chair to be provided it would have to be suitable for Cllr Drobny's specific needs and that this could only be decided by someone qualified to advise on the type of chair needed. As the chair will not be used full time it was agreed that a second-hand chair would be satisfactory if a suitable one could be found. Cllr Drobny was asked to consult his occupational therapist and provide information to the clerk on his requirements.

Resolved: that the council would provide Cllr Drobny with a suitable chair for use in council meetings once details of his specific requirements had been made known.

156(17-18)24 LCC highways

Resolved: to defer this agenda item until the January meeting.

157(17-18)14 Town councillor vacancy

Resolved: for the casual vacancy on the council to be advertised before Christmas with a closing date for applications of 31 December 2017 and for interviews for co-option to be held from 10.00am on Saturday 27 January 2018.

158(17-18)15 Planning applications

17/00899/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of existing garage/store/workshop to form one dwelling with associated parking and landscaping

Location: The Hill Mill Street Preesall Poulton Le Fylde

Resolved: To object to the application on the grounds that 1) It is not possible to convert something that has never existed. The structure should have been a garage as per the original plans, yet from the outset it has been accommodation with windows and a chimney. 2) Access to the existing property is a problem with the owner electing to park his vehicle on Mill Street rather than use the driveway. Access for emergency vehicles is already severely restricted and there are significant problems on Mill Street with parking along one side of the road in effect making it impossible for two vehicles to pass on what is a two-way road. The line of sight when leaving the driveway affords no visibility of vehicles coming down the hill. This is of particular concern at school time as there are many children going up and coming down the street. It is noted that the highways department has raised concerns in respect of access to both the street and the property. (8 against, 1 abstention).

17/00992/FUL

Proposal: Erection of temporary residential dwelling for two years

Location: Proctors Farm 358 Pilling Lane Preesall Poulton le Fylde FY6 0HH

Resolved: That the removal of the agricultural tie has adversely affected this application with the council objecting to the application on the grounds that the development would be an incursion into the countryside. No properties exist on this side of the lane which historically has been used for agricultural/bird rearing purposes. (6 against, 3 abstentions).

159(17-18)16 Finance

It was resolved **to note** that the finance committee met on 8 November 2017 and reviewed the second quarter's financial transactions and approved November's monthly payments.

a) Councillors noted the following receipts:	
Current account	6.87
Reserve account	0.27

b) Councillors noted the following payments:	Cheque	
Payroll	215, 216, 217	2602.04
Clerk's expenses (on behalf of council)	215	47.59
Lengthsman's expenses (on behalf of council)	216	40.00
Preesall Auto Discount Centre (inv.762)	218	39.49
Wyre Building Supplies (inv. 143974 and 145433)	219	72.00
Mr P Orme (2312 8880 6385 9984)	220	22.43
Royal British Legion (Inv.01/17 (PCN05))	221	34.00
Thompson Dagnall (war memorial posts)	222	2000.00
Mrs Y McCann (In Bloom inv 026833)	19	53.75

c) Councillors approved the following payment:		
Mr P Orme (115677)	223	78.40

d) Councillors noted the following payments by standing order/direct debit	
Easy Websites (hosting fee)	24.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	13.72
LCC (contributions)	749.09
LCC (deficit) October	8.33

e) Councillors noted the statement of accounts for October 2017	
Current account	73483.13
Reserve account	30679.07
In Bloom account	3933.06

e) Councillors noted the second quarter budget monitoring	
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160(17-18)17 Verbal reports from subject leads and outside body representatives (information only)

Housing – Cllr Hudson reported that he had been thanked for his assistance by the neighbours of a property needing repair on Parksway, which had now been renovated. A similar property on Elmwood is

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being investigated by Wyre Council. He also reported that he had been approached re a plot of land on Hampson Grove with suggestions for it to be made into an allotment.

Health – Cllr Greenhough reported that United Utilities had admitted to having found cryptosporidium in the water supply two years ago and that it had been chemically treated. She stated that there were still problems with the water supply in Fleetwood with traces of the bug having been found.

Tourism – Cllr Orme reported that the artist originally approached for the sign on the ferry slip was no longer interested in the work so he was now in contact with several potential artists.

Youth – Cllr Orme reported that there had been a spate of anti-social behaviour and that the safety of youth workers and young people had been put at risk. This had resulted in a decision to close the youth centre for just over a week. It had been decided that CCTV would help all concerned and that the youth workers had started a crowdfunding page and raised £260 in two days. They were hoping to raise £1,000 towards the cost of installation and would approach the council with assistance towards the final costs once quotes were secured. The Mayor stated he would liaise with the clerk to call an emergency meeting to discuss this.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (Wyre area committee) – Cllr Orme reported that the AGM had been very interesting and he had the opportunity to speak with the head of planning and the lead worker at standards. Wyre area LALC would be meeting on 22 November.

Wyre Flood Forum – Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting had been delayed and would now take place on 23 November.

Wyre in Bloom – Cllr Mutch reported that the team had been awarded the silver gilt certificate at Southport in the small town category. Cllr Orme reported that the Jubilee Garden had been awarded a trophy in the Best Kept Village competition.

Planning ambassador – Cllr McCann reported that the Local Plan was now being considered for approval.

Christmas Fair – Cllr Orme reported that the insurance for the small stall holders had caused a minor problem, this had been resolved and insurance was now in place.

Councillors **resolved** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

161(17-18)18 Verbal report from Wyre councillors (information only)

None

162(17-18)19 Clerk's report (information only)

Lengthsman's report

In October the lengthsman has been collecting fallen leaves around the villages and has been spraying the last of the weeds and generally tidying the footpaths and keeping the gutters cleared; he has also swept the Esplanade and sea wall.

RAF centenary planting arrangements

The In Bloom team has indicated that it is happy to agree to a proposal to plant a flowerbed in red, white and blue colour schemes to mark next year's centenary of the Royal Air Force.

Together We Make a Difference

Members of the Together We Make a Difference team will be at Knott End Library between 10am and noon on Tuesday 5 December, when they will set out details of the scheme, which is aimed at enabling local people to make a difference in their communities through collaboration and empowerment. The clerk has been invited to attend.

Letter from Adrian Cross

Mr Cross has indicated that all the tiles can be returned to him at the pottery or to his home on Sandy Lane. This applies also to a collection believed to be held by the lengthsman. Mr Cross says the subsurface will again need relaying, meaning it all needs to be dug out and concreted again. He has been in touch with a couple of farmers who have agreed to take the debris and the site will probably need to be fenced off. He intends to see if he can beg or borrow proper fencing and then complete the job as

quickly as possible. He sees the lifting of the tiles as relatively easy and envisages cleaning them up early next year, digging out the subsurface and relaying over a couple of weekends.

Christmas grant funds

It is understood that the council has been successful in its 2017 grant application for funding towards the festive lights and has been awarded the sum of £3,170. Confirmatory letters are expected this week.

Meeting with Lite representative

Councillors will remember that back in April the clerk was given delegated responsibility for the provision of this year's festive lights. The clerk has met the representative from Lite lighting to discuss the provision of new lights in the trees around the library. Given the delay in finding out whether grant funding would be available, there is only a short time frame to switch-on. The company would not be able to get the lights in place for the official event on 2 December but should be able to erect them during that week. They will be a more cost-effective globe fastened to a cable rather than suspended from dead/failing branches and come with a five-year guarantee.

Meeting with Christmas Fair representatives

The clerk has met the volunteers taking forward this year's Christmas Fair. Organisation is well under way but the issue of insurance cover for the 'one off' stallholders remains a problem.

163(17-18)20 Mayor's report (information only)

Cllr Reilly reported that the council had received delivery of the wreath post holders on Friday and that these were in place to hold the wreaths at the War Memorial. Increasing numbers of people were attending the Armistice Day event which had taken place at the Battle of Britain memorial on Saturday. Remembrance Sunday had been well supported. Planning for these events next year would need to start early as the commemoration of the end of WW1 would mean that resources supporting the events are stretched.

164(17-18)21 Questions to councillors

None.

Councillors **resolved** for the Deputy Mayor, Cllr McCann to chair the meeting as the Mayor has a vested interest in item 165c.

165(17-18)22 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 the item moved into closed session: **166(17-18)8 Disclosure of green paper information**

165a) discuss an employment matter in respect of the employment working group

165b) discuss the request for payment from Harrison Drury

165c) discuss the county court claim made against the council – the clerk will update councillors re progress to date.

167(17-18)23 Items for next agenda

Update flag diary for 2018 and include 'lest we forget'; commencement of project to commemorate end of WW1; Cllr Drobny as council's point of contact for railway enthusiasts. The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 December 2017.

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 22.50.