

# PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Councillors P Orme (Mayor), R Black, P Greenhough, D Hudson, R Lawson, G McCann, J Mutch, K Nicholls and, after their co-option, B Campbell and T Reilly.

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Town Council, Inspector Steve Bell (Item 4) and 1 member of the public.

### **(14-15)094 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Drobny and V Taylor and the reasons accepted.

### **(14-15)095 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllr McCann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 21 (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 18 (Playing Field Lease) as Chair of Friends of Preesall Park.

### **(14-15)096 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2014 be agreed as a true record.

### **(14-15)097 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.

Inspector Bell had decided to attend the meeting after becoming aware of the concerns of councillors over the level of police resourcing in the area. He explained the recent restructure and the savings which the Constabulary had had to make and the impact on police numbers. He assured councillors that the Neighbourhood Policing Team was committed to supporting the area and urged councillors and residents to continue to report incidents when they occurred as resources are directed to priority areas. He explained that the Constabulary was looking to recruit local people as Special Constables and asked councillors to publicise this fact as widely as possible. He answered a range of questions from councillors and listened to their concerns. Councillors thanked Inspector Bell for his full and frank explanations.

The Clerk had circulated the crime figures and narrative provided by Sgt Freaney which showed that, in September 2014, there had been 11 crimes compared to 18 in September last year and 24 incidents of antisocial behaviour compared to 14 in the same period last year.

Cllr Lawson raised the issue of parking outside the Co-op and provided photos which showed the delivery lorry and the unloading process. Councillors asked whether a time limited loading bay outside the Co-op might be the answer.

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

### **(14-15)098 Co-option to Casual Vacancies**

Councillors **resolved** to co-opt Barry Campbell and Tom Reilly to the Town Council following interviews on 29 September.

### **(14-15)099 Shop Preesall**

In the absence of Cllr Drobny councillors **resolved** to defer this item until the next meeting.

#### **(14-15)100 Projects for 2015/16**

Councillors identified a number of potential projects for 2015/16 and **resolved** that the Clerk price the work to be considered as part of the budget discussions.

#### **(14-15)101 Summer Newsletter**

Councillors noted that the next edition of the newsletter is now overdue and **resolved** that the appropriate councillors provide the articles already agreed.

#### **(14-15)102 Amendment to Standing Orders**

Councillors noted that, on 6 August 2014, the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 was amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and that the amended 1960 Act provides that a person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a parish council or its committees but otherwise may:

- a) film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting;
- b) use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;
- c) report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.

Councillors **resolved** to amend Standing Orders to incorporate these provisions.

#### **(14-15)103 Use of Car Park**

Councillors **resolved** to allow St Aidan's Association to use the car park on 5<sup>th</sup> November should overflow parking be required.

#### **(14-15)104 Brown Tourism Signs**

In the absence of Cllr Drobny councillors **resolved** to defer this item until the next meeting.

#### **(14-15)105 Tiles**

Cllr Orme reported that he had met with Adrian Cross to discuss the situation. Mr Cross accepted that the project was behind schedule for a number of reasons and committed to finishing it before Christmas. Cllr Nicholls reported that she continued to receive complaints from parents who had paid for a tile for their child and she referred them to Mr Cross. Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk write to Mr Cross.

#### **(14-15)106 War Memorial**

Councillors noted that 2015 is the centenary of the Women's Institute and a new rose has been developed to mark the event. Councillors **resolved** to agree to the proposal by the local branch that they plant six rose bushes at the war memorial, that they subsequently maintain them and that they place a small plaque stating that the WI had planted the roses in their centenary year in honour of those fallen.

Councillors also considered a request from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Organiser that a means of allowing wreaths to be secured be put in place and councillors **resolved** to agree to the request.

#### **(14-15)107 Arrangements for December Meeting**

Councillors **resolved** to serve a hot pot supper after the next meeting and **resolved** to invite the In Bloom volunteers to thank them for the excellent work they had done.

#### **(14-15)108 Civic Christmas Cards**

Councillors **resolved** to send a Christmas card to those in the voluntary and statutory sector who provide services or are involved in local life.

**(14-15)109 Three Tier Forum**

Councillors **resolved** to raise the question of whether a loading bay could be cut into the pavement in front of the Co-op to aid deliveries and help keep traffic flowing.

**(14-15)110 Lancashire Landings**

Cllr Orme reported that next year is the centenary year of the event and councillors **resolved** to invite a representative to a future meeting to ask how the Town Council could support next year’s event.

**(14-15)111 Playing Field Lease**

Cllr Orme reported that he, Cllr Drobny and Cllr Taylor had met with estates and legal officers of Wyre Council to discuss the playing field lease. On the question of responsibility for boundary fencing Wyre had confirmed that the Town Council’s responsibility is to maintain the post and wire boundary fence. Councillors **resolved** to accept this legal advice and inform the residents who had contacted the council about sharing the cost of replacing their fence that the council had no responsibility to do so.

**(14-15)112 Planning Applications**

**14/00756/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey side and rear extension

**Location:** Wavertree, Hackensall Road, Knott End

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

**14/00724/FUL**

**Proposal:** Construction of crown green bowls club house and extension to existing car park

**Location:** Willow Grove Park, Sandy Lane, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor abstained) it was agreed that that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the scale of the club house is unwarranted and it is likely to impact on the residential amenity of local residents.

**14/00517/LAWE**

**Proposal:** Certificate of lawful development for existing use of land as domestic curtilage and siting of static caravan

**Location:** The Beeches, Lancaster Road, Preesall

By a majority (1 councillor abstained) it was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that it is out of character with the rural area.

**(14-15)113 Finance**

**a) Payments received:**

None

**b) Payments to be approved:**

Staff costs	£1978.80
Clerk’s expenditure on behalf of Council	£16.36
HMRC	£265.95
MTC Fencing (war memorial path)	£1250.00
Wyre Building Supplies	£6.00
Pilling Band (Civic Sunday)	£80.00
Preesall Auto Discount	£6.95

**Payments by Standing Order/Direct Debit**

Easy Websites (hosting fee)	£36.00
O2 (mobile phone contract)	£22.63
LCC pension	£598.37

**c) Statement of Accounts – September 2014**

Councillors noted the statement of accounts for September which shows:

Current account	£30,863.66
Reserve account	£20,152.82
Mayor's Charity Account	£nil
In Bloom Account	£1,490.63

**d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 2**

The Q2 Budget Monitoring statement was noted.

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

**(14-15)114 Verbal Reports from Outside Bodies (information only)****Wyre Flood Forum**

Cllr McCann reported that he had raised the issue of sites identified for potential home building which are prone to flooding and are in a Zone 3 flood risk area.

**Protect Wyre Group**

Cllr Orme reported that the Secretary of State's decision was still awaited but the independent geological report called into question the storage capacity identified by Halite.

**LALC**

Cllr Orme reported that the next meeting of the Wyre Area Committee will be held on 30 October. The revised Quality Council had not yet been published but it appeared that it was very similar to the one which went out to consultation over a year ago and which was not approved. It appears that many councils feel it is not fit for purpose and are unlikely to participate in the scheme.

**Preesall Youth and Community Association**

Cllr Orme reported that a window had been broken and tiles removed from the roof. He informed councillors that the centre could only open on more evenings with sufficient trained and vetted volunteers.

**Friends of Preesall Park**

The Prince's Trust has become involved through the intervention of Inspector Bell and Sergeant Freaney and work started today on tidying up the boundaries and removing the "dens". The Lengthsman will be involved. Cllr Orme further reported that a local foundry had made him two skateboard grind rails at a very good price and they may be able to make a half pipe at an affordable price.

**Wyre in Bloom**

Cllr Mutch reported that the volunteers and Wyre Council had emptied the beds in preparation for winter planting.

**Wyre Festive Lights Committee**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting is on 21 October and Cllr Orme agreed to attend if Cllr Drobny was unable to do so.

### **Planning Ambassador**

Cllr Orme reported that a meeting with Wyre Council representatives to discuss the emerging Local Plan had been arranged.

### **(14-15)115 Verbal Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors (information only)**

Cllr McCann made reference to the forthcoming meeting on the emerging Local Plan.

### **(14-15)116 Clerk's Report (information only)**

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

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

The Lengthsman attended free Marshalling training provided by Wyre Council on 9 October. This will help with Civic Sunday and the Christmas lights switch on/fair. Following completion of a survey carried out by LCC on SpID signs, LCC has confirmed that they will replace the mounting plates on Park Lane and the Esplanade to improve utilisation. The device regularly fails to pick up ordinary vehicles at these locations.

#### **War Memorial Path**

The path is complete and the completion report sent to the War Memorials Trust to obtain the grant.

#### **Festive Lights Grant**

Wyre Council has confirmed that the festive lights grant will increase by 3% to £2442.31 this year.

#### **Playing Field Grass Matting**

The Gala Committee has confirmed that it will contribute 50% of the cost of the additional matting and the matting has been ordered.

#### **Resurfacing of Back Lane**

LCC has confirmed that Back Lane has been resurfaced.

#### **Millennium Clock**

The dial works at the top of the clock has been serviced but the clockmaker was unable to access the base as the lock would not turn. He has asked that the Lengthsman give it regular attention and will try to open it again when he is next in the area. If he cannot open it a new lock will be required.

#### **Challenge to Parking Rules**

As part of government plans to boost local democracy, residents and businesses will be given the power to challenge where councils paint double-yellow lines or introduce other parking measures. Under the proposals, due to be announced by Eric Pickles, the public will be able to challenge parking rules with a petition of 50 signatures - or 10% of the local population. The reforms, which are due to come into place next year, are the latest in a series of measures, which the Communities Secretary claims will lift the burden on motorists.

#### **Community Transport Survey**

Wyre Seniors Forum has confirmed that Wyre Council was unsuccessful bidding for funds from the Big Lottery to help reduce isolation amongst older people. They consulted the Town Council on the proposed development of a community transport service which formed part of the bid.

#### **Hy-Fly Game Hatcheries – Sea Defences**

The Managing Director of Hy-Fly Game Hatcheries Ltd has written to both Pilling Parish Council and Preesall Town Council stating that he has recently discovered that he owns the sea defences from a point approximately 50 yards to the east of Fluke Hall ramp to approximately 400 yards to the west of the ramp. His letter sought information on the consequences of his ownership as regards

maintenance, public liability etc. Carl Green, Head of Engineering Services at Wyre Council has provided advice on the responsibilities of riparian owners which has been provided in a letter to Hy-Fly.

### **Police Resourcing**

No response has been received at the time of writing to the letter to the PCC dated 22 July despite two reminder emails being sent. A further letter was sent on 1 October (further to the September meeting) and emailed to both MPs asking for their support in securing adequate resourcing for local issues. Eric Ollerenshaw MP will be meeting the new Chief Superintendent shortly and will raise the matter with him.

### **(14-15)117 Mayor's Report (information only)**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Lancashire Landings. He has been invited to attend the Garstang Young Mayor's investiture and St Aidan's prizegiving.

### **(14-15)118 Questions to Councillors**

Cllr Reilly asked councillors how the Council might make best use of his skill set and Cllr Orme explained that, when projects arose, volunteers with the time and/or expertise were sought.

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