



**PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

Mayor's Report

What a year! I was re-elected as mayor in May straight after the general and local elections which saw us with vacancies for two councillors. After advertising the vacancies we co-opted Barry Campbell who had previously been a councillor and Lynda Woodhouse. Almost immediately we were challenged by a boundary dispute which ended up in court but, although costing the council a sum of money, it was worth spending in order to win the case and not burden the council with similar claims in the future.

Negotiations started with Wyre over the lease that the Town Council has for the playing field off Sandy Lane and which expires in February 2017. The offered Heads of Terms were rejected by councillors who proposed certain amendments to Wyre. Wyre came back with a fresh set of Terms but, after debate, the decision was taken that come 2017 the council will not renew the lease for the playing field and it will no longer have the expense and responsibility for the site. The downside of that decision was that Wyre then sought an agreement for the Town Council to be responsible for all the current park improvements and also all future ones. Councillors were again unwilling to commit to that responsibility. This has resulted in the park improvement plans by the Friends of Preesall Park to be in the air. Hopefully a solution will be reached.

The summer saw councillors in the thick of the fight to save the "Last Bank in Town" with some working hard behind the scenes and, whilst not saving the bank, we did get the provision of the weekly mobile bank. In response to the NatWest's decision to close the branch the council took the decision to move its accounts to another bank. This proved harder to achieve than it should have but, some four months and some compensation payments later, we now bank with RBS.

During this time we sadly learnt of the death of a former town councillor and Mayor, Derek Nuttall. He will be remembered for his work on the introduction of the Christmas lights display.

The community notice board was finally installed to the front of the playing field car park during July and is regularly used to advertise events around the township.

Cllr R Drobny resigned during July. An election took place in October with him winning his seat back in a three cornered contest. .

September saw the completion of the first phase of the Lowry project at the top of the ferry slipway with the statue being unveiled at a really successful public event. The unveiling was performed by the Mayor of Wyre and I with input from Fleetwoods Charity school and the apprentices from m-tec who had built the statue.

Using a grant from the Big Lottery the council had the path round the Jubilee Garden replaced and doesn't it look good?.

Yet again the Gala Committee excelled themselves and put on a day to remember. My personal thanks go to all the volunteers whose work behind the scenes ensured success.

The Bloomers team worked hard again throughout the year and were awarded a silver gilt medal in the NW in Bloom contest. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank the Bloomers for the wonderful effect they have on our street scene.

Although bureaucracy had attempted to disrupt the Remembrance Day parade and service in November it did go ahead. On the day, however, it was the challenge of the weather that had the greatest impact.

As the year came towards its end we all became aware of the proposed Lancashire County Council budget cuts and the potential they might have on our community .The library, the buses, the ferry, faith school transport, transport to day care centres and the Young People's Service are the headline issues. The Council and all the councillors individually have been active in lobbying the County Council on behalf of our resident's. As we go to press some success can be reported in saving some of our buses but all the other issues remain to be decided. We will continue to do all we can to persuade the powers that be to look again at the way the decisions they make will affect communities such as ours.

The weather was none too kind for our Christmas Fair this year and the Christmas lights suffered badly in the wind and rain. A rethink maybe required for next time.

We celebrated raising a Flag for the Commonwealth again at NatWest Corner. More involvement by the community would be welcome next year.

Throughout the year the council has been active on issues affecting our town including social housing, policing, health, planning and Wyre's Local Plan .Councillors remain active on the LALC Wyre Area committee and the Wyre Flood Forum.

Throughout the year the Clerk and the Lengthsman have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Council and the township and I would personally like to thank them for all their endeavours. Thanks must also go to my Deputy, Cllr Gordon McCann, for all his support throughout the year.

Councillor Phil Orme

Mayor 2015/16

Since writing this we have learned of the resignation of our Town Clerk Miss Jan Finch. Jan brought to the council a level of professionalism and expertise hitherto not known in my time on the Council. She totally reworked all our governance documents and introduced those that were missing bringing a level of professionalism to all our paperwork and procedures. She also saved us money and made us money so will be a tough act to follow. Again, my personal thanks to Jan for all she did over the last four years .We are losing a Clerk and a friend.

Finance

The Town Council is responsible for proper accounting records, safeguarding the assets and taking steps to prevent fraud and other irregularities and a prudent level of reserves. There are accounting policies and procedures in place to mitigate exposure to major risk, which are reviewed annually. Councillors believe they make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates. The accounts are a matter of public information and can be viewed at any time.

Receipts and Payments Account for Preesall Town Council

Receipts	2015/2016		Payments
Balances brought forward (including reserves)	£34562	£39870	Staff Costs
Precept	£58601	£469	Mayor/Civic
Grants	£4479	£23773	Community Expenditure
VAT Refund	£3585	£277	Training
In Bloom	£2410	£2013	Parish Maintenance
Recharges	£1494	£1263	Office Costs
Other	£1502	£8161	Governance
Public Rights of Way	£1298	£2406	In Bloom
	£107931	£78232	

Balance to carry forward as at 31st March 2016 - £29,699

The Parish Council accounts are due to be audited in June 2016.

The Parish Precept

The Parish Precept is the amount of money which the Town Council receives from Wyre Council to pay for the services it provides. This amount is raised by Wyre Council as that part of your Council Tax relating directly to the Town Council area. In other words, Wyre Council collects this on our behalf.

The way we calculate the precept is as follows:

Each year, just before Christmas, the Town Council produces an estimate of its likely **expenditure** for the forthcoming year (eg Staff costs, parish maintenance, community projects). This will also include an amount to cover the costs of any urgent projects that may be required in the area.

We also estimate our likely **income** for the same period (eg the VAT Refund, Festive Lighting Grant). The difference between these two figures form the basis of our precept calculation, which we submit to Wyre Council. In 2015/2016 our Precept was £58,601.

Jan Finch

Responsible Financial Officer

Your Councillors

Cllr Rodney Black

65 Pilling Lane, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0HB
Tel: 01253 811114

Cllr Robert Drobny

31 Worsley Close, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0BL
Tel: 0773384157

Cllr Pat Greenhough

16 Kingston Close, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0DJ
Tel: 01253 811733

Cllr Derek Hudson

12 Smithy Lane, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0NQ
Tel: 07976 885637

Cllr Rosina Lawson

46 Links Road, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0DG
Tel: 01253 810841

Cllr Gordon McCann

Maythorn, Rosslyn Avenue, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0HE
Tel: 01253 811364

Cllr Jean Mutch

Broadsea, 16 Salisbury Ave, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0BP
Tel: 01253 811177

Cllr Phil Orme

Walkdene, Hackensall Road, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0AZ
Tel: 01253 811341

Cllr Tom Reilly

293 Park Lane, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0LT
Tel: 01253 810156

Cllr Vivien Taylor

Fairway, Hackensall Road, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0AY
Tel: 01253 810234

Cllr B Campbell

57 Grasmere Road, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0DW
Tel: 01253 811273

Cllr L Woodhouse

6 Westbourne Road, Knott End on Sea, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0BS
Tel: 01253 932803