



PREESALL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.00pm at Preesall and Knott End Youth and Community Centre

Present: Cllrs P Orme (Mayor), J Lewin K Woods, J Jenkinson, C Rimmer, K Shepherd and R Drobny, A Hayes, K Tunstall

Also present – the Locum Clerk and 11 members of the public

224.1 Apologies Cllr A Johnson, S Ward and S Dobbie

225.2 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllr Woods declared that she was involved with Pilling Band and Mayor Cllr Orme declared he managed the Preesall Youth and Community Centre – both these groups were being considered for a donation..

226.3 Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 13th May 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the above meetings were approved as a true record.

227.4 Public participation

Regarding Solar Panel Farm in Preesall

Not opposed to solar farm but concerned about the impact on Wildlife in the area. The access route is unacceptable as it is already a junction with high risk and the additional vehicles will make much worse. Roads due to be used are narrow and used by School children to walk to school, dog walkers and horse riders, pavements are limited and where they are they are used for car parking. The roads are very narrow and cars cannot pass each other. This route was rejected as an option when the Gas storage was being considered. Must prioritise food security not just during construction but ongoing.

Lots of wildlife are in the area including but not limited to Deers, hares, bats, geese and buzzards. It was accepted that solar power was required but it had to be safe. Preesall is relatively flat and this is the only hill in the area it would be devastating to turn into an industrial area.

If successful other routes must be identified but accepted that there were no easy options. The ground in the area is unstable following the emptying of the salt mines and there have already been areas that have collapsed.

Concern that the development has not been well advertised.

228.5 Planning Applications

Application Number: 24/00376/SCRE

Proposal: EIA screening opinion for the development of a solar farm

Location: Land To The West Of Park Lane Preesall FY6 01A

Cllr Drobny highlighted that this was a massive construction with very large vehicles required during construction and ongoing. There are Deer, badgers, buzzards and hares in the area and otters on the flashes. The development is in the wrong place , too big and over intensive.

Cllr Jenkinson felt that the access roads proposed were dangerous and that there were no realistic alternatives. There has been anecdotal evidence that this has been proposed to spite the village. Potentially site could move further down with Cemetry Lane access. This is agricultural land and has the wrong access and in wrong place.

The development is not within Environmental Guidelines and the construction period is excessive.

Environmental Impact assessment was required. Schedule 3 of Planning regulations refers re size.

Concern was raised over materials to be used, the impact of the view from the Parrox estate and it is near an SSSI.

It was resolved that the Council would object to this application on the above grounds and voted that an Environmental Impact Assessment be provided.

Accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and Transit Provision for Gypsies and Travellers Call for Sites

It was resolved to report back that there were no suitable sites in Knott End or Preesall and perhaps suggest the use of the A6 corridor through the Wyre area.

229.6 Quarry Planning Update

The meeting for this application is postponed until after the election, earliest to be considered in July but may be September.

230.7 Land on Pilling Lane, Micks Garage and Kelly's Corner

Pilling Lane and Micks Garage are in the hands of the Solicitors and Kelly's corner in the hands of the Wyre Legal Department

231.8 Finance

Councillors noted

8.1 Bank statements balances Unity 30th June 2024 £17,185.40 and Virgin 31st May 2024 £183,393.31.

8.2 Cllrs noted and approve payments made for June 2024 and further noted receipt of payment for 2 benches and plaques

8.3 Agreed as a correct record the bank reconciliations to 31st May 2024.

8.4 It was resolved to donate £500 to Pilling Silver Jubilee Band.

8.5 2023/2024 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Councillors considered each part of the documentation and took action as indicated below:

The Internal Audit was carried out during May 24, a copy of the auditor's report has been (**emailed**). The locum clerk has annotated the document regarding comments made. Councillors considered and **approved** the planned actions:

- i) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024 (**emailed**). Councillors considered statements 1 to 9 and **to confirmed** they agreed the statements. The statement was signed by the chair (Mayor) and the clerk.
- ii) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/2024 (**emailed**). Section 2 has been prepared and signed by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO/clerk) as confirmation that the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. It was resolved that the Statements be accepted as a true record, the form was signed and dated by the chair (Mayor) to confirm that the accounts have been approved by council. Councillors **approved** section 2

The Auditor and Clerk were thanked for the work carried out at year end.

232.9 SPID Project

The Clerk confirmed that LCC were installing the Solar powered units and Spids and the Clerk to contact LCC to confirm the 3 additional SpIDs..

233.10 Heritage Shelters

No further update at this time, waiting for Wyre Council to schedule in to their works.

234.11 Code of Conduct Training

It was resolved that the Clerk would distribute the Code of Conduct Slides.

235.12 Heritage Orchard Grant

The Clerk had circulated an email regarding this Grant, the deadline is 2025, to consider applying for the grant for the land being acquired but waiting until land is under Council responsibility. To resolve any actions

236.13 LCC PROW/Biodiversity Grant

It was resolved that the Council would again apply to take part for 2024/25.

237.14 Mayoral Chains

It was resolved that Cllr Drobny research and bring quotes to the next meeting.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

238.15 Reports from subject leads and outside body representatives

Bloomers – Green Thumb have put up 2 signs so far and a further one is due on fence. It was reported that the area already looked better.

Personnel Committee Feedback – Cllr Woods reported that the Terms of Reference for the committee had been updated. For future interviews there would be up to 4 Councillors involved one being from the Personnel Committee. Cllr Rimmer to look at the Civility and Respect Matrix for the interviews.

239.16 Reports from Wyre councillors

Cllr Rimmer reported that Local Planning was on hold until after the election.

240.17 Clerk's report

Everything covered above

241.18 Mayor's report

Mayor Orme had attended the Garstang Mayor making, the Knott End D.Day event and one at Blackburn Cathedral

242.19 Questions to councillors

The Clerk was requested to update the Library list and look at how this can be advertised better.

The Clerk queried how enquiries from the Website were received as someone had reported that they had submitted a query but it had not been seen by the Clerk.

The Clerk was asked to include a piece on overgrown hedges in the Green Book.

It was reported that concerns over parking outside the Bethel Church had been reported to LCC and the PCSOs

Reminder that the Gala was on 13th July

243.20 Items for next agenda

The next full council meeting will be held **on Monday 8th July starting at 7pm** - councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and provide updates from working groups by notifying the clerk **in writing by Thursday 27th June 2024** at the latest. The item should specify the business which it is proposed be transacted, in such a way that the members who receive it can identify the matters which they will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting.