**PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on **FRIDAY,**

**27TH JUNE, 2014** in the **PRESCOT TOWN HALL, 1 WARRINGTON ROAD, PRESCOT** commencing at **7.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors D. Allen, R. Arnall, S. Arnall, J. Molloy L. O’Keeffe, S., O’Keeffe, D. Rigby and I. Smith.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Dan Wilson (Town Clerk)

Jackie Rigby (Assistant to the Town Clerk)

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor it was proposed by Councillor D. Allen and seconded by Councillor L. O’Keeffe that Councillor D. Rigby be elected to Chair the meeting.

Before the commencement of the meeting a minutes silence was held in respect of Councillor Maureen Lloyd who sadly passed away on Thursday 19th June, 2014.

**22. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Cashman, A. Flanders, G. Flatley, D. Friar, M. Friar, P. Loyden, J. McGarry, and M. Sommerfield.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were received from Councillors D. Allen – Agenda item 8 – Funding Applications, Shannon Arnall – Agenda Items 10 and 11 Planning Applications and Decisions L.O’Keeffe – Agenda Items 10 and 11 – Planning Applications and Planning Decisions, S. O’Keeffe – Agenda Items 10 and 11 – Planning Applications and Planning Decisions and I. Smith – Agenda Item 8 – Funding Applications.

**24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that with the following amendment that in the list of those present, Councillor L. O’Keefe should read Councillor L. O’Keeffe the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 30th May, 2014 be received as a correct record.

**25. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES**

(i) EVENTS COMMITTEE 5TH JUNE 2014

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Events Committee held on 5th June, 2014 be **NOTED.**

(ii) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 13TH JUNE 2014

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that with the following amendments :

Item 1 on the Agenda - **To receive Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the** **Committee should read**:- It was proposed by Councillor D. Rigby and seconded by Councillor D. Allen that Councillor J. Molloy be elected as Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2014/15.

Item 3 on the Agenda – **Declarations of Interest** – should read:- A Declaration of Interest was received from Councillor L. O’Keeffe – Item 10 – Planning Applications.

After Item 4 on the Agenda – should read – At this point it was proposed by Councillor D. Rigby and seconded by Councillor D. Allen that Standing Orders be suspended and further **RESOLVED** that Planning Applications be discussed as item 10 at the end of the Agenda. Members had had information in relation to planning application no. 14/00332/FUL - More than 3 days in advance of the meeting.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to application 14/00332/FUL on the grounds of traffic management.

That the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th June 2014 be noted.

(iii) EVENTS COMMITTEE – 18TH JUNE 2014

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Events Committee held on the 18th June 2014 be **NOTED.**

**26. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS**

 It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the schedule be noted.

**27. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader informed Members that a volunteer clean-up was taking place on Sunday at Prescot Churchyard, Manchester Road.

**28. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

**NALC Meeting with Brandon Lewis**

On 17 June a NALC delegation met with Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss local government finance and the 2015 parish elections.  Attendees were the Chairman Ken Browse, Chief Executive Jonathan Owen, Lynda Wilcox, County Officer, Herefordshire county association and the Head of Policy and Development Justin Griggs.

The Chairman updated the Minister on the latest situation regarding council tax support funding in 2014/15, welcoming the Minister’s statement and letters to billing authorities as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, but expressing concern over the 15 billing authorities still not passing on grant funding in the current financial year. Further action by the Minister was requested and the Chairman again pressed him to identify funding in the financial settlement for 2015/16 or issue statutory guidance to billing authorities or fund parish councils directly.

Outcome:  The minister agreed to hold a roundtable meeting involving officials and representatives from the sector including some of our largest councils to examine in detail how parish finances work, council tax support funding and referenda.

Next year's parish elections were highlighted as an opportunity to work together to encourage more people to become parish councillors.  Outcome:  the Minister agreed officials would contribute to a roundtable meeting with county officers to explore this issue.

Other items covered included the setting up of a sector led body to procure audit (outcome: the Minister welcomed NALC's involvement and officials would help the development), filming and recording meetings (outcome: the Minister supported this right but agreed it should be done sensitively, minimising disruption) , councillor nomination forms (outcome: the Minister supported these being handed in but agreed there may be merit in looking at secure, simple e-options) and Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth (outcome: NALC will be contacting relevant officers to press for the extension of this to all parishes). The Minister also raised media guidance in Local Councils EXPLAINED which we agreed to get back to him on.

  **Media coverage**

As you will know NALC is lobbying the Government on new powers to come to parish and town council to be able sell energy including electricity. NALC’s Policy Committee accepted a motion from the Kent Association of Local Councils supported by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Forming part of NALC’s campaign on this was an item on Monday 23rd June BBC Radio 4 PM including an interview with NALC. It is on 5.20-5.27: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0477m73> (only available until 30th June).

Friday’s BBC R4 PM programme had an item on the story around Mr Pickles and NALC’s example media policy which we emailed to you about last week. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b046p4n1> 5.18 -5.30 ( approximately and this is only available until Friday 27th June).

There is likely to be an item on tomorrow's (26th June) BBC R4 PM programme on NALC's Create A Council campaign.

We are endeavouring to get transcripts of these programmes in case anyone is unable to access this’

**29. FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

 **(i) Knowsley Disability Concern**

A Community Fund Bid was received from Knowsley Disability Concern requesting funding towards an Advocacy Service.

It was **UNANIMOUSL RESOLVED** that the bid be declined at this point and that Knowsley Disability Concern be asked to re-summit this bid at a later date with additional information.

**(ii) Prescot Cables Football Club**

A Community Fund Bid was received from Prescot Cables Football Club requesting funding towards a Local Community Project.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred for more information.

In accordance with the Town Councils standing orders 1.12 Councillor I. Smith requested that the vote be recorded.

Those in favour of deferment

Cllrs D. Allen, R. Arnall, S. Arnall, J. Molloy L. O’Keeffe, S., O’Keeffe and D. Rigby

Those against the deferment

Cllr I. Smith

**(iii) M A T T GROUP**

A Community Fund bid was received from the MATT Group requesting funding towards more child size tables and chairs.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a grant of £275.76 be made to the MATT group.

**(iv) FRIENDS OF PRESCOT CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD**

A Community Fund bid was received from Prescot Cemetery and Churchyard requesting funding towards the Prescot Cemetery and Churchyard improvement scheme.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a grant of £400.00 be made towards the improvement scheme.

**(v) PRESCOT HERITAGE HUB**

A Community Fund bid was received from Prescot Heritage Hub requesting funding towards “Look to the future – celebrate the past phase 2 – Celebrate and discover Prescot Past project.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a grant of £363.00 be made towards the project.

**30. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNEREATION PANEL ON PARISH** COUNCIL **ALLOWANCES**

The Town Council considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish allowances.

 It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

(i) no basic allowance or travel expenses be payable to members during the financial year 2014 / 2015.

**31. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

 At this point Cllrs. S. Arnall, L. O’Keeffe, S.. O’Keeffe left the room.

 This left the agenda item inquorate, therefore this item could not be addressed.

**32. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that this item be deferred to the next Council Meeting for suggestions on word and signing.

The meeting closed at 19.50 p.m

**Dated: 25th July 2014 Signed:………………………………….**

 **Cllr D Rigby**

**(Elected Chair of the Meeting)**