

**Point of clarity with regard to confidential item at Prescott Town Council Extra Ordinary Meeting
8th January 2019**

Prescot has recently held an extra ordinary meeting at which it resolved that an item should be considered as confidential.

This particular item was in relation to the forthcoming negotiations with KMBC about the future delivery of greenspace services in Prescot.

As residents will be aware Prescot Town Council has maintained a consistent approach in its efforts to ensure the retention and preservation of all the Town's public spaces for the future use and benefit of the people. In doing so the Town Council have worked closely and openly with residents to achieve this goal.

Following a change of leadership at KMBC in May 2018 a decision to abandon the unpopular Greenspace Trust Proposal (that would have resulted in a number of parks being sold) was taken, effectively safeguarding those parks that had been earmarked for sale. The Town Council do however recognise the fragility of situation and therefore seek a long-term solution.

Throughout its communication with KMBC Prescot Town Council had committed to seeking an alternative delivery method that would ensure the preservation and enhancement of the public open space in perpetuity, whilst addressing the financial burden of maintaining the parks to a high standard.

To that end the Town Council have been proactive in submitting a proposal to KMBC in September 2018. A response to that proposal has been provided and indeed the Leader of KMBC Cllr Graham Morgan attended the Town Council's meeting in November to address the Council and residents about the future of greenspaces. Cllr Morgan was very welcoming of a new partnership approach between the respective councils and suggested that negotiations on an agreement should be undertaken at the first opportunity.

KMBC's response to the Town Council's proposal does align with certain aspects of the proposal but does not meet all of the Town Council's aspirations therefore further negotiations are required to reach a mutually satisfactory position.

In order to reach this position, the Town must agree on the parameters for negotiation. As with any negotiation these parameters will have a point of highest desire and a point of acceptability with an area in-between. Were this information to be the public realm it would completely undermine the Town Council's position in these negotiations. That alone is sole reason that the parameters for negotiation were treated as a confidential item.

Prescot Town Council remain unswerving and resolute in its desire to ensure Prescot's public open spaces remain accessible and provide high quality recreational opportunities for all.