

**PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on **THURSDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023** in **PRESCOT TOWN HALL**, commencing at **6.00 P.M.**

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillors J. Burke, P. Cook, J. Edgar, J. Madine, I. Smith, T. Smith, M. Sommerfield, G. Wickens and F. Wynn.

**TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT**

A. Spencer (Town Clerk)  
L. Sephton (Deputy Town Clerk)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

4 x Members of the public were in attendance.

Owing to apologies being received from the Chair and Vice-Chair, Members **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr G. Wickens should be appointed as Chair for the meeting of the Council for the Town of Prescott on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**51. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs M. Burke, T. Murray and D. Wilson.

**52. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Four members of the public wished to speak to council regarding Knowsley Council's Prescott Town Centre Parking Management Scheme and wanted to express their frustration that despite repeated contacts with the local authority, no update on how the scheme was progressing or deadline as to when it would be approved has been provided.

One resident wanted to raise concerns regarding the quality of street lighting on Grosvenor Road, Prescott.

The Town Clerk advised that Prescott Town Council is not responsible for parking schemes or street lighting within the town. However, should Members resolve, he would be happy to contact Knowsley Council on behalf of the residents requesting that an update on the points the raised is provided at the earliest opportunity.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **INSTRUCT** the Town Clerk to contact Knowsley Council regarding the issues raised by residents during Public Open Forum.



**53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were received from the following: -

- Cllr J. Burke for Item 13 Community Funding Applications
- Cllr P. Cook for Item 13 Community Funding Applications
- Cllr J. Edgar for Item 13 Community Funding Applications
- Cllr I. Smith for Item 11 Planning Applications
- Cllr I. Smith for Item 12 Planning Decisions
- Cllr T. Smith for Item 13 Community Funding Applications

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

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a true and accurate record of the business transacted.

**55. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** minutes from Events Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**56. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader briefed Members on the success of this years' School Uniform Recycling Project and Winter Coat Recycling Scheme; stating that both had proved extremely successful in terms of the number of items received and distributed. The Leader thanks councillors, staff and volunteers for delivering both projects.

**57. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk provided the following announcements: -

**Anti-social behaviour across Prescot**

Since the last meeting of Council in July 2023, the Town Clerk has held regular meetings with officers from Knowsley Council, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Youth Association to discuss anti-social behaviour across the town and assess the impact of interventions such as at the "Forty Nights of Football" (an initiative coordinated by Merseyside Youth Association and held at Prescot Soccer Centre during July and August).

Reported anti-social behaviour during this period has reduced slightly compared to previous months. However, despite this reduction, partners continue to advise that residents and businesses report anti-social behaviour through to Knowsley Council and/or Merseyside Police given that it directly informs where council and police resources should be deployed.

The Town Clerk has also attended September's meeting of the Prescott Providers (comprised of Merseyside Police, Knowsley Council, Merseyside Youth Association and VCF sector) during which there was agreement that a youth consultation should be undertaken to determine what the priorities of young people are and to help shape the local youth offer.

Further online meetings to discuss the methodology of this consultation have been scheduled for September & October, and the Town Clerk will feedback the outcomes of these meeting to members.

Finally, members will recall that at July's meeting of Council, the Town Clerk (having liaised with Merseyside Police and Knowsley Council) reported of the potential for goalposts to be installed at Brown's Field.

This followed work undertaken by Merseyside Police to speak with local youths causing anti-social behaviour (particularly around Eccleston Street) to determine what could be put in place to stop them causing anti-social behaviour, or in the least, to dissuade them from congregating on Eccleston Street.

Merseyside Police continue to progress this workstream in terms of sourcing funding and costs for goals. However, at the time of writing, it is not clear as to whether or not goals will actually be installed on site given that there has been no consultation with residents neighbouring the park and/or permissions obtained from Knowsley Council.

#### **Batala Mersey "Day of the Dead" Samba Parade – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The Town Clerk has worked closely with Cllrs J Burke, P Cook and Liverpool based samba band Batala Mersey to establish a "Day of the Dead" samba parade and static performance on Eccleston Street on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

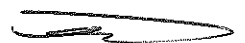
Batala Mersey have performed in parades across the UK, most recently, at the Notting Hill Carnival in August.

Councillors and officers were initially approached by Batala Mersey in May this year, with a proposal to have a samba parade and static performance celebrating the annual day of the dead festival – an event which is huge in Latin America.

Since then, the Town Clerk has worked closely with Batala Mersey to produce an event management plan which has been submitted to Knowsley Council's Event Safety Advisory Group (KEVSAG) for review.

By way of summary for this event (as proposed within event management plan and subject to review/amendment by KEVSAG):-

- This event will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023, with the samba parade commencing at 6:00pm adjacent to former Margaret Rose clothes shop.
- Approximately 35 participants will form the band dressed in full day of the dead costume.



- The band will parade down Eccleston Street towards former Oven restaurant for 45 minutes and after a short break, will walk to the bottom of Leyland Steet to perform a 30 minute static performance.
- No road closures for either the parade or static performance will be necessary.
- The event will completely free to the public.
- Council will not incur any costs in support of this event.

At a recent meeting of the Prescot Business Club, the Town Clerk briefed local businesses on this proposed of event – all of which were keen to support by providing free food, drinks, sweets, children’s goody bags and face painting.

The Town Clerk will update members once feedback is received from KEVSAG.

### **Leases Relating to Brown’s Field and Eaton Street Park**

Following the receipt of advice from Council’s solicitor, the Town Clerk has contacted Knowsley Council outlining council’s responsibilities regarding Brown’s Field and Eaton Street Park under both leases as they currently stand.

In short, council’s responsibilities extend to keeping each site in a “clean and good condition” (discharged through council’s grounds maintenance contract) and the maintenance of boundary walls.

Members will recall that each lease was signed in 1991 and in an effort to give greater clarity as to exactly who has responsibility for what at each site and to better inform lease discussions with Knowsley Council, the Town Clerk has undertaken an audit detailing exactly what assets are located at each site and who should have responsibility for maintenance and if required, replacement. This audit has been submitted to Knowsley Council.

In terms of progress being made by Knowsley Council, the Town Clerk has been informed that all documentation submitted to date is being reviewed legal teams with a further update due in the future.

### **Potential Build of Facility at Brown’s Field**

As previously reported to members, the Town Clerk continues to meet with Knowsley Council, representatives from the Football Association, the Friends of Brown’s Field and Berkley FC regarding the potential build of a purpose-built facility at Brown’s Field to support the football club, friends of Brown’s Field and wider community.

The last meeting of this group was in September and was attended by the Town Clerk and Cllr J Burke.

By way of summary as to what was discussed: -

- The Football Foundation has circa £250,000.00 of funding available to support this project.

- Knowsley Council has £525,000.00 of S.106 funding dedicated to the site as a whole - some of which could support this project.
- Knowsley Council have appointed an external consultant to undertake consultation with stakeholders and the wider community as to exactly what form any build could and should take.
- Given the current terms of the lease relating to Brown's Field (inclusive of a break-off clause) funding cannot be awarded owing to uncertainty of tenure. It is therefore critical that the lease is reviewed and resolved.
- It is necessary for stakeholders to state what they want from the building in terms of design and use before community consultation is undertaken (this has already been completed and submitted to Knowsley Council).
- The overall ambition is for submission of a bid to Football Foundation in April 2024.

The Town Clerk stresses at the time of writing there is no agreement that a build will indeed go ahead and that consultation in terms of the use and design must be completed first.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** Announcements from the Town Clerk.

#### **58. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AT CONFERENCES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Town Clerk summarised his attendance at a meeting of the Prescot Business Club on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Town Clerk raised the following points: -

##### ***a. Anti-Social Behaviour/Crime Levels within Town Centre and Town Generally***

- Agreement that reported ASB figures over the summer period were slightly lower in comparison to previous months.
- Successful initiatives held over the summer period including "40 Nights of Football" as coordinated by Merseyside Youth Association.
- A number of high-visible operations were held by Merseyside Police over the summer period, particularly around Prescot Cables Retail Park, during which there was lots of engagement with the public.
- Knowsley Council and Merseyside Police encourage all businesses and residents to report ASB and crime given that this directly informs where resources should be deployed.
- Knowsley Council are pursuing a funding application with the Police and Crime Commissioner to have further CCTV installed within Eccleston Street, and the outcome of this application will be fed back at next Prescot Business Club meeting.

**b. Outcome of Consultation Relating to Purchase of Prescot Shopping Centre**

- Knowsley Council provided an update regarding the outcome on consultation following Purchase of Prescot Shopping Centre.
- Details of this consultation can be found via the Knowsley News Website.

<https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/prescot-shopping-centre-and-town-centre-your-views/>

**c. Proposed Day of the Dead Samba Parade**

- Prescot Town Council Town Clerk presented proposals for a samba parade and static performance to mark annual day of the dead festival.
- The proposed event had been scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 commencing at 6:00pm and concluding at 7.30pm.
- This would be a completely free event for the public and would be held on Eccleston Street.
- Prescot Town Council and Batala Mersey (samba band) had jointly submitted an event management plan to Knowsley Council's Event Safety Advisory Group (KEVSAG), which would be reviewed week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 with feedback provided thereafter.
- Businesses were in support of the event who felt it may increase footfall within the town centre – although there was a feeling that some businesses were excluded given that a road closure would not be in effect for this event which would impact upon footfall for their business.

**d. Prescot Town Centre Christmas Lights Switch-on 2023**

- Having spoken with businesses in attendance, the date chosen for Christmas Lights Switch on was Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (date to be confirmed)
  - The event is likely to have some form of entertainment, but owing to budget constraints, will not comprise of an additional lantern event as last year.
- a. Attendance at this meeting by Merseyside Police and Knowsley Council Communities Team to provide an update of ongoing anti-social behaviour across Prescot and planned diversionary activity during the summer period.
  - b. Plans for Serious Nonsense Festival to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
  - c. Ways in which Prescot Business Club members could attract new businesses to the meeting.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the update from the Town Clerk

**59. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Mayoral Engagements listed.

## **60. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Application Ref	Location	Comments
23/025105/TCA	Land to Rear of Prescott Parish Church Meeting Room, Vicarage Place, Prescott	No Objections
23/02086/PDE	34 Sinclair Avenue, Prescott	No Objections
19/00648/NMA1	Whitakers Garden Centre, Liverpool Road, Prescott	Clarification with regards to grass verges and pathways.
23/01441/FUL	McDonald's Restaurant Cables Retail Park Steley Way, Prescott	No Objections
23/02018/CLD	20 Grosvenor Road, Prescott	No Objections
23/02338/FUL	Prescriptions Pharmacy The Kiosk Manchester Road Prescott	No Objections
23/02538/FUL	The Oven Pizzeria and Bar 10 Eccleston Street, Prescott	Comment – Ensure that the shop frontage is in keeping with other frontages on Eccleston Street.
23/02641/TCA	The Clock Face 54 Derby Street Prescott	No objections

## **61. PLANNING DECISIONS**

No Planning Decisions were received.

## **62. COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

Before Members considered Community Funding Applications, the Town Clerk advised that the remaining Community Fund balance for 2023/24 was £6,000.00

The Town Clerk further advised Members that he had received constitutions and bank statements for all three applicants and was satisfied that each application should be put forward for Members' consideration.

Cllr J. Edgar left the meeting

**1. Prescot Cables Junior Football Club**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the application for £500.00 of Community Funding and to notify Prescot Cables Junior Football Club that their application was successful.

Cllr J. Edgar rejoined the meeting.

Cllrs J. Burke, P. Cook and T. Smith left the meeting

**2. Prescot Mission Christmas**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the application for £500.00 of Community Funding and to notify Prescot Mission Christmas that their application was successful.

**3. Friends of Molyneux Drive Woodland & Forestry Space**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the application for £500.00 of Community Funding and to notify the Friends of Molyneux Drive and Forestry Space that their application was successful.

Cllrs J. Burke, P. Cook and T. Smith rejoined the meeting.

**63 PRESCOT CARNIVAL 2023 FEEDBACK REPORT**

Members considered the Prescot Carnival 2023 Feedback Report, produced by the Deputy Town Clerk and previously reported to Events Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to: -

1. Note the contents of the report.

**64 PRESCOT COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS 2023 FEEDBACK REPORT**

Members considered the Prescot Community Recognition Awards 2023 Feedback Report, produced by the Deputy Town Clerk and previously reported to Events Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to: -

1. Note the contents of the report.



**65 UNIFORM RECYCLING PROJECT FEEDBACK REPORT**

Members considered the Uniform Recycling Project Feedback Report produced by the Deputy Town Clerk and Cllr. J Burke and previously reported to Events Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to: -

1. Note the contents of the report.

**66 CONSULTATION ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION AND WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL RECREATION MITIGATION ON THE COAST SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT SCOPING REPORT – AUGUST 2023**

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk in consideration of whether a response to the consultation should be provided.

(After obtaining advice from Landor Planning Consultants) The Town Clerk advised that the scoping report was largely procedural and was setting a structure for the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to follow.

At this stage therefore The Town Clerk advised that no response to the consultation was required, although once the SPD was published, it should be reviewed with a view to responding to the consultation on it.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**: -

1. Not provide a response to the consultation at this stage, but to wait until publication of the Supplementary Planning Document to determine whether a response to the consultation should be provide and
2. Note the contents of the report.

**67 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

Members considered the draft Annual Report produced by officers.

The Town Clerk offered an apology to Members for the delay in producing the report; recognising that it was a pivotal document for communicating the work of council to residents.

The Town Clerk provided an assurance that the 2023-24 Annual Report would be produced and distributed in June 2023 after being presented to Members at Annual Council

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**: -

1. That the Town Clerk completes a final proof-read of the draft Annual Report and that it be sent to printers previously used by Council to produce a final copy.
2. That the Annual Report 2022-23 be distributed using the same distribution company as used previously based on estimated costs obtained by officers.



3. Note the contents of the report.

## **68 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** -

1. By virtue of Standing Order 3D, that members of the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting given the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons.

## **69 TOWN HALL CLOCK WORKING GROUP**

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk which put forward the recommendations of the Town Hall Working Group.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** -

1. That the Town Clerk contacts Knowsley Council's Planning Officers to determine what permissions are required for the clock to be installed on the rear wall (overlooking the car park) of Prescott Town Hall.
2. Once planning advice has been obtained, that the Town Clerk sources from Good Directions 1 x set of spade style black hands with the minute hand at a length of 900mm.
3. Once planning advice has been obtained, that the Town Clerk sources from Kirkby Signs 1 x 2200mm diameter aluminium sign in the pocket watch design presented to Members.
4. Note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 7:25 p.m

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Signed:   
Cllr Graham Wickens (Chair of meeting)