

PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on
THURSDAY, 26th OCTOBER 2023 in **PRESCOT TOWN HALL**,
commencing at **6.03 P.M.**

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors J. Burke, M. Burke, P. Cook, J. Edgar, T. Murray,
M. Sommerfield, G. Wickens, D. Wilson and F. Wynn.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

L. Sephton (Deputy Town Clerk)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

There were no others in attendance.

70. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs, J. Madine, I. Smith and T. Smith.

71. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public in the gallery.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received from the following: -

- Cllr M. Burke for Item 11 Planning Applications

73. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 28th September 2023 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a true and accurate record of the business transacted.

74. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** minutes from Events Committee held on 12th October 2023.

75. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

There were no announcements from the Leader.

76. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk provided the following announcements: -

Council Response to Social Media posts by Representatives of Imaginarium Theatre

Members will be aware that the Town Clerk published an official statement from Council in response to several social media posts by Imaginarium Theatre regarding its “Willow the Wisp” performance scheduled for 28th October 2023 at Eaton Street Park.

The statement was produced with the support of councillors and representatives of the Friends of Eaton Street Park and was subsequently published on Council’s website and social media platforms.

At the time of writing, the Town Clerk can confirm that there have been two responses to this statement. Both have been from representatives of Imaginarium Theatre.

The Town Clerk can also confirm that before and after publishing this statement, he liaised with Knowsley Council officers to determine their position with regards to how the performance was planned for, what the actual and perceived roles of Prescott Town Council and the Friends of Eaton Street Park were in terms of supporting the event, and their view as to why Imaginarium Theatre unilaterally cancelled the performance.

Knowsley Council continues to liaise with Imaginarium Theatre to clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations for events held in Knowsley outdoor spaces.

Batala Mersey “Day of the Dead” Samba Parade – 4th November 2023

Knowsley Event Safety Advisory Group (KEVSAG) have approved plans submitted by the Town Clerk and Batala Mersey for the “Day of the Dead” samba parade and static performance on 4th November 2023.

The Town Clerk continues to work with Batala Mersey to ensure that documentation is submitted to KEVSAG before the performance goes ahead.

Batala Mersey are promoting the event and have produced a poster which will shortly go up in businesses and high footfall areas across the town.

Members will recall the following details for the event:-

- This event will be held on Saturday 4th 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.

If successful, Batala Mersey are keen to have an annual performance which would be a fantastic addition to the Prescot's events calendar.

Leases relating to Brown's Field and Eaton Street Park

As reported to Members at September's meeting of Council, the Town Clerk has submitted (to Knowsley Council) the legal opinion of Council's solicitor regarding leases at Brown's Field and Eaton Street Park and has also submitted a comprehensive audit for both sites outlining where responsibilities for maintenance and investment should rest.

Since this submission, the Town Clerk has been informed that Knowsley Council's Green Spaces team are waiting for response from their legal team and until this response comes back, there is little more by way of an update.

The Town Clerk and Cllr M Burke have requested a meeting with Knowsley Council to discuss further. However, Greenspaces officers have stated that until the legal opinion comes back, there is little point in meeting.

The Town Clerk continues to chase and liaise with Knowsley Council officers to obtain their legal response as quickly as possible.

Potential Build of Facility at Brown's Field

As reported to Members at September's meeting of Council, the Town Clerk continues to hold meetings/liases with Knowsley Council, the Football Foundation, Berkley FC and the Friends of Brown's Field to discuss the potential build of a football/community facility at Brown's Field.

Since Council last met, the Town Clerk, Cllr M. Burke, Berkley FC and the Friends of Brown's Field met to discuss:-

1. How a build could be used
2. What the layout of any build could be
3. What arrangements should be in place in terms of ownership/leasing

4. What responsibilities should be in place with regards to maintenance
5. What responsibilities should be in place in terms of revenue/rents

The above followed a meeting with Knowsley Council and the Football Foundation during which it was suggested that Prescott Town Council, Berkley FC and The Friends of Brown's Field produce a "wish list" for any build to inform any consultation moving forward.

The following information was submitted to Knowsley Council from this meeting:-

- a) Ownership for the building should rest with Knowsley Council and should be sub-leased to whoever Knowsley sees fit – thereby removing Prescott Town Council completely.
- b) Given that at its heart the building is a community facility – rental from Berkley FC and The Friends should be peppercorn or based on market value.
- c) Responsibility for utilities payments would rest with Berkley FC and The Friends of Brown's Field.
- d) Maintenance costs for the building should rest with Knowsley Council.
- e) Additional costs i.e. security, CCTV etc should rest with Knowsley Council
- f) The footprint of the building should be a comparable size to the rendered building at AFC Knowsley.
- g) Off street parking or parking directly outside the building would not be necessary
- h) A function room or conference facilities (as suggested to generate an income to cover revenue costs) would not be needed.
- i) Security of building and containers to house equipment would have to be considered.

To support the above, Cllr M. Burke recommended holding a meeting with Knowsley Council to discuss the practicalities of the build. However, officers responded that no meeting should go ahead until Knowsley Council have provided a legal opinion on leases for Brown's Field and Eaton Street Park.

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

77. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AT CONFERENCES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports or presentations to be discussed.

78. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

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

Cllr M. Burke left the room.

79. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Ref	Location	Comments
23/02070/FUL	M Rays Bakery Ltd, 39-45 High Street	No objections
23/02312/CLD	1 Sonnet Avenue	No objections
23/02446/ADV	4B Cables Retail Park, Steley Way	No objections
23/02671/FUL	Knowsley Safari Park, Prescot Bypass (Africa House)	Seek further information on where the enclosure will be located. There are concerns if the enclosure is near to the main roads with noise from fireworks/music events etc affecting the animals.
22/00233/FUL	Dye House, Liverpool Road	Objection on the grounds of visual amenity, highway safety, flooding (request drainage plans) and loss of trees.
23/02695/FUL	Knowsley Safari Park, Prescot Bypass (Baboon House)	Seek further information on where the enclosure will be located. There are concerns if the enclosure is near to the main roads with noise from fireworks/music events etc affecting the animals.
23/02149/FUL	Land at Chapel Street	No objections

Cllr M. Burke returned to the room.

80. PLANNING DECISIONS


No planning decisions were received.

81. COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

There were no funding applications for consideration.

The meeting closed at 6:16 p.m

Dated: 30th November 2023

Signed: 
Cllr Tracey Murray (Mayor of Prescott)