

PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on **THURSDAY, 30th NOVEMBER 2023** in **PRESCOT TOWN HALL**, commencing at **6.00 P.M.**

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

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

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

A. Spencer (Town Clerk)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

E. Crowley (Knowsley Council)
M. McCartney (Knowsley Council)
4 x Members of the Public

82. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs, J. Burke, M. Burke and J. Madine.

83. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Four members of the public spoke to Council concerning Knowsley Council's Prescot Town Centre Parking Management Scheme – specifically that Columbia Road was not included in plans for a resident permit only parking – despite documented parking issues. The same were also critical of Knowsley Council insofar as they had communicated poorly with residents as to how the scheme was progressing.

Ward councillors confirmed that they will shortly meet with the Chief Executive of Knowsley Council and will raise the matter on their behalf.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received from the following: -

- Cllr I. Smith for Item 11 Planning Applications
- Cllr I. Smith for Item 12 Planning Decisions
- Cllr F. Wynn for Item 12 Planning Decisions

85. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 26th October 2023 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a true and accurate record of the business transacted.

86. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** minutes from Events Committee held on 14th November 2023.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** minutes from Finance, Policy and Human Resources Committee held on 24th October 2023.

87. REPORT ON COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS DURING 2023/24

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** progress against resolutions as presented in Appendix One to the report.

88. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

There were no announcements from the Leader.

89. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk provided the following announcements: -

Prescot Christmas Lights Switch On 2023

Members will recall that at a meeting of Council in September, the Town Clerk reported that following his attendance at the Prescot Business Club earlier that month, a date of Saturday 18th November 2023 had been set for the Prescot Christmas Lights switch-on.

The Town Clerk and businesses in attendance assumed that the Christmas Lights switch on would be an event as in previous years; although accepted that due to Knowsley Council budget constraints, it was not possible for a second lantern event to be held as in 2022.

On 14th November, the Town Clerk and Business Club members were informed by Knowsley Council officers that a Christmas light switch on event was not to be held, but that Christmas lights would simply be switched on for that weekend.

This notification prompted several emails between ward councillors, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive of Knowsley Council – who, as part of this email exchange has requested the Knowsley Council’s Executive Director for Regeneration and

Economic Development to contact the Town Clerk to discuss potential collaborative working between Knowsley Council, Prescot Town Council and Prescot businesses for a Christmas event next year. To date, no contact has been made.

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

The much anticipated “Day of the Dead” samba parade and static performance went ahead as planned on 4th November despite poor weather.

Attendance numbers for the event itself were respectable, with Batala Mersey reporting that the crowds were great, enjoyed the music and costumes and there were “loads of smiling faces.”

Officers have already held discussions with Batala Mersey to see if they can support future Council events i.e. Prescot Carnival.

Leases relating to Brown’s Field and Eaton Street Park

As circulated to Members in advance of this meeting, The Town Clerk received a letter from Knowsley Council on 22nd November 2023 which outlined its position regarding the leases at Brown’s Field and Eaton Street Park.

Council will be required to formally respond to this letter to state its position and how it wishes to move forward.

Local Democracy Project 2024/25

To ensure that all schools participate in the 2024/25 Local Democracy Project, officers have contacted schools seeking their availability for May, June and July 2024.

At the time of writing, two schools have responded and have outlined mid-June as being their preferred dates having consideration of SATs examinations, school away days and school holidays.

The Town Clerk will provide a further update to Members once all schools have confirmed their availability.

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

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

There were no reports or presentations to be discussed.

91. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

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

92. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Ref	Location	Comments
23/02445/FUL	Specsavers Optical Stores 4B Cables Retail Park Steley Way Prescot	No objections
23/02762/FUL	Chris and Hannah Miller 1 Sonnet Avenue, Prescot	No objections
23/0769/KMBC1	KMBC 5-7 Eccleston Street, Prescot	No objections
23/02671/FUL	(Consultation) 23/00023/FUL The Bard 57 High Street Prescot	No objections
23/02677/FUL	(Consultation) Erection of 88 Affordable residential dwellings and associated infrastructure. Carr Lane, Prescot	No objections.

93. PLANNING DECISIONS

No planning decisions were received.

94. COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Members considered the community funding application from The Rotary Club of Prescot who were seeking £500.00 for lighting, sound system parts and vehicle connectors to support a refurbishment of their Father Christmas sleigh.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the sum of £500.00 for the funding application from the Rotary Club of Prescot.

95. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2022/23

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk following receipt of the 2022/23 External Audit Report by PKF Littlejohn.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the contents of the report.

96. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2023/24

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk setting out the 2023/24 Annual Risk Assessment.

The Town Clerk informed members that some changes to “Existing Control Measures” had been made (as stated in bold) and that some risk levels had been downgraded in comparison with the previous (as stated in bold)

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the contents of the report, following the Clerks removal of “Potential application of depreciation being assessed” under Existing Control Measures for Risk One within the assessment.

97. APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR 2023/24

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk concerning appointing the Internal Auditor for 2023/24 and defining a “deep dive” as part of their work.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to:

1. Appoint Mr David Blanchflower as Council’s 2023/24 Internal Auditor and
2. That the deep dive conducted by the Internal Auditor should be comprised of
 - a. Testing of Income and Expenditure
 - b. Testing of VAT
 - c. Review of internal controls and their documentation

98. SIGNALISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SCHEME – CARR LANE, PRESCOT

Members considered the report and accompanying presentation from Mr Mark McCartney – Team Leader – Projects and Major Development, KMBC, concerning proposals for the construction of a toucan crossing on Carr Lane, at the entrance of Carr Lane Woods and leading to Brown’s Field.

KMBC were consulting with Prescott Town Council as, under the terms of its current lease relating to Brown’s Field, it had responsibility for an area of land where construction would be needed and permission therefore sought.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to:

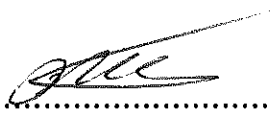
1. Not object to proposals as outlined by KMBC



2. Note the contents of the report and presentation.

The meeting closed at 6:45 p.m

Dated: 25th January 2025

Signed: 
Cllr Tracey Murray (Mayor of Prescott)