

PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on **THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2024** in **PRESCOT TOWN HALL**, commencing at **6.00 P.M.**

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors J. Burke, M. Burke, T. Murray, I. Smith, T. Smith
M. Sommerfield, D. Wilson and F. Wynn.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

None

99. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs P. Cook, J. Edgar and G. Wickens.

100. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received from the following: -

- Cllr I. Smith for item 11 Planning Applications and item 12 Planning Decisions
- Cllr M. Burke for Item 11 Planning Applications and 12 Planning Decisions

102. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 30th November 2023 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a true and accurate record of the business transacted.

103. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

There were no minutes of committee meetings to be noted.

104. REPORT ON COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS DURING 2023/24

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

105. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

The Leader informed all members that the School Uniform Recycling Scheme will take place during February half term.

The Leader put forward Dave Rigby (previous Prescot Town Councillor and Mayor of Prescot) for a recognition award with Knowsley Council for his service at the annual Remembrance Day Civic Parade.

106. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk provided the following announcements: -

Prescot Christmas Lights Switch On 2024

Members will recall that on 14th November 2023, the Town Clerk and members of the Prescot Business Club were informed by Knowsley Council officers that there would be no 2023 Christmas Lights Switch on Event in Prescot.

This notification naturally brought with it disappointment – not only that an event bringing together the community would not be staged, but also much needed footfall for local businesses would be lost.

Despite the Chief Executive of Knowsley Council ensuring the Town Clerk that the Executive Director for Regeneration and Economic Development would contact him to discuss options for a 2024 event, to date this has not happened.

The Town Clerk has however met with representatives of the Prescot Business Club to discuss options for an event held by the Business Club and potentially supported by Prescot Town Council.

At this stage discussions are in their infancy and no funding has been assigned. Potential options include a Christmas light switch on event with food and entertainment, the potential for a Christmas grotto to be held within the function room of Prescot Town Hall and smaller scale events in the build up/during Christmas.



Budget 2024/25

The Town Clerk and officers are in the process of presenting budget options for Members which will be presented at a budget workshop on 25th January 2024.

The Town Clerk has been advised by Knowsley Council that the 2024/25 Council Tax Base has reduced by 42 from 3813 properties in 2023/24 to 3771 properties in 2024/25.

The budget ramifications of this reduction is a gap of £3,723.72 before officers have assessed individual budget lines and assessed income/charges.

Options will be produced for Member on 25th January 2024, with the 2024/25 budget needing to be agreed on 15th February.

The Town Clerk is in the process of challenging Council Tax Base figures provided by Knowsley Council given that there has been a reduction between 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, at the time of writing, this is the figure which has been submitted.

Leases relating to Brown's Field and Eaton Street Park

Members will be aware of ongoing discussions with Knowsley Council concerning proposed Heads of Terms relating to Brown's Field and Eaton Street Park.

A member briefing has been proposed for 18th January 2024 to discuss these terms and the budget implications for council if accepted.

Merseyside Police and Learning Foundry Education Delivery & Participatory Budgets

The Town Clerk has held several meetings with A/Sgt Kenny Patterson who is working with the Learning Foundry (based in Kirkby) to identify educational courses which can be delivered to young people with a view to them obtaining employment within that sphere.

All funding associated with delivery of these courses is from central government, and both Merseyside Police and the Learning Foundry are keen to use Prescott Town Hall as the base for delivery.

In addition, Merseyside Police are in the process of developing participatory budgets for Halewood, Cronton and Whiston, and if successfully delivered, plan to roll out to Prescott.

As part of this work, community groups, CICs and local businesses will be able to submit bid from a funding pot of £25,000.00.

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

Cllr D. Wilson entered the meeting.



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

There were no reports or presentations to be discussed.

108. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

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

Cllrs I. Smith and M. Burke left the room.

109. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Ref	Location	Comments
23/02770/FUL	The Prescott School, Knowsley Park Lane.	No objections
23/02846/FUL	St Mary & St Pauls C of E Primary School, Bryer Road.	No objections
23/02716/FUL	Whitakers Garden Centre, Manchester Road.	No objections
23/02765/LBC	The Clock Face Public House, 54 Derby Street.	No objections
23/02773/LBC	The Clock Face Public House, 54 Derby Street.	No objections
23/02795/ADV	The Clock Face Public House, 54 Derby Street.	No objections
23/02796/LBC	The Clock Face Public House, 54 Derby Street.	No objections
19/00297/NMA3	Land at Greenwood Close, Cross Lane and at former Watch Factory Site off Bookbinders Lane.	No objections

110. PLANNING DECISIONS

No planning decisions were received.

Cllrs I. Smith and M. Burke returned to the room.

111. COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

There were no community fund applications for consideration.

The meeting closed at 6:16 p.m

Dated: 15th February 2024

Signed:.....
Clr Tracey Murray (Mayor of Prescott)

