

PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on **FRIDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 2014** in the **WEST STREET OFFICE COMPLEX, 9 WEST STREET, PRESCOT** commencing at **7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR D RIGBY (TOWN MAYOR)

Councillors D. Allen, R. Arnall, S. Arnall, C. Cashman, A. Flanders, G. Flateley D. Friar, M. Friar, M. Lloyd, J. McGarry, L. O'Keefee, S. O'Keefe, I. Smith and M. Sommerfield.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

D. Wilson (Town Clerk)
J. Rigby (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
K. Malkin (Planning Consultant)
Alexander Hall (Communications Consultant)
J. Morris (T. J. Morris)

At the commencement of the meeting Cllr. D. Rigby welcomed K. Malkin, A. Hall and J. Morris to the meeting and explained to Members that they would be giving a presentation on the relocation of Home Bargains within Prescot, later in the meeting.

80. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P. Loyden and J. Molloy.

81. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

No members of the public wished to speak.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr. D. Friar (Agenda Item 11 (iii) Prescot Parish Church.

A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr. M. Sommerfield (Agenda Item 11 (i) and (iii).

83. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting of the Town Council held on 29th November, 2013 be received as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

84. PRESENTATION FROM T J MORRIS (HOME BARGAINS)

Mr. M. Malkin, Mr. A. Hall and Mr. J. Morris gave a presentation to members with regard to the desired relocation of Home Bargains onto the Manchester Road, Prysman Cables Site, and answered members questions.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mr. Malkin, Mr. Hall and Mr. Morris be thanked for their attendance at the Town Council Meeting and for their presentation.

85. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) EVENTS COMMITTEE 16TH JANUARY 2014

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Events Committee Meeting be **NOTED**.

(ii) FINANCE & G P COMMITTEE 17TH JANUARY 2014

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting be **NOTED**.

86. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

Cllr. D. Allen informed Members that she had heard Cllr. J. Molloy was on the road to recovery and if anyone would like to make a contribution towards purchasing a bouquet of flowers she would be holding a collection at the end of the meeting.

87. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Town Hall Development

As members will be aware, in November I announced that we were experiencing some issues in relation to the structural potential of the building, I am now happy to report these issues have been resolved and the development is once again progressing. Unfortunately the programme has been delayed due to the above issues and a new finishing date of 9th of May has been agreed, although it is hoped that the contractors may be able to bring this forward. Therefore the new expected opening date to the public will be mid-May, this information has been included within the Prescott page of the next edition of Knowsley News due out in March.

Interest in the use of facilities is growing in spite of the fact we have done very little in terms of advertising to date, with two enquiries for christenings and one 60th party provisionally booked for the end of May, June and September.

The tendering process for the concession of the bar facility has begun with an advert being placed in 'The Publicans Morning Advertiser' a national trade publication (magazine and on their website). The advert went live on line on Thursday and so far we have sent out 5 tender packs to interested parties. The closing date for submissions is 12pm 28th February 2014. The award of the concession will be granted by 17th March providing a 6 six week mobilisation period before the end of April.

The Town Clerk met with an officer from the Valuation Office yesterday to discuss the potential business rates to be applied to the Town Hall. The meeting went well and an estimated figure of around £7,000 is likely, this is £6,000 less than the business rates charged when we purchased the building.

Budget and Precept

As members are aware it is at this point in the year when the Council determines its budget for the next financial year and in doing so sets the Precept. As with last year following the introduction of the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) the way in which the Council receives its funding has altered therefore we are unable to set a budget until we are informed by Knowsley MBC the level of grant funding we are to be allocated. On Wednesday night Knowsley Council met and agreed their budget which includes the amount of CTSS grant passed on to Town and Parish Council's in the area. The Town Clerk will now prepare a draft budget for submission to Finance and General Purpose Committee on Friday 12th February. Following approval by committee the budget will then be submitted to Full Council for approval on the 28th February.

Merseyside Association of Local Councils

Members are requested to note the date and time of the next MALC meeting to be held at the Hollies Hall, Halewood Wednesday 5th Feb 7:30pm.

Boundary Review Possible effects on Parish and Town Councils

The Town Clerk has today been provided with a copy of a report submitted to Knowsley Council in respect of the Local Government Ward Boundary Review. A full copy of the report is available to members on request.

In respect of the Borough's Parish and Town Councils, the Commission cannot make changes to the electoral arrangements of any parish or town councils which are unaffected by any changes to district wards. However, where parish or town councils are directly affected by the Commission's recommendations for district ward boundaries, it can make recommendations for their electoral arrangements. These include recommendations for:-

- the number of councillors to be elected to the council or, in the case of a common parish council which represents a group of parishes, the number of councillors to be elected from each parish in the group;
- the need for parish wards (the Commission will not normally recommend the creation of parish wards which contain no or very few electors);
- the number and boundaries of any parish wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected from any parish ward;

and,

- the name of any parish ward.

At present, there is an absence of clarity as to how the Commission would decide whether a Parish or Town Council was “directly affected” by the Commission’s district proposals. For example, a Parish or Town Council which would have to change its own warding arrangements as a direct result of the district proposals has clearly been “directly affected”. However, it is unclear whether a Parish or Town Council where only the Borough Ward boundaries have changed is “directly affected”. Without such clarity, it is difficult to determine the extent to which Knowsley’s Town and Parish Councils might be affected by the intended Review. This issue will therefore be raised at the meeting with the Commission on 18 December 2013, following which discussions will commence with the Parish and Town Councils.

The Borough’s Parish and Town Councils are the subject of “all out” elections every four years, the next of which is scheduled for 2015. Given that the Commission’s findings would not be implemented until 2016 (see paragraph 5.2 above), usual practice suggests that any changes to Parish and Town Councils would not take effect until the elections in 2019. The final decision on this timescale would however rest with the Commission.

88. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

A schedule of Mayoral Engagements was submitted.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the schedule be **NOTED**.

89. PLANNING DECISIONS

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|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| • 13/00595/FUL | Erection of pod and canopy within Store car park to be used as a Click And Collect facility. Tesco Extra Cables Retail Park. | APPLICATION
WITHDRAWN |
| • 13/00423/FUL | Conversion of former library to form 1. No. 3 bedroom dwelling together with alterations to car parking and associated works. Prescott Library, High Street. | GRANTED |
| • 13/00545/FUL | Conversion of former doctors Surgery (use Class D1) to form 2 No. self-contained flats (use Class C3) comprising 1 no. 1 bedroom and 1 no. 2 bed room unit. Cross Lane Surgery, 148 Cross Lane. | APPLICATION
WITHDRAWN |
| • 13/00499/FUL | Erection of 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension. 17 Derwent Ave. | GRANTED |

- **13/00533/FUL** Demolition of single storey garage, erection of 2 storey extension and single storey extension front extension.
17 Grasmere Ave. **GRANTED**
- **13/00560/FUL** Conversion of office building to 5 no. Apartments plus external alterations.
Prescot Citizens Advice Bureau,
10 Church Street. **GRANTED**
- **13/00745/DISCON** Discharge of conditions – Pod units.
Cables Retail Park. **PLANNING
PERMISSION
NOT
REQUIRED**

90. COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

- (i) A Community Fund bid was received from Prescot Festival of Music and the Arts requesting funding towards the running of the Prescot Festival.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a grant of £500.00 be made to the Prescot Festival.

- (ii) A Community Fund bid was received from Prescot Hockey Club requesting funding towards the “Over 40s Hockey – Get Back to Hockey” project.”

A motion was tabled to award the full request of £450, this motion was not passed.

It was then **RESOLVED** that Prescot Hockey Club be awarded £350 towards the funding of the Over 40s Get Back to Hockey project.

- (iii) A Community Fund bid was received from Prescot Parish Church requesting funding towards the maintenance of the Church Clock.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a grant of £500.00 be made towards the upkeep of the Clock.

91. REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR THE KNOWSLEY FLOWER SHOW

A request was received from Knowsley Flower Show requesting sponsorship towards the running of the event.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Town Council sponsor the Shuttle bus and take out a full page advert in the event programme at a cost of up to £550.

92. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT – FEEDBACK REPORT

The Town Clerk submitted a feedback report on the Christmas Lights Switch On event.

93. WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

The Town Clerk submitted a report for adoption by the Town Clerk on a Whistle Blowing Policy procedure.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Town Council **AGREE** and **ADOPT** the Whistling Blowing Policy with immediate effect and the policy be published on the Town Councils Website.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Dated:.....

Signed:.....

**Cllr D Rigby
Mayor of Prescott**