

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllrs J Jackson (Chairman), S Carrington, K Jenkinson, S Pelham, A Wallace. All councillors had signed their declaration of acceptance of office.

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council and 6 members of the public.

001(2015-16) Election of Chairman for the 2015/16 Civic Year

Cllr Carrington proposed, Cllr Jenkinson seconded and councillors **resolved** that Cllr Jackson be elected as Chairman for the 2015/16 Civic Year and Cllr Jackson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

002(2015-16) Apologies for Absence

None.

003(2015-16) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

None.

004(2015-16) Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2015/16 Civic Year

Cllr Jackson proposed, Cllr Wallace seconded and councillors **resolved** that Cllr Jenkinson be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2015/16 Civic Year.

005(2015-16) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2015 be agreed as a true record.

006(2015-16) Calendar of Parish Council Meetings for the 2015/16 Civic Year

Councillors **resolved** to approve the dates of the meetings for the 2015/16 Civic Year as follows:

9 June 2015
 14 July 2015
 11 August 2015
 13 October 2015
 10 November 2015
 8 December 2015
 12 January 2016
 2 February 2016
 8 March 2016
 12 April 2016
 10 May 2016

007(2015-16) Appointments to Outside Bodies

Councillors **resolved** to appoint councillors to the following outside bodies:

Wyre Road Safety Committee (1) – awaiting information on the future of the Committee
 LALC Wyre Area Committee (2) –Cllr Jenkinson
 Wyre Flood Forum (2) –Cllr Jackson
 Planning Ambassador (1) – Cllr Jackson

008(2015-16) Public Participation (Including Police Report)

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to bring matters relating to the agenda to the attention of the council.

Although the crime anti social behaviour figures for the financial year had been provided the figures for April have not yet arrived. These will be reported to the next meeting.

Two members of the public explained that the format of the Gala was being changed this year and a new, small committee of parents had been formed who hoped to make it into a village wide event. They asked councillors to consider allowing them to use the playing field and car park for the event.

Two members of the public raised the issue of the planters on Ash Lea Grove and explained why they wanted them removed.

On the conclusion of public participation councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

009(2015-16) 2014/15 Budget Outturn and Annual Return

Councillors had discussed the detailed budget outturn and analysis of expenditure for 2014/15 at the April meeting and there were no further questions on the detail. The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit work had been completed and the report of the Internal Auditor would be presented to the June meeting of the Council. Councillors considered Section 1 (Accounting Statements) and Section 2 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 and **resolved** that the Accounting Statements and the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

010(2015-16) Draft Annual Report

Councillors **resolved** to approve the draft Annual Report for publication and distribution via premises open to the public and on the website.

011(2015-16) Planning Training

Councillors noted that the Head of Planning Services at Wyre Council is considering offering an externally provided training session on planning at a charge of £60 for each Parish or Town Council attending and each council would be able to send up to 3 members. Councillors expressed concern at the cost, particularly in light of the fact that Wyre Council is withholding council tax support monies provided by Government. Councillors **resolved** not to attend the training.

012(2015-16) The General Power of Competence

Councillors noted that the General Power of Competence gives town and parish councils “the power to do anything that individuals generally may do”. This means that the Council no longer has to ask itself whether it has a specific power to act. As the Council satisfies the criteria in that two thirds of councillors have been elected at the last ordinary elections and the Clerk holds an appropriate qualification councillors **resolved** to adopt the power.

013(2015-16) Gala

Councillors considered a request from the organisers of the Gala to use the playing field for this year’s event and councillors **resolved** to allow the use on the condition that there is a joint inspection of the playing field before and after the event and that any damage be put right at the Gala’s cost. Councillors further **resolved** that the Committee completes a form indemnifying the Council.

014(2015-16) Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme

Councillors **resolved** to accept LCC’s invitation to undertake public rights of way maintenance work for a further year.

015(2015-16) Planters on Ash Lea Grove

Councillors considered the responses from residents and **resolved** to remove four of the planters and to straighten the remaining two.

016(2015-16) Planning Applications**15/00274/FUL**

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension to form ancillary living accommodation

Location: 7 Ash Lea Grove, Stalmine

It was agreed that the parish council has no objections to the proposal.

15/00311/FUL

Proposal: Removal of mobile home and erection of one single-storey dwelling (resubmission of 15/00190)

Location: Hallgate Farm, Hallgate Lane, Stalmine

It was agreed that the parish council has no objections to the proposal.

017(2015-16) Finance**a) Receipts this month**

HMRC VAT refund	£1,243.00
High Interest Account interest	£0.68

b) Payments to be approved:

1233/4/5	Staff costs	£895.17
1223/4	Staff expenses on behalf of the Council	£35.72
1336	Broker Network Ltd (Insurance renewal)	£265.00
1337	The Information Commissioner	£35.00
1338	Preesall Town Council (printing)	£22.54
1339	Preesall Auto Discount	£5.95

Payments by Standing Order for Noting:

Easy Websites (monthly hosting fee)	£24.00
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c) Statement of Accounts – April 2015

The statement of accounts for the month ending April 2015 shows

Business Current Account	£174.09
Business High Interest Account	£20,467.14
General Reserve Account	£3,360.73

Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment and noted the receipts, the payment by standing order and the statement of accounts.

018(2015-16) Reports from Outside Bodies (for information)

The Clerk attended the LALC meeting on 16 April when Charlotte Delaney from Wyre Council presented the Council's new Business Plan and spoke about improving engagement with town and parish councils. The meeting agreed that this would be discussed at the Parish Charter Working Group.

019(2015-16) Clerk's Report (for information)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

New Mental Health Support Group in Preesall

The Star-Light group is a new monthly support group starting in Preesall on 13th May. It will be run by a retired Mental Health Nurse who realised that there is little peer support for those experiencing mental health issues Over Wyre.

Future Audit Arrangements

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 is now fully in place. The Act abolished the Audit Commission on 31 March 2015 but all existing external audit arrangements continue until the end of the 2016/17 financial year. Changes will be introduced from the 2017/18 financial year and both NALC and SLCC are working together to develop a sector led body and all local councils will be contacted during 2016 to confirm whether they wish to be part of the central arrangement. If any local council does not opt in it will have to make its own external audit arrangements. An external audit will only be required for those councils with income or expenditure of less than £6.5 million per annum. Although smaller authorities with a turnover of less than £25,000 will be exempt from an external audit but will still have to have an external auditor appointed for the Exercise of Electors' Rights. The exemption from external audit does not commence until the financial year 2017/8 but the new transparency code requirements from April 2015.

New Transparency Fund

To ease the financial effects of the additional burden on smaller authorities brought about by the Transparency Code requirements government has recently agreed a Transparency Fund worth £4.7 million to be administered by NALC through its County Associations. The mechanics relating to eligibility and disbursements have not yet been decided.

LCC - Changes to the disposal of construction and demolition (inert) waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres

LCC needs to make significant savings by April 2018 and is introducing a new policy to help reduce an estimated £750,000 annual cost of dealing with construction and demolition waste (including soil, rubble and plasterboard) is being implemented from 1 June. A permit system will limit how much construction and demolition waste people can dispose of for free at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) with charges being applied for any extra. Residents have been able to apply for a permit since 1 April to be ready for the new system, which begins on 1 June. Residents can apply for a permit either online: www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste; by phone: 0300 123 6781 or by post: Waste Management Group, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD
Enquiries: wasteinfo@lancashire.gov.uk. Residents should allow two weeks for their request to be processed and your permit to arrive.

Walney Extension Community Fund

GrantScape is undertaking a consultation exercise on behalf of DONG Energy to get the views of local people on how monies from the Walney Extension Community Fund should be allocated if the site is developed. Initially, local people are being asked to take part by completing a simple online survey and GrantScape is particularly interested in the views and opinions of people in coastal locations in Cumbria and Lancashire. The survey can be found on GrantScape's website www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/wecf or contact GrantScape on 01908 247634.

Shaping Your Neighbourhood Fund

An grant application has been made for a container to store sandbags etc as identified in the Flood Plan.

020(2015-16) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 9 June 2015** at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.