GARSTANG TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 21 MARCH 2016, 7.30pm
AT THE LIBRARY

In attendance: Chairman – Cllr Mrs L Harter
Councillors: Cornthwaite, Gilmour, G Harter, Hesketh, Hynes, Ryder, Perkins, Salisbury and Webster
Also present: PCSO Kirsty Newson (part), Wyre Ward Cllr Atkins and 10 members of the public

249(2015-16) Apologies for absence
Cllr Halford and Williams

250(2015-16) Declaration of Interest
Kepple Lane Park – pecuniary interest, Cllrs Gilmore and G Harter; Trustees Kepple Lane Park Trust.
Cllr L Harter pecuniary interest – wife of Cllr G Harter who is a Trustee of the Trust.

251(2015-16) Minutes
A copy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 February 2016 had been circulated.
Resolved: The minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

252(2015-16) Public Participation (including a Police Report)
The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.
The Mayor read out a statement from Keyworker Homes relating to the withdrawal of the Garstang Business Centre Consultation from their website.

1. A member of the public raised points/questions relating to planning applications that had been recently submitted to Wyre Council; concern that there was not a Local Plan in place. This led to a further views being raised about if these applications were approved by Wyre Council, how the service infrastructure would be able to cope with the extra demand. There was a shortage of doctors in the area; concern if local schools could take the possible extra intake of pupils.

2. A member of the public, spoke about the Action Garstang questionnaire results and the revised scheme by Keyworker Homes.

Cllrs had received a copy of the police report ‘February 2016 crime and incident summary for Garstang and Over Wyre’.
The meeting was reconvened.

253(2015-16) Community Centre and car park
An update had been provided by the working party. A meeting had taken place with Mr Bailey, MD of Keyworker Homes (10 March). It was hoped that their plans would have been ready to be presented to Wyre before GTC’s meeting in March so that a full discussion could take place by council, and the plans could have been seen by all. Plans had not been submitted to the Town Council, in time for them to be placed on the agenda. The following points were raised by the WP and confirmed by KWH.

WP: That we can work closely with you regarding the room layout for community use (including kitchen and toilet areas)
KWH: In due course we will forward the CAD extract and section to enable you to design your layout given the Window Openings and Circulation space we have.
WP: That Wyre can have the lease for the car park in perpetuity.
KWH: Yes WBC will take a long lease and the public car parking area will be protected by a restrictive covenant that it must remain as parking in perpetuity.
WP: That the Town Council can have the lease for the community room and office for a long term (to be agreed) period.
KWH: Yes we have no problem with this.
WP: That all Garstang community events can still use the car park to gather/line-up etc.
KWH: Yes – we would probably shade a protected area of parking for retail use on these occasions but there should be no restriction on events. WBC I assume organise this presently and will continue.
WP: That the Lion’s bonfire can still go ahead each year – the car park is used for vendors and small fairground equipment.

KWH: The Bonfire site itself is out of our land interest but the use of the car park for the event will be agreed with WBC as usual and will not be restricted.”

The WP also reported that they had met with representatives of Action Garstang, Chamber of Trade and the Town Trust (15 March) to discuss the results of the Action Garstang questionnaire. The results of the survey can be seen on http://www.garstangunderthreat.org/breaking-news.html

254(2015-16)

a) Library community asset
There were no updates to report.

b) Youth provision
The Clerk had circulated details of correspondence from local residents, relating to the Garstang Young People's Centre, which operates from the basement of the community centre (currently operating from the former Fig Tree café room) and more general comments about the young people in Garstang.

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

PCSO Newson arrived at this point and was able to give an update on the recent antisocial behaviour. The police were engaging with the young people, looking at the sale of the crow bangers in the area and had introduced a ‘Dispersal Order’ over the weekend.

Comments made by members of the public included concerns over the recent anti-social behaviour and the effect it was having on residents and the local community. Concerns about the closing of the Young People's (YP) centre, which operates from the community centre and the introduction of a mobile service. Could the gate between Booths and Aldi be shut in the evenings?

The meeting was reconvened.

Dual hatted Cllr Perkins spoke of the closure of the YP centre. She would be seeking updates from LCC. The TC were supporting the police, who were responding to resolve the issues.

c) Withdrawal of Subsidies for Local Bus Services
Cllrs noted the correspondence from LCC.

With regards to the proposals for withdrawing all subsidies for bus services, we have been working hard to ensure that we can protect as many subsidised bus services as possible.

The good news is that we have now come to a decision that 60% out of the 113 bus services in Lancashire that we currently subsidise will still run in some form or other - though there may be changes to the routes and times of these services. We have reallocated £2m and have worked with bus operators to enable this to happen. Our priority is to support services that help you get to work and education. Those bus services we will no longer be supporting will either be run by the bus operators on a commercial basis or will stop running after 2 April.

The following link, details the latest information http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport/bus-service-changes.aspx

255(2015-16) Web site
Cllr Ryder reported that the Town Council's new web site was now ‘live’ and was launched on 17 March. The new website aims to disseminate Town Council and local information to enable residents to interact with the Council, allow residents to put their views across and to aid the Town Council in making decisions which will ultimately help the council in setting its priorities. This will also ensure that the community is given the opportunity to be involved in and influence, policy making, service delivery and evaluation in order to ensure that the Council continually improve services.

256(2015-16) Council surgeries
The Clerk suggested that a rota was drawn up for the Council surgeries.
Resolved: 2 April – Cllrs Hynes & Webster; 7 May - Cllr Gilmour; 4 June - Cllr Ryder;
2 July – Cllrs Hesketh and L Harter, no surgery in August, 3 September – Cllrs Cornthwaite and Salisbury, 1 October – Cllrs Ryder and Webster, 5 November – Cllrs G Harter and Hesketh, no surgery in December.
The details would be put on the new web site.

The Clerk reported that the Mayor elect and Mayoress and two Council representatives had been invited to the above gala at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards.
Resolved: Mayor and Mayoress elect, Cllr Ryder and the Young Mayor (if available) to attend.

258(2015-16) Maintenance of Kepple Lane and Moss Lane Playing Fields
(a) Cllrs noted that the maintenance agreement for the above playing fields is due for renewal. Wyre Council confirmed that the cost of grounds maintenance operations for the above sites for 2016/17 would be: Kepple Lane - £2309.00 + vat and Moss Lane - £1811.00 + vat
Additionally, Wyre Council had confirmed that should the Town Council agree to a 3 year agreement the above prices could be confirmed for the period of the agreement.
(b) maintenance of the play facilities at Kepple Lane Park
Wyre Council confirmed that the inspection and maintenance of the above facilities would be £1000 + vat per annum for the forthcoming financial year, in line with the current agreement.
Resolved: The Council agreed to renew the playing field maintenance agreement with Wyre Council for a period of 3 years for Kepple Lane - £2309.00 + vat and Moss Lane - £1811.00 + vat. The Council further resolved to approve the cost of £1000 + vat for the inspection and maintenance of the play facilities at Kepple Lane Park for the forthcoming financial year. The costs would be allocated to code 4760.

259(2015-16) Insurance
Cllrs were asked to consider the renewal premium of £1,196.16. From 1st April 2016, this will be the 5th year of the 5 year agreement. Last year’s premium was £1,135; (the insurance premium tax has risen from 6% to 9.5%). The renewal date is 1 April 2016.
Resolution: Council agreed the renewal premium of £1,196.16 and that payment is made after 1 April 2016.

260 (2015-16) Governing Documents
Cllrs considered, the following documents
a) Risk management policy
b) Procedure for a casual vacancy for town councillor
Resolved: Council approved the 2 documents and agreed to display them on the new Council website.

261 (2015-16) Youth Council
Cllrs considered the draft minutes of the recent Youth Council meeting (9 March)
The Mayor reported that Youth Cllr Oliver Atkinson was a runner up in the recent “Lancashire Young Citizen of the Year 2016” awards and was presented with his “Highly Commended” certificate by Amanda Parker High Sheriff of Lancashire on 17 March. The ceremony took place at Hutton Police HQ, and he was praised for his community involvement, his fundraising for Kepple Lane Park, and for generally raising the profile of Garstang Youth Council.

262 (2015-16) Purchase of hedge trimmer
Council were asked to consider the purchase of a new hedge trimmer. The old hedge trimmer (purchased 2005), was inspected by Horns Garden Machinery, last December. The TC was advised of potential costs of maintaining the trimmer; around £200. Due to the age of item, it was recommended by the Clerk & Lengthsman to replace with new from 1 April 2016 (as detailed in budget figures Jan 16).
Resolved: Cllrs approved the expenditure of up to £350 to purchase a new hedge trimmer. Provision has been made in the budget against code 4702.

263 (2015-16) Planning Committee
Cllr Perkins reported on the Planning Committee meeting held earlier that evening.
264(2015-16) Finance

Resolved: Cllrs approved the following payments.

Bill payment Salaries (E Parry – & M Rossall)
102024 Mrs E Parry - Clerks expenses (21 Jan 16 – 21 March 16 inc) 23.40
102028 LALC – membership 534.90
102029 Wyre Council
  Room hire January 2016 17.50
  Room hire February 2016 17.50
102030 Green Flag award fee – Kepple Lane Park 374.40
102031 Cancelled cheque
102033 Printmob
  Website development – 360.00
  Website development additional calendar plugin – 18.00
102032 CPRE annual membership 36.00
102033 Arts Centre
  room hire - Town meeting & July & August meetings 48.00
  Armed Forces day refreshments 25.00

Statement of Accounts

The statement of accounts at 29 February 2016 showed a reconciliation of:

- Current account £ 2,642
- Reserve account £60,763
- Money Market Account 1 year £10,055

265(2015-16) Written reports from Outside Bodies

No written reports received.

266(2015-16) Written Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors

County Cllr Mrs Perkins

Attended
- Protect Duty briefing
- Health and Wellbeing briefing
- Combined Authority Briefing
- HWRC meeting
- Army briefing
- Fairtrade breakfast
- Forton, Cabus and Churchtown Parish council meetings

Wyre Cllr Atkins

February 17th  Cabinet Meeting
February 18th  Meeting with Case Officer re Planning
March 1st  Conservative Group Meeting
March 2nd  WB Planning Meeting
March 3rd  Council Meeting

I thought it right to inform you that I spoke forcefully against the proposals on Agenda Item 10 of the Wyre Borough Council Agenda regarding changes to Planning Committee Meetings. There have been some changes to these. There will be no pre-registration for Councillors and if there is more than one Wyre Borough Councillor representing the Ward all will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes each. The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee will speak in the main debate with the Committee and not be part of the summing up. These new proposals will be looked at again in six months time.

Councillor Alice Collinson and myself were among those who abstained.

March 7th  Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Town & Parish Task Group recommendations on the Agenda
March 9th  Garstang Youth Council
March 14th  Shaping Your Neighbourhood Meeting, Town Trust
267(2015-16) Mayor’s Report
Mayor’s report February 2016
8th Meeting with Borough Councillors
9th WP meeting with KWH and Wyre
11th All party meeting (apols sent)
12th Town Clerk appraisal
15th Town council meeting
27th Garstang Lions Charter evening

268(2015-16) Clerk’s Annual Leave and TOIL
The press and public were excluded for this item.
Resolved: The Council accepted the recommendation from the Personnel Committee that the clerk is allowed to carry forward 5 days into the next financial year, and as a one off, to be paid for the balance of the 10 days.
Details of payment itemised in confidential minute

269(2015-16) Items for next Council Meeting
Councillors were asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and ‘Report of other representatives and projects’, for the meeting of the Town Council on 18 April 2016 by notifying the Clerk by 17.00, 8 April 2016. The item should specify the business which it is proposed to transact in such a way that the member who receives it can identify the matters which he will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify either what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

The meeting finished at 21.00