

PRESCOT TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** for the **TOWN OF PRESCOT** was held on **THURSDAY, 28TH MARCH 2024** in **PRESCOT TOWN HALL**, commencing at **6.00 P.M.**

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors J. Burke, M. Burke, P. Cook, J. Edgar, P. Goodwin, I. Smith, T. Smith
M. Sommerfield and F. Wynn.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Birtles – Knowsley Council

131. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs T. Murray and G. Wickens.

In consideration of the passing of former Town Councillor, Town Clerk and Honorary Freeman of Prescott Daniel Wilson, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that a minute of silence be held to remember him.

132. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There were no requests from the public to address Council.

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received from the following: -

- Cllr J. Burke for Item 13
- Cllr M. Burke for Item 11
- Cllr P. Cook for Item 13
- Cllr P. Goodwin for Minute 68
- Cllr I. Smith for Items 11 and 12

134. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 15th February 2024 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a true and accurate record of the business transacted, subject to amendment to Minute 118 that “Unanimously resolved” be amended to “Resolved.”



135. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** minutes of;

1. (Draft) Events Committee, 7th March 2024

Members **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to change the order of the agenda and bring forward item 14.

136. PRESENTATION BY KNOWSLEY COUNCIL ON PROPOSED PAVILION BUILD AT BROWN'S FIELD – PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER 24/00065/KMBC1

Chris Birtles – Capital Programmes Manager for Knowsley Council provided a presentation for the proposed building of a pavilion at Brown's Field for which planning permission had been submitted.

As part of this presentation:-

- Council was shown designs for the proposed build and briefed on materials which would be used.
- Council was informed of what community consultation had taken place to date
- Council was informed that the primary users of the building were to be Berkley FC and the Friends of Browns Field. However, in order to generate income to support revenue costs associated with the building other groups including Merseyside Youth Association and Merseyside Police had been approached to determine whether they wished to use the building as a hub.
- Council was assured that the fencing off of pitches was not part of this planning application.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:-

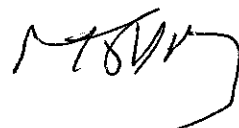
1. The presentation be **NOTED** and
2. That the Town Clerk convenes a meeting with Knowsley Council officers and other stakeholders relating to the proposed build to discuss the future operation of the site, before reporting back to Council.

137. REPORT ON COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS DURING 2023/24

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

138. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

The Leader welcomed Cllr Goodwin to Prescot Town Council following his election to Council.



139. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk provided the following announcements: -

Notification to Knowsley Council Regarding Proposed Heads of Terms Relating to Browns Field and Eaton Street Park

Following resolution by Council on 15th February 2024, the Town Clerk notified Knowsley Council that proposed Heads of Terms relating to Brown's Field and Eaton Street Park would not be accepted.

After notifying of Council's resolution, the Town Clerk repeatedly contacted Knowsley Council as to where things lay from their perspective as he was acutely aware that a contract for 2024/25 grounds maintenance works would need to be entered into; and Council's insurance renewal also need to be submitted.

The Town Clerk was contacted on 15th March 2024, during which, Knowsley Council indicated that (from their perspective) Heads of Terms remained on the table and that the Town Council should be responsible for all on-site maintenance.

In consideration of this, following legal advice obtained from Council's solicitor, the Town Clerk has once again outlined Council will discharge its obligations as per leases currently in effect (i.e. to keep sites in a "*clean and tidy condition*" and to maintain boundary walls), but that anything beyond this is the responsibility of Knowsley Council and will be challenged in the event of responsibility being disputed.

Local Democracy Project 2024/25

Officers have contacted all five primary schools seeking availability for the 2024/25 Local Democracy Project, and all five have now confirmed their attendance:-

22nd May 2024: Our Lady's Catholic Primary
12th June 2024: St Luke's Primary
19th June 2024: Prescott Primary
26th June 2024: Evelyn Primary
10th July 2024: St Mary & St Pauls Church of England

The Town Clerk will shortly seek Member availability to support the project and to provide a run-through of the 2024/25 programme.

Internal and External Auditor 2023/24

The Town Clerk is in the process of preparing for this year's internal audit inspection and submission to external auditor.



Council's Internal Auditor (David Blanchflower) will complete his inspection on 3rd April 2024, and the Town Clerk has liaised with him to agree "deep delve" areas of inspection as previously resolved by Council.

Accounts sign off and Council's internal audit report will be presented to Finance, Policy and HR Committee in April for recommendation to Full Council in May.

PKF Littlejohn, as the appointed External Auditor for smaller authorities has contacted Council and outlined its publication and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) submission requirements – the deadline for which will be 30th July 2024.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to:-

1. Request that the proposed date for St Mary and St Pauls Church of England School regarding the Local Democracy Project be amended to the first week of July and;
2. Note the report.

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

The Town Clerk provided an update following his attendance of Merseyside Police's Participatory Budget Event on 14th March 2024 at New Hutte Community Centre.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

141. MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

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

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

M. Smith

142. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Ref	Location	Comments
24/00038/COU	Self Pick Veg 66 Eccleston Street, Prescot	No objections
21/00597/NMA	Eccleston House, Aspinall Street, Prescot	No objections
21/00597/NMA1	Eccleston House, Aspinall Street, Prescot	No objections
24/00081/DEMCON	Clock Face Public House 54 Derby Street Prescot	No objections
24/00036/FUL	McDonalds Restaurant Cables Retail Park Steley Way, Prescot	Objection on the grounds of current Anti-Social Behaviour levels likely increasing if application were passed.
24/00058/FUL	16-20 Eccleston Street, Prescot	No objections
24/00065/KMBC1	King George V Playing Field, Wood Lane Prescot	Reinforce to officers Council's opposition to install fencing on site to cordon football pitches and that AFC Knowsley blueprint will not work at this location.
23/02714/FUL	9 The Prescot Centre, Eccleston Street, Prescot	No objections

143. PLANNING DECISIONS

No planning decisions were received.

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

144. COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Members considered community funding applications from two organisations:

1. Innovate Volunteering, Bryer Road Community Centre who was seeking £500.00 to purchase an on-site defibrillator.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the sum of £500.00 for the funding application from Innovate Volunteering, and that as part of the offer letter to Innovate Volunteering, they consider mounting the defibrillator to the outside of the building / outside of neighbouring St Paul's Church.



2. Knowsley Knerds who was seeking £500.00 of Community Funding to purchase £300.00 of board games and £200.00 of refreshments.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the sum of £250.00 for the funding application from Knowsley Knerds, and that as part of the offer letter to Knowsley Knerds, they consider approaching Whiston Town Council for additional funding and/or free room hire.

145. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PRESCOT TOWN HALL ON 10th APRIL 2024

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk which recommended the closure of Prescott Town Hall on 10th April 2024 as a mark of respect and to enable officers to prepare for the funeral of former Councillor, Town Clerk and Honorary Freeman Daniel Wilson.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the closure of Prescott Town Hall from 12:30pm on 10th April 2024, and that recommendations of the report.

146. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** in accordance with Standing Order 3D, that Members of the Press and Public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting given the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons.

147. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2024/25

Members considered the restricted report of the Town Clerk concerning quotations for Council's 2024/25 Grounds Maintenance Contract.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to award Council's 2024/25 Grounds Maintenance Contract to Knowsley Council

The meeting closed at 7:26 p.m

Dated: 30th May 2024

Signed:.....
Mayor of Prescott

