

ADLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 18th August 2014
in the Community Centre, Railway Road, Adlington commencing at 7.15pm

Members Present:

Mayor Cllr D Croft
Councillors A Evans, C Hart, S Higgins, B Lee, J Lowe, F Molyneaux, J Molyneaux, J Smethurst, E Sumner, A Wilson

In Attendance: L Crouch (Clerk), Mr Clive Grunshaw (Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire), Sgt Andrew Bramhall, County Cllr Kim Snape, a Police volunteer and 18 local residents, including representatives from Heath Charnock and Anderton Parish Councils.

1 Open Forum

The Police volunteer summarised the notes from the last Police and Communities Together meeting and explained that the current priorities are off-road motorcycling and anti-social behaviour. The next PACT meeting will take place on 2/10/14 at the Community Centre. Concern was expressed regarding incidents on Harrison Road (damage to plants) and reports of anti-social behaviour around the construction site on Jubilee recreation ground, which Sgt Bramhall offered to look into. The volunteer will no longer be attending Town Council meetings, and the Mayor expressed the Council's regret at this news, and thanked her for all her help.

Mr Grunshaw explained the role of the PCC as the public voice of policing. The Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire has been drawn up based on priorities identified by Lancashire residents and is available on the website www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk. Mr Grunshaw explained that most of the decisions he has to make are based on reducing the budget while maintaining the service and that Lancashire Police needs to save another £20M by 2017. He explained that Lancashire Police was recently rated as one of the top five "value for money" in the annual "Valuing the Police" HMIC report. The main concerns raised by residents related to the effect of the police station closure and the sharing of Community Beat Managers between villages, particularly in view of Adlington's position close to the border of the County. Mr Grunshaw and Sgt Bramhall explained that the deployment is based on calculated need and is an operational decision. Police stations have been closed as a strategic decision based on the usage figures. Chorley Council has maintained its contribution towards the provision of PCSOs so the number of these should remain stable. There are some vacancies currently and this funding is ring-fenced. The question of how much crime goes unreported was also raised and Mr Grunshaw explained that the Police figures are checked for consistency with the ONS National Crime survey. He explained that it is difficult to plan for growth in a time of reduced funding. Mr Grunshaw agreed to pass on the concerns raised by residents to his parliamentary contacts and to respond to the more specific concerns regarding the base locations of the local Community Beat Managers. He also encouraged individuals to contact his office directly with any further questions or concerns. The Mayor thanked him for attending the meeting.

All visitors apart from three residents left the meeting

Mrs Holmes addressed the Council with her concerns regarding road safety on the A6 through Lower Adlington. Councillors agreed with her that the level of traffic using this road has been increasing and this has not been helped by the current road closures. She has observed two near misses in the last week including a car driver who did not immediately stop for the crossing patrol

Two of the visitors then left the meeting

Mr Mehta, the manager of the Higher Adlington Post Office, explained the "local model" for Post Office operation which will be put into operation at his premises shortly. The intention is to reduce the number of complex transactions handled to improve efficiency for the majority of customers. He assured the Council that he & his staff would ensure that customers were supported and advised before and during the change.

Mr Mehta then left the meeting

2 Apologies for Absence None

3 **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th July** were accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

3.1 **Matters Arising** The letter from the Town Council was not discussed at the last Community Centre committee meeting as the documents were unavailable. Cllr Lowe will take these to the next meeting.

4 **Declarations of Interest** Cllr J Molyneaux declared an interest in item 6 as she is a member of Chorley Council Development Control Committee. Cllr Lowe declared an interest in item 5.2 as she paid for the plants.

5 Finance

5.1 It was resolved to approve the statement of accounts and budget review for July 2014. The bank statements were signed by Cllr Hart.

5.2 It was resolved to approve the following payments:

L Crouch	Salary	
Petty Cash	Stationery	£3.50
Orange	Phone charges 24/07/14 to 23/08/14	£9.31
J Lowe	Plants for planters	£10.50

5.3 It was resolved that £5000 of the Council's reserve funds will be used to provide "match funding" for grant applications to provide additional play equipment for the Jubilee Recreation Ground (Public Health Act 1875 s164). It was also resolved that Cllr Evans and the Clerk will contact local businesses to ask for additional contributions.

5.4 It was resolved to transfer £400 from the RBS savings account to the business current account.

6 Planning**6.1 New Applications**

It was resolved that **14/00747/FUL 60A Westhoughton Road** Change of use from D2 Children's Play Centre to B2 General Industrial, **14/00828/FUL 30 Railway Road** Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations and **14/00843/FUL 76 Fairview Drive** Single storey rear/side extension, linked to and incorporating existing detached garage should all be left for neighbours' comments.

7 Items for Discussion

It was resolved to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue for 30 minutes

7.1 It was resolved to ratify the response of the working group meeting to the Future of Northern and TransPennine Express rail franchises government consultation

7.2 It was resolved to advertise the current Town Councillor vacancy on the notice boards and website with a closing date for applications of 12/09/14

7.3 It was resolved to consider the LCC response to the rail franchise consultation before raising the subject of the rail service again at the next Three Tier Forum meeting

7.4 It was resolved that the Website (& Publicity) Working Group would meet to discuss the content and future schedule for the Update newsletter

7.5 It was resolved to contact the Tesco regional manager and Lancashire County Council again regarding the Council's concerns regarding pedestrian safety at the entrance to the Tesco Express car park, and to copy this to the local MP and County Councillor

7.6 It was resolved to contact Lancashire County Council again with the concerns raised by Mrs Holmes regarding the "near misses" experienced by pedestrians crossing the A6, and to copy in the local MP and County Councillor

7.7 It was resolved that although the Council is saddened by the loss of some services following the proposed Higher Adlington Post Office changes, and particularly regarding the handling of cheques, it appreciates that the manager and his staff will assist in making the changeover as easy as possible, particularly for elderly customers.

7.8 The Clerk was asked to find out what is happening about stone cladding for the new railway bridge now that the original stones have been disposed of, and to check on the current situation regarding the Park and Ride car park which has not yet been made available to rail users.

8 Items for Information

8.1 Fairview Drive has now been adopted by LCC Highways

8.2 A bingo session will be held on 30/9/14 at St Paul's Church Club in aid of the Mayor's Charities

The meeting closed at 9.30pm