

ADLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 19th October 2015
in the Community Centre, Railway Road, Adlington commencing at 7.15pm

Members Present:

Mayor Cllr S Higgins

Councillors J Banks, A Evans, C Hart, J Lowe, T Summers, A Wilson

In Attendance: L Crouch (Clerk), Alan Robinson and three residents.

1 Open Forum

One of the residents present expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor. The Mayor explained that the Council would decide on the time scale for applications for the current vacancy and this would be advertised on the notice boards and website. All applicants will be expected to submit an application in writing before the closing date.

Sue & Kathleen Makinson introduced themselves to the meeting and spoke to the Council regarding the exploratory licenses recently granted relating to fracking in the Rivington area. They provided the Councillors with some documentation and expressed their concern regarding the potential adverse effects of the process on local drinking water and agriculture, and the permission given to the companies involved to drill in residential areas, which they felt was of particular concern in this area which is already affected by subsidence owing to the existence of coal and lead mines.

The Mayor thanked them for attending and for the information provided and they left the meeting.

2 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Lee, Cllr F Molyneaux and Cllr J Molyneaux

3 **Minutes of the Meeting** held on Monday 21st September were accepted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

3.1 **Matters Arising** The Clerk reported that there had still been no response from Chorley Council to the query regarding bus shelters raised by a resident. She will contact Jamie Carson at Chorley Council directly about this.

4 **Declarations of Interest** None

4.1 It was resolved to co-opt Mr Alan Robinson as Town Councillor for the West Ward of Adlington. Mr Robinson made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5 Finance

5.1 It was resolved to approve the statement of accounts and budget review for September 2015.

5.2 It was resolved to approve the application form to be sent to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils to request funding for a scanner/printer from the Government Transparency Fund. The suggested equipment is a HP wireless all-in-one printer currently priced at £79.99 (inc VAT).

5.3 It was resolved to approve the following payments:

| | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| L Crouch | Salary | |
| Orange | Phone charges 24/09/15 to 23/10/15 | £9.38 |
| L Crouch | Petty Cash Imprest for Poppy Wreath (LGA s137) | £20.00 |

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

5.5 It was agreed to ask Chorley Council to supply the 40 hanging baskets in Adlington in summer 2016 as in previous years at a cost of up to £3630 + VAT

6 Planning

6.1 New applications

15/00929/FUL Land In Front Of 17 And 18 Grove Avenue Creation of 4 No. car parking spaces to front of Nos 17 and 18 Grove Avenue. It was resolved to contact Chorley Council to say that the Council welcomes this application and hopes that more off-road parking can be provided in future by Chorley Community Housing for its residents.

15/00944/FUL Bradshaw Fields Level Crossing 475M North East Of Railway Road Bridge Westhoughton Road Construction of a stepped footbridge on land adjacent to Bradshaw Fields level crossing. It was resolved to contact Chorley Council to say that the Council welcomes this development.

15/00984/FUL Land At Fielding Place Change of use of land to water distribution facility incorporating the erection of an actuator kiosk, boundary fence and dropped kerb access. It was resolved that no comments were necessary.

15/01003/FUL 21 Lancaster Place Erection of single storey side extension - resubmission of (15/00484/FUL: two storey side extension). It was resolved to leave this application for neighbours' comments.

6.2 Cllr Hart explained that the listing of the Bridge Inn as an Asset of Community Value will require the owners to give advance notification of any intention to sell the property, allowing the community time to raise the funds to purchase it if they wish to do so. It was resolved that the Council has no objection to this listing

6.3 It was resolved that the Chorley Council Planning Validation Criteria document is useful and well-considered.

7 Items for Discussion

7.1 It was resolved to approve changes to the asset register to write off the value of the old laptop computer and include the new, and to include the WW1 commemoration board. It was noted that if a new printer/scanner is purchased a further amendment will be required.

7.2 Cllr Banks reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Friends of Adlington Circular Walk. It is a small group and may need to be promoted and expanded in order to maintain and promote the walk itself following the initial funding a few years ago. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated when available. The Clerk will check when the next meeting is scheduled to take place.

7.3 It was resolved that the Town Council meets the requirements and is therefore eligible to use the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011) as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. The Clerk was asked to contact the Lancashire Association of Local Councils for advice regarding recommended training on this subject for Councillors.

7.4 Cllr Lowe was congratulated by the Council for her diligence in identifying the Jubilee Recreation Ground as having been originally funded by the Carnegie Trust. Fields in Trust are hoping to protect these public spaces from any future redevelopment. The registration forms have been forwarded to Chorley Council and it was resolved to express the Town Council's support for this.

7.5 It was resolved to look into the Heart Foundation defibrillator funding application requirements and to contact Chorley Council as it was felt that the most appropriate location for these would be on dedicated stands on each of the playing fields.

7.6 Despite its awareness of the need for the country to find economically viable energy production methods, the Council expressed serious reservations regarding the exploratory fracking process, in particular:

- the lack of evidence relating to the safety of the fracking process
- the lack of information regarding disposal of toxic waste products
- the potential destabilisation of an area already subject to mining subsidence

In addition, concern was expressed that any fracking applications may be "fast-tracked" and therefore not subject to the usual planning control procedures.

7.7 It was suggested that an article regarding fracking, notification of the current Councillor vacancy and the Mayor's upcoming charitable events should be included in the next edition of "Update"

7.8 It was resolved to advertise the current vacancy on the Town Council for a Councillor in the East Ward of Adlington with a closing date of Sunday 17th January to allow a notice to be placed in the next newsletter. The Clerk will check that this time scale is acceptable to the Electoral Services section at Chorley Council.

7.9 There were no further urgent matters for the Council's attention.

8 Items for Information

8.1 The Mayor's Charity Bingo event in September raised £182.50 for the Mayor's charities. He thanked Cllrs Lowe, Evans, Hart and Wilson for their raffle donations. The next events will be a Quiz Night at the Bottom Spinners on Thursday 5/11/15 and a Quiz Night at the Cardwell Arms on Thursday 26/11/15. There will also be a dance evening on Saturday 27/2/16, further details to follow.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the Mayor's Allowance must be supported by any receipts and a declaration that it represents necessary expenditure in the performance of the role for tax purposes.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm