

GARSTANG TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2012
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

In attendance: Chairman – Cllr Lady Atkins

Councillors: Mrs Alston, Balmain, Cornthwaite, G Harter, Mrs Harter, Mrs Perkins and Salisbury.

Also present: Michael Ryan – Wyre Council, 25 members of the public and Nicola Jacques – The Courier.

1.	<p>Apologies for absence Cllrs Halford, D Williams and Mrs J Williams. County Cllr Val Wilson Retrospective apologies have been received from the Police</p>
2.	<p>Minutes A copy of the minutes of the meetings held on 21 November and 5 December 2011 had been circulated to Members. Resolved: The minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.</p>
3.	<p>Declaration of Interest Item 10 - Planning, Cllr Lady Atkins (personal interest – on planning committee at WBC), Item 11 – Kepple Lane Park development, Cllr G Harter (p&p interest - Trustee Kepple Lane Playing Field Trust); Cllr Mrs Harter (p&p interest – wife of Cllr Harter who is a Trustee of the Trust). Item 12 – Youth Council – Cllr Harter (p&p interest – husband of Cllr Mrs Harter who has submitted a proposal).</p>
4.	<p>Police matters No member of the Police was present as they were attending a more urgent matter. (Copies of crime figures have been distributed to the Council since the meeting).</p>
	<p>The members of the public that were present, wished to speak about the Leisure Centre consultation.</p>
5.	<p>Wyre Council – Leisure Centre Review Mr Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places and Monitoring Officer at Wyre, attended the meeting to give details of the Leisure Centre consultation. The meeting was adjourned to allow local residents address their concerns to Mr Ryan. A record of the discussion is detailed in Appendix 1 (attached).</p>
6.	<p>LCC – Rationalisation of Household waste recycling centres (Claughton Amenity Tip) The Clerk reported that no formal correspondence had been received from LCC to inform the Town Council of the Deputy Leader’s decision on 15th December 2011. It is evident that the recommendation is to approve the closure of the tip taking effect from 19 March 2012. Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to LCC expressing disappointment at the lack of communication informing the Town Council of LCC’s decision.</p>
7.	<p>LCC – 20 mph zone – introduction of zone in Garstang Again, the Clerk reported that no formal correspondence had been received from LCC, informing the Town Council of the reasons why a 20mph zone had been introduced in Garstang, even though the Town Council objected to the blanket wide 20mph zone. Further to enquiries by the Clerk and County Cllr Val Wilson, representatives of LCC will attend February’s meeting to talk to the Council about LCC’s decision.</p>

8.	<p>Report of other representatives and Mayoral engagements The Mayor's engagements had been circulated (on file). The Mayor reported on the recent LALC meeting.</p>																
9.	<p>Report of Amenities Committee The Mayor reported on the meeting held earlier in the evening. The Council accepted the recommendations that are recorded in the Committee Minute Book.</p>																
10.	<p>Report of Planning Committee Cllr Mrs Perkins reported on the meeting held earlier in the evening.</p> <p>(a) 11/00889/FUL Erection of one dwelling following demolition of existing garages and improvements to existing access (resubmission of 11/00763/FUL). Land Rear of Garstang Methodist Church, Park Hill Road - No objections</p> <p>(b) 11/00890/FUL Proposed Victorian veranda/canopy at rear, western rear boundary wall and velux window to front roof slope.10 The Moorings - No objections</p> <p>(c) 11/00861/FULMAJ Erection of a 130m high wind turbine and associated infrastructure including access track, electrical equipment and a temporary construction compound and hardstanding. Cross House Farm, 2 Garstang By pass Road, Churchtown. The Council object to this application as the wind turbine would be visually intrusive on the landscape and there would be a visual impact to the immediate area. There was concern that this wind turbine would be taller than the existing turbine at Dewlay cheese factory. The Council were concerned about the flickering effect and the noise effect, of the turbines, on neighbouring properties. The Council were concerned about the effect on migratory birds.</p> <p>The Council accepted the recommendations that are recorded in the Committee Minute Book.</p>																
11.	<p>Kepple Lane Park development The Clerk spoke of the request from the Kepple Lane Park Trust to purchase playground equipment on the playing field. The Clerk had sought advice on from HM Revenue who endorsed the request. Implications of the approval namely receiving grant monies towards the purchase, insurance, maintenance and inspection of the equipment had been pointed out to Council (Clerk's report on file). The Mayor thanked Cllr Harter and the Clerk for their time spent on the background to this item.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Town Council place the order with SMP playgrounds and Oakenclough Buildings, rather than the Trust, so that VAT monies can be reclaimed back. 2. That the Town Council approve an expenditure of £8,841 from the Kepple Lane budget heading as detailed in the Council's accounts. 																
12.	<p>Youth Council Cllrs acknowledged receipt of Cllr Mrs Harter's report.</p> <p>Resolved: All Cllrs wished to have CRB clearance checks, the Clerk to check with the other absent Cllrs and then process the CRB clearance check.</p>																
13.	<p>Garstang Town Trust – Garstang Town Logo The Council had been notified that the Garstang Town Logo as depicted on the Town Trust and Council letterhead is now registered in the name of Garstang Town Trust.</p>																
14.	<p>LALC</p> <p>(a) Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2012 Resolved: The Council nominated the Deputy Mayor to attend the above function.</p> <p>(b) County Training Partnership - Finance workshop 8 February 2012 Resolved: No Cllrs wished to attend.</p>																
15.	<p>Finance Accounts for payment - Cllrs are asked to approve the following payments:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1890 1461 2011"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bill payment</th> <th>Salaries</th> <th>(E Parry –& M Rossall)</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Cheque No.</th> <th>Payee</th> <th></th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>101682</td> <td>Mrs E Parry – Clerks expenses (6th Dec – 16th Jan incl)</td> <td></td> <td>£ 26.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101683</td> <td>Wyre Council – Room hire November 2011</td> <td></td> <td>£ 15.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Bill payment	Salaries	(E Parry –& M Rossall)		Cheque No.	Payee		Amount	101682	Mrs E Parry – Clerks expenses (6 th Dec – 16 th Jan incl)		£ 26.49	101683	Wyre Council – Room hire November 2011		£ 15.00
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101684	C&C Supplies – Lengthsman equipment - Invoice date 16/12/11 - £ 7.18 Invoice date 30/11/11 - £ 53.57	£ 60.75
101685	Room G17 office accommodation rent and service charge (Rangers costs have been deducted)	£ 397.74
101686	Houghtons Fuel (Sept, Oct & Nov)	£ 64.04
101687	Horn Garden Machinery – serving equipment Hedge Trimmer/Kubuta 261.29 Lawn mower 125.26	£ 386.55
101688	HM Revenue Tax & NI deductions – Nov - Jan 2012	£1419.28
101689	M Rossall - car mileage and phone allowance	£ 157.08
101690	SLCC membership	£ 157.00
101691	Reimbursemt E Parry BT Office Bill (Dec – March 2012) £ 125.62 Paymt in advance BT Line Rental £ 120.00	£ 245.62

16. Council Meetings and details

Next Council meeting 7.30pm 20th February 2012

Finance Committee meeting 6th February 2012

Items on the agenda included Elite Motors, War Memorial, LCC bus xmas festival reply, 20mph zones, Leisure Centre, LCC Tip, Kepple Lane playing field project, Youth Council.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Council meeting – 16 January 2012 – item 5 Wyre Council – Leisure Centre Review

Record of dialogue between Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places and members of the public.

Michael Ryan (MR) addressed the Council and public by talking of his passion for leisure in Garstang

Currently reviewing the services in Wyre, to deliver value for money, part of the review is to free up cash resources to fund the Council's deficit.

Examples to date include

1. review of waste management and recycling in the Borough.
2. street cleansing function

Part of the review of the leisure centres is to

1. access performance of each of the Leisure Centres
2. plan for the longer term – looking at the year 2026 of what the needs for leisure may be.

Led to need for gathering information – there are no pre conceived ideas. When review was carried out 2/3 years ago, different personnel in charge of Council, i.e. Leader, CEO and Heads of Service. Some information has been taken from the study and carried forward, however majority of information does not bear any resemblance today.

Residents are encouraged to be part of the process – you have until 27th January to complete questionnaire. In light of the information received a more specific consultation would then take place.

Concerns form residents of Garstang

Resident 1

NAA report recommended closure and that activities should be transferred to the High School and Village Halls.

The Terms of reference for current/past study is to provide leisure facilities from one site. Terms of reference for current review are to test and confirm recommendations of NAA study.

MR – Wyre did not go along with/agree with NAA recommendations – and moth balled the outcomes.

The Council now has an open mind.

Resident 2

Heard the comment that Leisure Centre is 30 years old and past its best – there is an underlying presumption that the centre is on its way out.

MR The Council need to know how much money needs to be spent on a facility. All centres require investment.

There are no structural issues with the building. The issues that face the Council are maintenance and there is a requirement to fulfil obligations to the public. Wyre has a its own surveyor's report to make an assessment of the buildings in Wyre.

£140k annual investment is required for Leisure Centres in Wyre.

Question the need to spend £30,000 on a survey.

MR The Council needs the information.

Resident 3

Concern that if the Leisure Centre were to be closed – that the money would be released in to other parts of Wyre – namely over Wyre. Concern that it is a prime plot of land in Garstang.

Resident 4

Concern that Cllr Bowen (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture) had addressed a public meeting and spoke of the need to sell the Leisure Centre.

If a Wyre Cllr has spoken of this in the public arena, you can understand why the residents think that a decision has already been made.

Resident 5

Ian Munroe (Officer at Wyre) at public meeting said that the Leisure Centre would not be abandoned.

If the outcome was that use of village halls were to be used along with High schools, how would spinning bikes be moved around the area? The existing use of the High School does not have the free time on its timetable of use to cater for the needs of the Leisure Centre.

Resident 6

The activities for retired people during the day, would not be practical to be carried out at the High School.

Resident 7

Out turn of Leisure costs projected to be 23%, yet rural area has 28% of population – consuming less.

Resident 8

Where would the equipment of mats and steps for aerobic sessions be held?

MR

Wyre needs to meet the demand for customers and provide the right activities for its residents.

Resident 9

Worked in Leisure for 15 years. Garstang offers a good selection of classes and equally important is the sense of community and socialising that residents feel when they attend the Leisure Centre classes. Had experience in the Leisure sector to know that it doesn't work in schools. It would be a shame for the community to lose this facility.

MR

Wyre's aim would be to make all Leisure facilities to be fantastic in 2026.

Resident 10

Had heart surgery in past – the gym at Garstang has been an aid to recovery from surgery.

Cllr Lynn Harter

Concern that no matter what protest is made, the outcome does not tend to be favourable to Garstang residents.

Cllr Graham Salisbury

Would seem that there are two phases – how well does the leisure centre stand on past performance and how does it stand today – is the centre performing reasonably well? Need to remember that the Leisure Centre services the whole area and hinterland of Garstang.

MR

Have a great partnership with YMCA, wouldn't want to pre-judge outcome by looking at how Leisure Centre performs today.

Resident 11

Why are the two leisure facilities in Garstang classed as two? Should be seen as one operating unit.

MR – Pool is owned by LCC, NAA report advised to get rid of Leisure Centre

MR Not taking forward recommendations.

Resident 1

NAA report full of holes – no mention of skateboard park. Parking details inaccurate.

Cllr Alan Cornthwaite

Concern that the LCC study for the Claughton tip had factual information that was incorrect. Need assurance from Wyre that the usage figures etc are correct.

Resident 12

Concern that the number crunching has already taken place.

By setting the terms of reference Wyre has brought out the conclusions that it wants.

Interprets it that Wyre wants the land for housing and will fund a facility elsewhere in Wyre.

Resident 13

The Leisure Centre has been left to get run down. No money has been spent to improve the facility.