

**LONG PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**  
**MINUTES Extraordinary Meeting**

**313. 15 Minutes for public participation session**

Nine parishioners sat in attendance. Participation in discussions was ongoing.

**314. Present**

Cllrs Tyrer (Chairman), Goodall (Vice-Chairman), Inglis, Kay, Morley and Sturgess. **In attendance:** CD Cllr Moorby and Marijke Hill (Parish Clerk & RFO).

**315. Code of Conduct and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Kay (Chairman of the PFA) recorded a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to all the items on this Agenda. Cllr Goodall recorded that a family member sat in attendance. No requests were made for dispensations in connection with items on this Agenda.

**316. To consider options and reach decisions on the future running and maintenance responsibility of the playing fields**

The Playing Field Association set out their view in relation to the future running and maintenance responsibility of the playing fields, which is to run as a 'Friends of the playing fields' charity, for which they will primarily fundraise. They explained that they wanted to get away from the maintenance of the field as they felt that they were constantly held back from larger projects due to the time taken to maintain what was there, especially the grass cutting.

Councillors in turn, raised concerns that the Parish Council would become liable for all the maintenance and did not want in the future a situation arising where they existed simply as a funder for the PFA operating in an "open cheque" manner. It was pointed out that the Council needed to be able to quantify any expenditure for the purposes of the precept and the Council's overall duty to obtain value for money. Councillors also expressed the need to actually carry out some works to the playing fields immediately so that parishioners could see that things were happening and to encourage more people to go there.

**a Options to consider**

The Council **considered** the options, listed on the agenda, and it **resolved** that a partnership with the PFA would be the preferred option. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to ascertain the feeling at the meeting and there was complete **unanimity** from the public, the PFA and the Council to the preferred option.

The Parish Council would continue to be the owner of the playing fields, without a Lease to the PFA, and it would be responsible for the grass cutting and insurance. Ongoing maintenance would be carried out by the Council.

The PFA would be responsible for fundraising and strategic planning.

A sub-committee will be established with up to three Councillors and representatives from the PFA to meet regularly to discuss ongoing plans, budgets and to ensure that things were moving forward.

The Council **agreed**, in co-operation with the PFA, that the PFA should surrender its lease, formalise and clarify the ownership of assets (as belonging to the Council) and then enter into a

vesting declaration so that its assets can be transferred to the new Charity that the PFA had set up. Following this, the old Charity could be wound down.

It was discussed that the playing fields had never been registered with the Fields in Trust Scheme which would guarantee the fields' use as a playing area in perpetuity and it was **agreed** this aspect would go to a future Parish Council meeting.

The Council also **agreed** that the PFA should report any progress at the next Parish Council meeting and agree formally in their own meeting the outline agreement reached at this meeting, then to produce a timetable to put matters arising into place. In addition the PFA recognised that they needed to do work on their 10 year plan and create a firm timetable in place for its implementation. Under the terms of the existing arrangements the PFA were obliged to hold a public meeting whenever changes of the magnitude suggested were to occur. In relation to a public meeting on this subject, the Council generally **agreed** that its Members are elected to take any decisions and it could ask for feedback from parishioners and so the public meeting to be arranged would be used as a forum for the presentation of the PFA's plans for the future.

**b Maintenance to consider**

The Council **decided** that the maintenance listed on the agenda will be discussed at a future meeting.

**c To determine asset ownership and consider repayment of insurance**

In co-operation with the PFA, the Council **agreed** that the PFA bank account and the generator are PFA assets; everything else as is listed on the Council's Fixed Assets Register, are Parish Council assets.

The Council **resolved** that it should not ask the PFA for a repayment of the insurance addition of its assets of £374.91.

**d To investigate the generator pack certificate**

The Council was **informed** that the PFA will carry out the generator pat certificate.

The Chairman **thanked** the PFA for their continuing work and said that the Council and all of the users of the playing field were grateful to them for their time and energy without which the playing fields would have ceased to continue.

**317. Date of the next parish meeting**

The Council **confirmed** the date and time of the next Meeting of the Parish Council as Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.53 hours (8.53pm).

M. Hill  
Clerk to the Council