

Ingol & Tanterton Neighbourhood Council

MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday the 15th January 2014 in St Margaret's Church Hall Ingol @ 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Anderson, Dodd, Ellison, Speakman, Thompson, Soole, McGrath, Brookes, Roskell & Wright

There were four members of the public present together with County Cllr J Fillis who had been invited to attend the meeting to talk about the proposal for the withdrawal of evening and Sunday subsidised bus services

01/14 To receive Apologies

None

02/14 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th December 2013

It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th December 2013 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

03/14 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

04/14 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

The meeting was adjourned

It was suggested that the minutes of the previous meeting might be available for members of the public.

A member of the public asked questions concerning the management of Tanterton Community Centre - it was pointed out that the company which had been formed to take over management of TCC was a separate legal entity to the NC and therefore any questions relating to its set up or management must be directed to the appropriate officials of that company.

It was mentioned that a meeting was to take place next week concerning the NW Masterplan involving representatives of local Parish Councils and other local action groups.

It was re-iterated that the proposed withdrawal of certain bus service subsidies was still under consultation and that no definite decision had yet been made.

John O'Gaunt pub now closed – new nursery set up temporarily at Ingol Community Primary School until building is ready for use although new owners were to move into the accommodation soon.

NW Preston Masterplan consultation starts 20th January through to 14th February 2014

Consideration is being given to planting poppy seeds on local roundabouts to commemorate the centenary of the start of the 1st World War

A presentation was made by County Cllr Fillis with regard to the proposals for bus service subsidy withdrawal. He outlined the detailed amount that these subsidies were currently costing for services on routes that had few passengers. On average it was stated that it cost the taxpayer a subsidy of £3.00 per passenger per trip on the evening and Sunday services currently under threat. It was proffered that this was simply not sustainable. Commercial companies running bus services considered each route as a separate issue and would not balance profit making routes against nonprofit making routes hence the present arrangements for subsidy to have kept them going this long. He explained that he would like to see a different arrangement with bus companies along the lines used in Newcastle – Quality Contracts – under these arrangements the Council would manage the buses, routes, prices and regularity. The bus companies would be paid a fixed price to operate to those requirements which would include an element of profit. Any further profit would go to the Council who would then use this profit to subsidise loss making routes as it felt appropriate. In this way the burden did not fall on the tax payer. This would however take some time to introduce whilst in the meantime the need for making savings still existed. In response it was suggested that perhaps rather than remove the subsidy/routes completely they might simply be reduced and that in the case of NW Preston no account had been taken of the high level of development due to take place and the arguments put forward by developers that the existence of public transport was a key part of the planning for these. It was suggested

that on the one hand planners were granting permissions arguing that they are supported by good public transport arrangements whilst on the other hand LCC was now suggesting that parts should be withdrawn.

The meeting was re-convened

05/14 To authorise payment of the following accounts:

300079	SLCC	¼ CLERK'S SUBSCRIPTION	64.00
300080	PETER GREENWOOD GARDENING SERVICES	LENGSTHMAN	337.50
300081	PETER GREENWOOD GARDENING SERVICES	LENGTHSMAN	262.50
300082	ZURICH INSURANCE	ADDITIONAL PREMIUM RELATING TO XMAS TREES AND EQUIPMENT	59.36

It was resolved that the above mentioned payments should be approved

06/14 To approve the enclosed Statement of Accounts at 31st December 2013

It was resolved that the above mentioned Statement of Accounts should be approved

07/14. To appoint Len Slade as the internal auditor for 2013/14 at a fee of £105.00 and approve the attached Terms of Reference and Internal Control and Suggested Testing Methodology.

It was resolved that Len Slade should be appointed as the internal auditor for 2013/14 at a fee of £105.00 and that the attached Terms of Reference, Internal Control and Suggested Testing Methodology should be approved.

08/14 To consider and approve the following enclosed documents:

- The Councils Risk Management Policy Statement 2014
- The Councils Risk Management Register 2014
- The Councils Asset Register 2014
- The Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Internal Control 2014

It was resolved that the above mentioned documents should be approved.

09/14 To consider a response to the proposals, which have already been distributed by e-mail, regarding the withdrawal of evening and Sunday subsidised bus services – a suggested response is enclosed

It was resolved that the suggested response circulated with the agenda should be sent amended only with regard to service no 75 which should be removed as it was not directly relevant.

'The consultation proposal by LCC to withdraw services and subsidies is, with particular reference to the number 4, 40 and 80 bus services, not acceptable to the Neighbourhood Council. The NC acknowledges the current financial constraints imposed on the CC and that these services may not be commercially viable without a subsidy. However, given the large scale developments and influx of new residents proposed in North West Preston where sustainability to public transport is a key planning consideration then these proposals to reduce, curtail and remove bus services are considered premature and would make it more difficult to deliver the necessary public transport in the future. The CC is urged to re-consider the proposals as they are at variance with previously adopted policies in respect of sustainable travel.

10/14 To consider whether this Council should organise a 'Best Kept Garden/Ingol & Tanterton in Bloom Competition' and if so appoint a small working group to investigate alternatives and submit in due course formal proposals to this Council.

It was resolved that Cllrs Dodd, Roskell and Wright should form a working group to investigate options and report back to this Council with suggestions at a future meeting

11/14 To consider whether this Council should request a presentation at a future meeting concerning Neighbourhood Plans

It was resolved that a presentation as outlined above should be arranged.

12/14 To receive 'for information only' any updates from 'working group' activities

The following updates were received:

- *Enquiries are ongoing concerning the replacement of trees in the neighbourhood*
- *Investigation is ongoing concerning additional planters in the area. Potential sites have been identified and permissions are being sought – proposals will be brought to the Council at a future meeting for consideration*
- *It is seemingly becoming difficult to arrange a meeting with PjP concerning the Tanterton Shops area – efforts are however still on going*
- *No further submissions have yet been made with regard to the listing of Community Assets as previously agreed since clarification is being sought with regard to understanding exactly what is required by Preston CC – members of the working group are to attend a training event to assist with this.*

13/14 To note that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for the 26th February 2014

It was noted that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for the 26th February 2014 but might need to be changed due to the Masterplan consultation timescales