



MINUTES of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on

Monday the 30th June 2025 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane commencing at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs: Butler, Gibson, Jewell, Lambert, Parker, Rayfield, Harper
Smith, Whitham, McFarlane, O'Donnell and Coward.

There were two members of the public present together with Shirley Parkinson (Operations Manager)
from Preston City Council

45/25 To receive apologies

Cllr Abram and Brown

45/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th May 2025 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2025 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record

46/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8 on the agenda since she lives immediately opposite Miller Green – she left the room and did not take part in the debate or voting on this matter.

47/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

The meeting was adjourned

Shirley Parkinson (Preston City Council) expanded on the report which had already been sent to members. She confirmed that as part of a city-wide audit many playgrounds had been identified as being close to their sell by date, which included several in the Cottam area. She confirmed that repairs would be done where that was practical from PCC allocated budgets but that there was no replacement budget available and such requirements would have to be sought through external funding applications.

She mentioned that Cottam had a significant number of small playgrounds which were generally spread across the area, but which only catered for quite young children with no provision for older ones and that some of these were little used. The idea was floated that perhaps it would be more beneficial for some of these smaller units to be closed as they got to the end of their life and a new larger multi-purpose facility provided covering a much wider age group. This would need the identification of a suitable location and external funding since play areas of this type could cost anything between £120K and £300K

PCC have now appointed a consultant group to look at the issues across Preston and are planning to undertake consultations in the areas where playgrounds are coming to the end of their lifespan to identify exactly what residents would like to see happen. The consultations are expected to take place later this year and Cottam is likely to be towards the front of this exercise. In the short term further equipment inspections are due to establish as far as possible the state to help inform later decisions.

A member of the public present disagreed with the idea of a larger playground stating that he thought the existing arrangements had worked well for many years and that larger facilities might intimidate younger children. Shirley pointed out that the consultation which was to be undertaken should identify what the public at large wanted to see.

It was also mentioned that parking which was already an issue, and easy access would need to be carefully looked at should the idea of a larger play facility be taken forward.

The Chairman thanked Shirley for her attendance and asked that she kept us up to date with progress whatever that might turn out to be.

A resident then expressed concern that as a result of the start of the building of the new nursery behind the Community Centre parking had become chaotic and expressed concern that public car parking spaces are to be lost to the new development of which he had been unaware. He had contacted PCC and local Ward Councillors asking questions but had received no response. He will contact the Clerk separately to see if help can be given to obtain further information as to how this has come about.

The meeting was reconvened

Cllr Jewell left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Gibson left the meeting at this point.

48/25 To approve the following payments:

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|----|----------|
| 17/04/2025 | EON NEXT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY | 1 | 18.23 |
| 24/04/2025 | BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 2 | 744.00 |
| 24/04/2025 | CONCEPT LANDSCAPES POND WORKS | 3 | 4293.96 |
| 24/04/2025 | COTTAM CC ROOM HIRE | 4 | 35.00 |
| 24/04/2025 | GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 5 | 2357.65 |
| 24/04/2025 | SAVOY TIMBER LENGTHSMAN MATERIALS | 6 | 59.21 |
| 24/04/2025 | AT CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 7 | 844.25 |
| 24/04/2025 | THOMPSON DAGNALL WAR HORSE PROJECT | 8 | 2200.00 |
| 24/04/2025 | FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 9 | 558.00 |
| 24/04/2025 | BG FENCING NEW BENCH BASE | 10 | 259.85 |
| 24/04/2025 | SOFT SURFACES WAR HORSE PROJECT | 11 | 3522.00 |
| 24/04/2025 | VISION ICT EMAIL ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION | 12 | 285.95 |
| 30/04/2025 | BANK CHARGES | 13 | 7.50 |
| 02/05/2025 | ICO - DATE PROTECTION REGISTRATION | 14 | 47.00 |
| 12/05/2025 | ZURICH INSURANCE RENEWAL | 15 | 520.38 |
| 12/05/2025 | S WISEMENA INTERNAL AUDIT FEE | 16 | 190.00 |
| 12/05/2025 | FRETFOIL BIN LINERS | 17 | 132.80 |
| 12/05/2025 | COTTAM COMMUNITY ASSOC ROOM HIRE | 18 | 35.00 |
| 19/05/2025 | EON NEXT ELECTRIC SUPPLY | 19 | 17.64 |
| 21/05/2025 | VIKING DIRECT STATIONERY | 20 | 142.82 |
| 21/05/2025 | A BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 21 | 441.00 |
| 21/05/2025 | AT CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 22 | 653.10 |
| 21/05/2025 | GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM | 23 | 2574.90 |
| 21/05/2025 | AMBEROL REPLACEMENT LAMP POST BRACKET | 24 | 30.00 |
| 21/05/2025 | PRESTON CC OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION FOR 2024/5 | 25 | 32812.00 |
| 30/05/2025 | SOFT SURFACES 50% MULCH WAR HORSE PROJECT | 26 | 2249.10 |
| 31/05/2025 | BANK CHARGES | 27 | 7.95 |

It was resolved that the payments listed above should be approved

49/25 To consider and agree on the best method of giving feedback for current ongoing projects

It was resolved that there was no need for any fundamental changes to the present arrangements whereby once projects had been agreed and a budget set they were automatically included in the quarterly financial update documentation showing expenditure to date, that in addition the Clerk already provided updates on progress to

members via email as projects developed and any member had the opportunity to ask for a further update at the quarterly financial update meeting should they wish.

- 50/25 To consider the latest location proposal (enclosed) from Preston City Council for the trim trail /outdoor gym which this Council has already approved and set aside a budget of £39K. Please note that this change of location will increase the cost due to the additional drainage and pathways that will need to be created, however the estimate (no confirmed quotation has been received) still remains slightly less than the allocated budget at this time.

It was resolved that the location proposal referred to above was acceptable and Preston City Council should be asked to proceed. It was noted that the budget may need to be increased should firm quotations exceed the provision already made.

- 51/25 To consider the enclosed documentation and quotations regarding the installation of a drainage soak away scheme on Miller Green and tree planting which Cllr Coward has obtained following this Councils agreement that he and Cllr Casterton (now resigned) should form a working group to investigate enhancements to Miller Green which included soak aways and tree planting (minute 48/24 item 7 & minute 69/24 items 2 and 4) refer.

The Council are asked to approve the proposals and allocate a budget from CIL funds.

Other quotations are being sought and may be available at the meeting – Cllr Coward will also be able to respond to questions and any clarifications that are required before any decision is made.

An additional quote was received immediately prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the issue of drainage and planting on Miller Green should be deferred to a future meeting since the two quotations received had completely different specifications leading to a significant differential in potential costs, that it was also unclear as to whether either of the quotations actually met the 'brief' for further investigation which was agreed by this Council in the minutes referred to above and that clarification should be sought in respect of the above matters and new quotations obtained if necessary.

- 52/25 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 1st September 2025.

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