



Garstang Town Council

Town Clerk: Mrs E Parry

Tel: 07592 792 801

Email: clerk@garstangtowncouncil.gov.uk

Web: www.garstangtowncouncil.org

Garstang Police Station

Moss Lane

Garstang

PR3 1HB

Full Council Meeting, 16th November 2020 Minutes

Minutes of the virtual Town Council meeting, held on 16 November 2020, 7.30pm.

Present

Chairman: Cllr Webster

Councillors Present: Allan, Atkinson, Brooks, Dyer, Halford, Hynes, Leech, Mitchell, Pearson, Ryder, Salisbury and Webster

Also present: Town Clerk, Edwina Parry, Wyre Cllr Robert Atkins, 1 member of the press and 1 member of the public.

149(2020-21) Apologies for Absence

Wyre Cllr Dulcie Atkins, Sgt Hamlett and PC Banks

Wyre Cllr Robert Atkins reported the apologies of County Councillor Shaun Turner. He reported that he would be leaving the meeting early.

150(2020-21) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

157(2020-21) Report from MTWG – Cllr Ryder wished to confirm that he did not need to declare a pecuniary interest.

158(2020-21) Planning applications - Cllr Salisbury declared a pecuniary interest due to his business interest - Architecture & Planning Consultant. He did not take part in the discussion or voting.

159(2020-21) Christmas lights – Cllr Webster declared an other interest. She is the Town Council's representative on the Christmas Lights group. Cllr Halford declared an other interest. He is the Town Trust's representative on the Christmas Lights group.

151(2020-21) Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak.

152(2020-21) Minutes of the last meeting

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 had been circulated. Cllr Allan pointed out that minute 147(2020-21) should read 6 November and not 6 December.

Resolved: Councillors approved the correction at minute 147(2020-21) and that the minute should read 6 November and not 6 December. The Council then

further resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 were confirmed and signed electronically as a true record.

153(2020-21) General Power of Competence

Councillors noted that the Clerk had passed the Submission of Learning Outcome 7 – General Power of Competence. As the Clerk holds the CiLCA qualification, this certificate now fulfils the eligibility criteria for a qualified clerk as prescribed in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

154(2020-21) General Power of Competence; the process for confirming and reaffirming eligibility

The Clerk reported that in order to use the power, the town council must meet criteria set by the Secretary of State (Localism Act 2011 s8) as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. Requires 2/3 elected Councillors and qualified Clerk holding a sector specific qualification e.g. section 7 of CiLCA 2012.

Resolved: That at this council meeting, being held on 16 November 2020, the council approves that the number of councillors elected at the last election exceeded two thirds (rounded up) of the total number of seats on the council and that the clerk holds S7 CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) 2012 and therefore confirms its eligibility to use the General Power of Competence power. The Council confirmed that eligibility will be reconfirmed at every annual council meeting after ordinary elections (every 4 years).

Cllr Pearson, on behalf of the Council, congratulated the clerk on her attainment of the Submission of Learning Outcome 7 – General Power of Competence.

155(2020-21) Standing item: Delegated Decisions

Delegated decisions taken since the last Council meeting on 19 October 2020 requiring a resolution minute number:

Moss Lane, Councillor Allan.

Resolved: 21 September 2020, under delegated authority, [minute 249(2019/2020)] the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk approved extra flagging at the playground entrance for the additional amount of between £400 and £500.

156(2020-21) Standing item: Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Brooks

No report submitted.

157(2020-21) Report from MTWG

a) Implementation Team: Councillor Dyer

i) This is Garstang: Garstang Shop

Councillors considered the concept of an online shop, where the council could offer an online sales facility to all businesses in Garstang, process the sale online, collate the goods and deliver (possibly same day) using existing networks. The business is then paid minus a small fee (propose 5%) which covers the card processing fee and the running/marketing of the shop. The shop could be operated through the council bank account, with full reporting available on the sales side for supplier and council. This will be fully linked from This is Garstang website.

Resolved: The Council approved the creation of a Town Council online shop, where the council could offer an online sales facility to all businesses in Garstang, process the sale online, collate the goods and deliver using existing networks.

ii) Monies for replacement seasonal signs for the Town Council noticeboards, Cllr Pearson

Resolved: That the Council approve £120 out of the EMR RHSSF fund (currently 2,648.00 in the EMR) for new Christmas themed posters to be displayed in the notice boards at Booths, Norah's Garden and Park Hill Road by the zebra crossing.

iii) Christmas In Garstang – for information only

Obviously, the latest lockdown has created a new set of challenges, and it would be a stretch of the imagination to believe we can go from lockdown said to be ending 2nd December to a market taking place on the 5th December.

I am however an optimistic person, and Booths have agreed that planning for an event for 3 days 18th - 20th December still works and I am planning for this accordingly. After speaking to Helen Parkinson, Police Licensing Sergeant for Lancashire, if Wyre returns to Tier 3 post lockdown, then we are able to offer mulled wine as a takeaway only, which essentially means social distanced queue at a shed and nowhere for customers to sit, alternatively it can be served as part of a substantial meal.

A full event plan will be made available shortly.

iv) Business Representation – for information only

I am informed that there is some movement with IGT that they are looking to reform, with Damian Carr on with this at present, with the group having no chair person and seemingly only existing in the form of a Facebook page.

It is disappointing that nearly 9 months on we are no further with this and I would suggest that any business related projects we just get on with ourselves as a council, hopefully able to partner with a structured return of the Chamber of Trade from January onwards.

v) This is Garstang: Facebook – for information only

We continue to grow the Facebook page and talk to businesses about listing on the site.

vi) This is Garstang: Website – for information only

The website is attracting new businesses to it every day and I am looking for new content to keep it relevant at these times. I hand delivered a letter to all businesses in the town encouraging them to get on board and also join the discussion around running a business, with some good results. It would benefit greatly if we had more people creating content for the site, so if anyone is interested then please let me know.

b) Strategy and Funding Team: Cllr Pearson – for information only

The team have circulated SWOT analysis sheet to team members initially. The circulation will be extended to cover all business groups and local organisations. This will give us a view of what Garstang has to offer

and whether as a community we feel we are good at some things, whether we have opportunities we can exploit, whether we need to improve our capabilities in some areas and what blockers to progress we may have.

Cllr Allan has initiated conversations with Wyre Finance Director for support with any of our funding opportunities.

158(2020-21) Planning Applications – for decision

a) Application Number: 20/00965/FUL

Proposal: Two storey side extension following demolition of garage
Location: Banff House 87 Croston Road Garstang

Resolved: No objections

b) Application Number: 20/00959/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single storey side extension, including roof alterations & dormer to southern elevation following demolition of existing glass house
Location: Applegarth High Street Garstang

Resolved: No objections

c) Application Number: 20/00958/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of existing barn and garaging and erection of a dwelling and associated parking
Location: Applegarth High Street Garstang

Resolved: No objections. The Council however wanted to inform Wyre Council of the historical importance of the barn to Garstang. The Town Council would like photographs to be taken of the current site, and the history related to the site, and that 'after' photographs should be taken. The Town Council noted the objections from the Environment agency and the conditions from the Highway agency.

d) Application Number: 20/01057/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.
Location: 2 Winchester Way Garstang

Resolved: No objections

e) Application Number: 20/01061/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from tattoo parlour to a hairdressers (A1) (first and second floors)
Location: 63A Church Street Garstang

Resolved: No objections

f) Application Number: 20/01074/FUL

Proposal: Two storey side extension
Location: 37 Croston Road Garstang

Resolved: Councillors felt that there was not enough information to make a decision. Councillors decided that the decision be delegated to the Clerk and the Chair of the Planning Committee.

159(2020-21) Christmas lights, Letter from Damian Carr

Councillors considered the letter from Damian Carr, Chair, Christmas Lights Group, the accompanying grant application form, a copy of Chamber of Trade constitution and statement of accounts for the Christmas lights. Mr Carr was seeking an additional contribution, alongside the £2,500 the Town Council has previously approved. As normal fundraising has been unable to take place due to the coronavirus pandemic, there is a shortfall in funding.

Resolved: The Town Council awarded a grant of £500 (in additional to the £2,500 approved budget figure 180(2019/2020) and Mayor's allowance of £508.52 minute 111(2020/2021). The grant to come from budget code 338 EMR VE Day 75 Weekend.

160(2020-21) Garstang Community Hall, Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Allan

The Council discussed the proposal of Councillors Atkinson and Allan to consider the construction of a Garstang Community Hall within a central location to town. There is the potential to create a facility which will be multifunctional and will service a range of groups and events as well as civic functions. The Council discussed that the community hall be included as part of the MTWG strategy group and Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved: That the Town Council agrees in principle to explore the potential for a Garstang Community Hall in order to further support our community, looking at the feasibility of various sites within a central location to Garstang and how the Town Council could finance such an investment.

161(2020-21) Personnel Committee meeting, Cllr Brooks

Cllr Brooks reported as per Financial regulation 4.4 a Personnel Committee meeting needed to be arranged to consider changes to employees remuneration with a view to making recommendations to the Council for budget purposes.

The RFO advised at the meeting held on 19 October 2020, 141(2020-21) minute details National Salary Award. Cllrs noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 April 2020.

Cllr Allan verified that on 22/10/2020 the RFO notified the employees of the council of the pay award. On 4/11/2020 The RFO sought the Finance Committee's views on the percentage figure to use for employers projected rate of inflation for 2021/22 as part of the RFO preparing the budget. The RFO recommended a figure of 2.75% (the pay award increase for 2020/21), which was approved by the Finance Committee (by email). Finance and Personnel Committee members are aware that both employees are at the maximum salary in the range and do not go up any increments on 1st April annually.

Resolved: Cllr Brooks agreed to speak to the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, to discuss how 4.4 of the financial can be implemented outside of the meeting. The RFO asked that any recommendations from Cllr Brooks and

the Chair of the Personnel Committee, Cllr Allan need to be communicated to the Clerk by 27 November 2020.

162(2020-21) Potential Missing Names from Garstang War Memorial, Councillors Webster and Brooks

Background to the agenda item. As per the council resolution 164(2019/20)] Cllrs Webster (project leader) and Brooks be appointed to research and investigate the fallen servicemen from Garstang & Bonds, who have not been included and remembered on the plaques at the War Memorial. The investigation to be pursued alongside the Heritage Society.

Cllr Webster reported that she had been approached by a committee member of Garstang Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club and a widow to investigate the possibility of including her late husband's name on Garstang War Memorial. Councillors thanked Councillors Webster and Brooks for their research.

Resolved: The Council approved that the late Lance Corporal Jonathan James McKinlay, who was killed in Afghanistan 2011, be added to a new tile/plaque separate to the main memorial. The plaque will be aesthetically in keeping with the main memorial, take into account the advice provided by the War Memorial Trust and agreed with Wyre's conservation planning Officer. This research would be carried out by the project team and brought back to council for approval.

163(2020-21) Wyre Council – 3 Year review of Public Spaces Protection Order – Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillors noted that Wyre Council are seeking comments in respect to the council's review of its existing Public Space Protection Order in relation to alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

Resolved: The Council responded that the boundary be extended at the flood gates in Garstang to include the east side of the river (the path leading to the old railway track). People congregate on the bridge and spill over onto the path and sit on the grassy area and drink alcohol. Councillors have witnessed gangs drinking alcohol and smashing bottles in this area. The Council would like to see more prominent signs enforcing the public spaces protection order.

164(2020-21) Wyre Council's proposal to create three new urban woodlands in Wyre

Councillors were asked to respond to the above consultation. The Town Council could not comment on the sites identified (Cottam Hall playing fields, Poulton-le-Fylde, Stalmine play fields and Great Eccleston playing fields) but wanted to ask Wyre Council, that the community orchard at Hereford Avenue be investigated.

Resolved: The final response, to the three new urban woodlands in Wyre, to be delegated to the Clerk and Councillors Atkinson and Pearson.

165(2020-21) Town Council Payroll

Background: 15/6/2020 minute 34(2021/2021) As a result of the increase in payroll costs for the financial year 2019-20, the Town Council approved that a review meeting take place with Towers + Gornall and that an alternative quotation for payroll is sought for the Town Council for a 3 or 5 year period.

The RFO reported that further enquiries with local Councils, outsourcing payroll with Towers + Gornall, have also noticed a lack of consistency between their charges. Catterall parish council, met 3/11/2020 minute 3266 details 'It was agreed to make a joint enquiry with other councils'.

Resolved: The Town Council agreed to follow up minute 34(2021/2021) and work with Catterall parish council to discuss the Towers + Gornall payroll fees.

166(2020-21) Precept 2021/22

Councillors noted that members of the Finance Committee will attend a briefing budget meeting on 30 November 2020 to discuss the budget and recommend a precept figure to Full Council.

Councillors were asked to provide the Clerk with projects and associated finance requirements so that they may be included in next year's precept.

Resolved: The following projects and costs were put forward, from Councillors.

Webster: The war memorial plaque (currently £2,000 in EMR)

Ryder: Moss Lane, £4,000

Salisbury: funding for neighbourhood plan

Hynes: none

Halford: £1,000 tribute of the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Brooks: Grant from locality for neighbourhood plan, no monies from the Town Council.

Leech: funding for the neighbourhood plan, projects for the MTWG

Dyer: MTWG and events funding, would contact the Clerk with figures on 18/11/2020

Mitchell: small pot for community projects

Pearson: none

Allan: MTWG would contact the Clerk with figures on 18/11/2020, North West stages – carry forward the underspend from this year.

167(2020-21) Audit report

The RFO reported that PKF Littlejohn LLP have completed their review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for Garstang Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2020.

a) External auditor certificate 2019/20

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Resolved: The Council accepted the External auditor certificate 2019/20

b) Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

We note that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were approved on 18/05/2020 but that the public rights period did not commence until 07/09/2020. [The RFO is making the Council that this date is incorrect and should read 27/07/2020; the public rights period ended on 07/09/2020]. The period set is not strictly in contravention of the timing permitted

under the legislation introduced as a result of Covid-19, but it should be noted that this year's extension to allow later public inspection was intended to allow for authorities who were not able to approve their AGAR until as late as the statutory deadline of 31 August 2020.

Regulation 12 (3) of the Accounts and Audit Regs 2015 (signing and approval of the statement of accounts for Category 2 authorities) requires the Responsible Financial Officer, as soon as practicable after the date on which the authority complies with regulation 12 (2c) (re. accounts approved and signed following meeting), to do the following on behalf of the smaller authority:

- i) commence the period for the exercise of public rights in accordance with regulation 14 and regulation 15; and
- ii) notify the local auditor of the date on which that period was so commenced.

We fully appreciate the difficulties arising as a result of coronavirus restrictions; however, please consider the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, when setting the date for the approval of the AGAR in relation to the public rights period in future years.

Resolved: That the RFO inform the external auditor of the incorrect date of 07/09/2020. The date should read 27/07/2020 (the public rights period ended on 07/09/2020).

168(2020-21) Finance payments

Cllrs approved the following payments:
Royal Bank of Scotland Bank account – cashbook 3

Reference	Description	Amount
BACS00296 & BACS00297	Payroll (figures provided by Towers + Gornall). To be paid electronically on 26/11/2020. Clerk: LC2 range SCP 19-32), 'National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of service of Local Council Clerks in England & Wales 2004'. Lengthsman: scale point SCP 1-4	£2,847.40
Direct Debit 19/11/2020	LCC Pension (includes back dated pension due to national salary award implemented from 1 April 2020)	£1,087.88
BACS00298	Mrs E Parry – Clerk's expenses, monthly reimbursement for Zoom account (7/11/2020 – 6/12/2020)	£14.39
	Viking stationery items	£62.96
	Microsoft teams verified Cllrs Atkinson & Dyer	£104.42

Reference	Description	Amount
BACS00299	S Carr & Son Ltd – Young Deputy Mayor insignia and sliders for Young Mayor's insignia. Youth Council minute 027(2019/2020) The RFO to include £225 in the 2020/21 budget figures in the Civic budget heading. Ratified by Full Council 165b (2019/2020)	£220.00
BACS00300	David Lee Hard landscaping on Moss Lane park Minute 40(2020/21), 15/6/2020 refers The Council approved Quote B, 1,538.30 net, to construct the path. The Council further resolved to approve a maximum expenditure of £250 cost to install the benches in the playground area. Both expenses to be met from Moss Lane code 4770 and EMR 334 expenditure code, which currently stands at £4,000. Approved amount totals £1,788.30. Additional work totals £395 which was approved by delegated authority of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and RFO on 21/09/2020. The shortfall will be met from Moss Lane code 4770 and EMR 334	£2,619.96 (£2,183.30 net)
BACS00301	David Lee – Moss Lane fencing repairs Minute 183(2019/20), 20/1/2020 refers The Council accepted Quote A to repair 1 broken concrete post at a cost of £73.00 +VAT. The Council further resolved that if additional repairs were required at the adjoining 2 posts, the Council gave delegated approval to the Clerk to proceed with the works at a maximum figure of £219 + VAT. The cost to be met from Amenities budget code 4705.	£244.80, (£204.00 net)
BACS00302	Royal British Legion 2 wreaths	£40.00
BACS00303	PKF Littlejohn LLP - Limited assurance review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2020	£480.00
Transfer to HSBC Christmas Lights account	Approved budget figure 180(2019/2020) 159 (2020/2021)	£2,500 plus £500 making a total of £3,000

Reference	Description	Amount
Direct Debit 23/11/2020	Three – mobile phone (contract finished)	£0.24
Direct Debit 9/11/2020	Vodafone – new mobile phone contract - Minute 101 (2019/2020)	£11.00
Direct Debit 01/11/2020	Three.co.uk - Office internet	£8.00

Payments since last meeting

Reference	Description	Amount
29/10/2020 Transfer from cashbook 3 RBS to cashbook 4 HSBC Christmas lights account	VAT monies	£2,462.40

169(2020-21) Replace outgoing Cllr Harter as a signature on RBS cashbook 3 and HSBC Christmas lights account

Resolved: Cllr Pearson was approved as a signatory to the bank mandate for the RBS current account (cashbook 3). The Council **further resolved** that Cllr Halford be appointed as the cheque signatory on HSBC Christmas lights account (cashbook 4)

170(2020-21) Statement of Accounts at 31 October 2020

HSBC Current account	£2,340.23
Royal Bank of Scotland	£10,505.73
HSBC Reserve account	£49,465.76
Money Market Account 3 month	£30,614.41
HSBC Christmas Lights account	£ 2,947.03

171(2020-21) Items for Next Agenda

Councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and 'Report of other representatives and projects', for the meeting of the Town Council **on 7 December 2020 by notifying the Clerk by 27 November 2020**. The item should specify the business which it is proposed to transact in such a way that the member who receives it can identify the matters which he will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify either what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

The Meeting Finished at: 9.37pm

For Information Only

172(2020-21) Clerk's Report

a) **Accessible website**

The Clerk has been working with Cllr Atkinson to ensure that all documents going forward are to the standard and comply with The Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. Councillors will see that the agenda and minutes have a new layout.

b) **Town Council green infrastructure projects, minute reference 138(2020/2021)**

Wyre Council - We have added this information to the Committee report for application 20/00618/FULMAJ, and I will also send it on to our Parks and Landscape Officer so she is aware of the Town Council projects when planning applications are submitted.

For your information we would not consider tourism signage (High Street and Millennium Green - improve direction and tourist signage) as falling as Green Infrastructure, but everything else the Town Council has listed can be classed as Green Infrastructure provision.

c) **LALC Accounts 2019/20**

The accounts for last year have been circulated by email.

173(2020-21) Youth Council report

The Annual Meeting of the Youth Council took place on Wednesday 18 November 2020. Declan Stephenson was re-elected for a further term in office, following the policy of the Town Council who had done likewise. Jorge Pollard was re-elected as Deputy Youth Mayor

The Young Mayor reported on his year in office, thanking everyone involved in the difficult times. He reported that despite the fact that half of his term had effectively been shut down, £662 had been raised by Youth Council events and that this would be donated to Garstang in Bloom.

The Youth Council held discussion about possible online events, quizzes etc and Councillor Dyer discussed possible options for the Youth Council to help in the planned Christmas Events (which are still dependent on lock-down status).

174(2020-21) Project Reports

None submitted

175(2020-21) Outside body representatives

a) **Garstang Fairtrade – Councillor Ryder**

Town Council Annual Awards 2020 Ruth Bruce, who was nominated in the Good Citizen category, said about Charlie Collinson who was awarded the trophy "Your success was so well deserved. What you have done for Garstang long term was worthy of the award, and what you and your group organised for Garstang during lock down was exceptional, beyond the call of duty. I am just so glad for the Fairtrade Group that my nomination was thought to be worthy of consideration"

High Street Stall

We apologise for having to cancel our stall on the 10th October but unfortunately, along with all our other planned events, it had to be cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. However, we will look to start holding events again in 2021.

AGM

We were due to hold our AGM this month but again due to restrictions we are having to consider alternative options including holding a zoom AGM or postponing it until 2021. Further details will be posted on our Facebook page.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021

Fairtrade have been hard at work planning next year's Fairtrade Fortnight and we will share more details about the activities that you can get involved in soon. Over the past two years the Fairtrade Foundation led a successful cocoa living income campaign. In 2019 it focused on raising awareness for the need for living incomes for cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and in 2020 it focused on motivating support for living incomes for cocoa farmers.

Recently the Fairtrade Foundation announced the news about Nestle's plans to leave Fairtrade in October 2020 and highlighted how this leaves many cocoa farmers with unanswered questions and a lack of a voice.

In 2021 Fairtrade Fortnight will concentrate on the challenges that climate change brings to farmers and the resilience that better incomes can provide for those most vulnerable to the crisis. Farmers in the global south have contributed the least to the climate crisis but are already feeling the impacts the hardest.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 will build further on the importance of better incomes for farmers. The main objective will be to educate and raise awareness on climate change impacts and the need for better incomes to tackle these. The key messages will develop around how better incomes and the choice to use the Fairtrade Premium as farmers see fit in their communities provides flexibility to respond to growing challenges including unexpected pressures from climate change.

b) Garstang Flood Action Group – Councillor Brooks

Councillors will be aware that many areas of the Borough have been affected by severe weather over the weekend 30th October to Tuesday 3 November with standing water on roads and in fields. The Garstang Flood Basin became operational on 1st November and the system held water back behind the railway embankment which undoubtedly eased pressure on Churchtown and settlements down-stream. Officers from Wyre Council, the environment agency and the Lancashire County Council were on duty throughout the most threatening period with pumps and filled sandbags. They are to be commended for their efforts. I receive from Wyre Council regular bulletins issued by the Met office which I pass on to the Mayor and Deputy and clerk plus the press and I am happy to pass them on to anyone who asks. I pass on to officers reports of localised problems so please let me have details if you notice a problem.

176(2020-21) Councillors report

The High Sheriff of Lancashire's Covid-19 Awards – Cllr Ryder

The High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mrs Catherine Penny DL, has presented awards to individuals and organisations who have gone the extra mile to help Lancashire through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mrs Penny said: "As High Sheriff of Lancashire, I would normally have been travelling throughout the county, offering encouragement and support to people who are making a difference to the lives of others.

"This year I have been unable to make visits and so I asked others to nominate those who they felt deserved recognition for things they have done during the Covid-19 pandemic."

Over two hundred nominations were received from all areas of the county and for people of all ages.

Some initiatives were self-help or started from scratch and run entirely by volunteers. Other people have made a special effort by going well beyond the terms of their normal employment.

Those who received an award from the High Sheriff include:

- a ten-year-old who ran a marathon over 14 days, raising £4,000 for a local charity
- an individual who used their 3D printer to make face shields for the NHS and other key workers
- groups of women from across the county who used their skills to make face masks
- the Bowland & Pennine Mountain Rescue Team who continued to rescue and search for vulnerable people throughout lockdown
- Special Constables and those working in the Lancashire Resilience Forum
- several different faith organisations which provided community support during the pandemic
- existing charities and volunteers who continued to provide food and assistance for the most vulnerable.

Awards, Certificates of Recognition and letters of thanks are going out to all those who have been nominated.

Mrs Penny added: "The response to the High Sheriff Awards has been tremendous and shows the caring spirit that exists throughout Lancashire.

"As Covid-19 is still very much with us, many continue to go that extra mile to help others. I applaud, congratulate and thank them all."

The Town Council are aware of and would like to congratulate the following local recipients:

Awards

- Bowland & Pennine Mountain Rescue Team
- Kevin Camplin (Bowland & Pennine Mountain Rescue Team Leader)
- Printmob

Certificates of Recognition

- The Bellflower
- Garstang Volunteer Force

177(2020-21) Written Report from Wyre and Lancashire County Councillors

Not requested by the Clerk.

178(2020-21) Mayor's engagements

6th October 2020, Town Council Awards evening via zoom.

23rd October 2020, Collection & presentation of TC awards shields/trophies

24th October 2020, Collection & presentation of TC awards shields/trophies

28th October 2020, Radio Lancashire interview

6th November 2020, Garstang War Memorial Remembrance wreath laying

179(2020-21) Town Crier's Report

No updates to report.

180(2020-21) Police Report – presented to LALC 28/10/2020

Firstly, yes (Jan) this has been a very odd time for all of us. We have all had to adapt to living with Covid19 and that includes the Police. In relation to that, under the first lockdown we saw fantastic compliance with the rules from the residents and businesses across Wyre, despite the personal and financial hardships that that brought for many. I would be grateful if you and your colleagues could pass on our thanks (including regarding the support for the Police) where possible to our communities.

Despite the Covid regulations and guidelines changing several times since that time, Wyre continues to be an area where people adapt to the ever changing picture. We are very grateful for that from a Policing perspective, as that enables us to continue to manage a multitude of competing demands as well as the additional demand due to Covid19. Ultimately, our overall objective continues to be to keep the people of Wyre safe and to ensure that they feel safe.

Task Force

Since the last update, we launched the Fylde & Wyre Task Force in the spring. You will recall that I briefed LALC that the Task Force is made up of a proactive team of four officers, with responsibility for tackling local priorities including drug dealing, rural crime, anti-social behaviour and burglary, alongside disrupting organised crime group activity and targeting outstanding offenders. These officers are part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and provide an enhanced proactive and targeting capability, in support of the wider Local Policing Team. Despite the impact of Covid19, the Task Force have proved to be very successful in tackling criminality across our area. This includes:

Arrests: 34

Search Warrants: 27

Class A Drug Seizures: £5,500

Class B Drug Seizures: 1,100,000

Cash Seizures: £16,000

Vehicle Seizures: £25,000

Stolen plant recovered: £20,000

Due to the success of the Task Force, we are now in the process of recruiting experienced police officers to form a Rural Task Force. That team will be dedicated specifically to providing a specialist policing service to our rural communities, dealing with organised criminality, heritage crime (e.g. thefts from churches) and livestock/wildlife crime.

Lancashire Talking

Following on from a successful pilot in Hyndburn in January this year, 'Lancashire Talking' has been rolled out across the county. In a nutshell, the initiative gives residents across Lancashire a voice in determining local Neighbourhood Policing Priorities, thus improving the service that we deliver... leading to greater trust and confidence in the Police. In essence, it is very much a 'you said, we did' service (amongst other things).

So, Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been going out across Wyre, both as part of their general duties, but also on dedicated 'action' days, and have been conducting a very short survey with individual residents. Crucially, officers have been signing people up to the In The Know messaging system as that then enables the Police to provide updates/feedback regarding issues raised and what we have been doing about them. It also enables us to communicate with specific groups or communities....even down to street level.....regarding such things as crime prevention and public safety.

I would be grateful if you could ask the LALC members to consider signing up to In The Know (if they haven't already done so) and with taking the survey. This can all be done via this link <https://www.stayintheknow.co.uk/C169FCC6-F4C4-46EB-AC2C-9084AC0912FC/QuickRegister> . The survey itself is really quick, but one quick tip.....question 2b (other issues) – please only put a single word in or couple of words (e.g. 'commercial burglaries'). This is because the response generates a 'word cloud' for us, with the most frequent answers appearing as larger text (so we can easily see what the biggest issues are). If a sentence or paragraph is inputted it confuses the system!

I would be grateful if you could also ask the members to promote the service within our communities, so we can get as many folk as possible signed up to In The Know and understand (and tackle) the issues that affect them most. Finally, please continue to take care during these uncertain times and pass on my best wishes to the LALC members for their continuing support.