PENWORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held at Penwortham Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham on Tuesday 4th February, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Present:	The Mayor:	Cllr D Shaw
	Councillors:	D Bennett, A Cassidy, G Crewe, H Crewe, P Cronin, D Howarth, K Martin, J Patten, A Rae, R Taylor, and A Turner.
	In attendance:	Marie Curran, Town Manager Daniel Guise, Democratic Services Officer
		Members of the Public: 3

117. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Will Adams, Deborah Ashton, Sarah Emery, Tracey Flannery, Harry Hancock and Ian Watkinson.

118. **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

119. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Cllr Patten proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Cllr Cassidy seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the mayor.

120. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised.

121. **Communications by the Town Mayor**

The mayor reported on his official engagements since the Council last met:

10th January – The mayor met with Troy Caunce, a recent recipient of a Town Council grant. Troy was part of a youth curling team, which had competed internationally in Finland and Italy. The mayor reported that he was not terribly familiar with this complex sport, and had been interested to learn more about it. The visit provided an opportunity for a photo, and some social media publicity for both the grant scheme and the curling team.

26th January – The mayor attended at St Leonard's church for a leaving do for the Revd Nick Mansfield. The Penwortham Food Bank had arranged the event, to say thank you and wish him well in his retirement. Revd Mansfield was a driving force in setting up the food bank.

2nd February – The mayor attended the Revd Mansfield's final Sunday service at St Leonards. The mayor reported that Revd Mansfield was the longest-serving vicar of St Leonards, in its history. The service was extremely well attended, and featured an enormous buffet, speeches and farewell gifts. The mayor noted that he had always got on well with the vicar, who had been a very active part of the community. The mayor wished Revd Mansfield a happy and fulfilling retirement.

122. **Town Manager's Report**

The Town Manager reported as follows:

i) **HILL ROAD CEMETERY AND PENWORTHAM WAR MEMORIAL**

The lengthsman has been giving Priory Lane Community Centre a thorough deep-clean including cleaning the upholstery at the centre. The lengthsman has been preparing an area surrounding Penwortham War Memorial to enable him to carry out further works and a tree survey of the trees located there.

James has been carrying out general maintenance throughout the town including repairs to a Public Footpath sign and general maintenance at Hill Road Cemetery and at The Venue. Towards the end of February, any Christmas wreaths and decorations will be removed from graves and cremated remains plots. Members of the public have been notified of this practice. The mixed native hedging at Priory Lane Community Centre has also been completed, which replaced the broken fencing there. It is hoped this will look more aesthetically pleasing and will increase biodiversity by providing a habitat for wildlife and insects.

If you would like the lengthsman to tidy a particular area of public land in Penwortham, please contact the council offices on 01772 750533 or email: marie@penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Please report highways issues such as potholes, street lights, damaged signs etc to: Report it - Lancashire County Council

Report It on the go with Love Clean Streets

You can report all highways issues to LCC via the Love Clean Streets app on your mobile phone or tablet. It's simple to use and your issue can be logged in seconds.
You can report issues on your mobile whilst out and about. Attaching a photo to your report will help inspectors to assess the work quickly. You will also be able to keep up to date on the progress of your report via the app. The app is free to download.

Simply search for **'Love Clean Streets'** on the App store or Google Play Store on your mobile phone or tablet. Set **Lancashire County Council** as your home authority.

ii) **WHAT'S ON AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRES**

- A "Fitness Champions" launch is taking place this Saturday 1st February, 2025 from 9am until 1pm at Penwortham Community Centre.

- A Mini-Market is taking place at Priory Lane Community Centre on Tuesday 18th February, 10:45am to 3pm.

- Sound Bath and Belly Dance evening on Saturday 15th February from 6.30pm - 8.45pm at Priory Lane Community Centre.

- The Venue – Thursday 6th February, 6:30pm – 8:30pm – Public consultation by Paul Foster MP on NHS improvements. Places have to be booked through Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nhs-10-year-health-plan-consultation-penwortham-tickets-1218065630089?aff=oddtdtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawIFjxhleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHbFdCHMoW3ML7FY7qTtEGxFaWZ7EFnzud48D33qjfthgg-sjmd5eu0i3kg_aem_xGDSF2KvPdYbgWW56FvA7A

WHAT'S ON AT THE VENUE

- Wednesday 29th January: Cinema Evening - Tickets cost £4 and the doors open at 7.30pm with the film starting at 8pm.

- Thurs 6th February: NHS Consultation Event

- Friday 7th February: Band – Perfect Fourth (Saxophone Quartet)

- Friday 21st February: Cinema Afternoon - Doors open at 1.30pm with the film starting at 2pm. Tickets cost £5 with refreshments included.

- Friday 21st February: Comedy Night - Tickets are priced at £12. Doors open at 7.30pm with the first act on stage at 8pm.

- Saturday 22nd February: Band – Matthew Whittingham

- Wednesday 26th February: Cinema Evening - Tickets cost £4 and the doors open at 7.30pm with the film starting at 8pm.
- Friday 28th February: Band – Matthew Whittingham (Daytime Concert)
- Tuesday 4th March: King's Church Pancake Event

Please contact the Town Council office, view the notice boards located around Penwortham or follow us on our social media channels for more information on events and services in the town.

If you would like to meet new friends in a social setting and volunteer with us at The Venue, please contact rodney@penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

- **FURTHER UPDATES AND REPORTS;**

Further to a proposal made at the January meeting of the Town Council regarding a bus service improvement consultation, the consultation period had unfortunately ended; however, the comments made at the meeting were submitted to Lancashire County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan via email.

The concerns raised included a lack of public bus services between Penwortham and the docks area as well as a lack of bus routes between Middleforth and Liverpool Road connecting residents from Lower Penwortham to Higher Penwortham. This was a concern for school children unable to travel by public bus to high schools located around the town, e.g. Priory Academy, All Hallows and Penwortham Girls High School. The current lack of connectivity prevented residents travelling from the Middleforth area to the main shopping district on Liverpool Road. It was agreed that Penwortham Town Council would ideally like to see better connectivity.

The date of the next meeting of the Climate Change Working Group is to be confirmed. Members of the Town Council and interested residents are welcome to attend. Meetings take place every month at Penwortham Community Centre from 5pm until 6pm.

The Town Manager also noted that the Red Rose Recovery session at Penwortham Community Centre was moving from Thursdays to Tuesdays.

Cllr G Crewe asked about the noticeboard which previously existed by the bus stop at Tesco, at the corner of Cop Lane and Liverpool Road. It was noted that it had rotted and toppled over some time previously, but that it had been a South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) asset, and not one of the Town Council's boards. Cllr Howarth noted that it had been used by the farmer's market, and asked the Town Manager to write to SRBC, to request that a replacement be installed, for use by the market.

Cllr Cassidy noted that a report to the previous meeting had suggested the Council was planting a laurel hedge at Priory Lane Community Centre. Cllr Cassidy commented that he was pleased to learn that it was not, in fact, laurel, but actually a mixed native hedge.

Cllr Bennett reported that engineers had been changing the sequence of the traffic lights at the Tesco junction on Liverpool Road, both before and after Christmas. He reported that the result was that insufficient time was available for pedestrians to cross, and asked that the Town Manager raise the matter with Lancashire County Council (LCC).

123. **Questions from Councillors**

Cllr Howarth asked how long the Town Manager had been in post. He asked if she had a contract of employment in place, if an appraisal had been conducted for her, or a set of objectives set for her. The Town Manager advised that she had been in post since June 2022, and that no contract or set of objectives were in place. She advised that no appraisal had been conducted, but that a date for one was being arranged. Cllr Howarth advised that employees had a right to an employment contract, and requested that a meeting of the Personnel Board be arranged urgently, to address these points.

124. **Questions from Members of the Public**

A member of the public reported on a complaint made to the Local Government Ombudsman regarding the changes on Leyland Road, and LCC's processes concerning the project. She advised that the Ombudsman had decided not to investigate, because more than a year had elapsed between the start of the issue and the complaint being made. She reported that the Ombudsman had referred to a road safety audit to be conducted by LCC, but that residents had heard nothing about this. She asked if Penwortham Town Council could find out some details.

One of the three members of the public to attend the meeting arrived during this discussion, and it was reported that he had been able to capture speed data using a speed gun. It was reported that, on the stretch of Leyland Road in question, 20.5% of southbound traffic had been speeding, with a maximum speed of 44mph. Northbound, the corresponding figures were 8.5% and 47mph. The residents reported their intention to gather more data and send it to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

Residents noted that significant traffic congestion on Leyland Road during rush hours would distort any average taken of traffic speed. They reported that when traffic cleared, the speeding issue arose, but an average across a whole day would include periods when vehicles were forced to move very slowly, which would distort the statistics.

Members of the public also reported on the desire for a new pedestrian crossing on Leyland Road. They reported that the team running the A582 upgrade project had recommended installing one, but that LCC had said this was just an aspiration.

It was noted that Penwortham Town Council would be able and willing to provide space for meetings on this issue between residents, Town Councillors, County Councillors, the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), the local MP and other interested parties. Cllr Turner noted that one of the key objectives of the PCC was to tackle community speeding, and recommended that the relevant County Councillor be engaged to contact the PCC on residents' behalf.

Cllr Bennett asked that Cllr Howarth, in his capacity as a County Councillor, contact the PCC concerning speeding on Liverpool Road, from Crookings Lane to Howick. Cllr Howarth agreed to do so.

With respect to the weight limit on Skew Bridge, residents noted that Network Rail had no powers to enforce this. However, Network Rail had contacted LCC about the safety issue, who had agreed to check and improve the signage, and refer the matter to enforcement officers.

125. **Development Control – Plans List**

Cllr Rae asked if the Masterplan designs from SRBC (for Kingsfold, Middleforth and Liverpool Road) had been made public, or if there had been any other developments on the matter. The Town Manager advised that nothing had been received yet, but she would chase it up and communicate any updates to councillors.

126. **Minutes of Committee Meetings**

The Council was asked to approve the minutes of the following committee meetings:

Planning Committee – Monday 27th January 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Community Centres Management Committee – Monday 27th January 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Events Committee – Monday 27th January 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Strategy & Finance Committee – Monday 27th January 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

127. **Dates of Committee Meetings**

The Council was asked to approve the dates of forthcoming committee meetings:

Community Centres Management Committee – Thursday 20th February
The above meeting to commence at 10am.

Planning Committee – Monday 24th February 2025
Strategy and Finance Committee – Monday 24th February 2025
Cemetery Committee – Not Applicable
Environment Committee – Not Applicable
Events Committee – Not Applicable

RESOLVED: that the proposed dates be approved.

128. **Delegates' Reports**

There were no reports from delegates.

129. **Accounts for Payment – January 2025**

The Council was asked to note the below accounts for payment:

JANUARY 2025 ACCOUNTS FOR AUTHORISATION

FOR	AREA	AMOUNT	VAT
VERNONS BOWLING CLUB GRANT AWARD	ADMIN	£250.00	£-
NATWEST CREDIT CARD	ADMIN	£109.10	£-
VODAFONE LTD	ADMIN	£ 22.80	£ 3.80
ONECOM LTD	ADMIN	£244.38	£40.73
DARLINGTON & CO PAYROLL SERVICES	ADMIN	£162.00	£27.00
VIKING OFFICE UK STATIONERY & HOOVER	ADMIN	£285.53	£47.59
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 14.84	£ 0.71
WATER INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 18.46	£-

NEWGATE NURSERIES	CEMETERY	£ 27.72	£ 4.62
ALLSTAR FUEL	CEMETERY	£ 72.00	£ 12.00
FBCA	CEMETERY	£216.00	£ 36.00
NORTHWEST MOWERS	CEMETERY	£106.88	£ 17.81
C&W BERRY LTD	CEMETERY	£ 49.13	£ 8.19
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PRIORY LANE CC	£117.88	£ 19.65
WATER INVOICE	PRIORY LANE CC	£ 96.17	£ -
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PRIORY LANE CC	£543.51	£ 25.88
GAS INVOICE	PRIORY LANE CC	£1,226.84	£204.47
ELECTRICAL TESTING	PRIORY LANE CC	£283.20	£ 47.20
LHB SUPPLIES	PRIORY LANE CC	£266.24	£ 44.37
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PEN CC	£561.67	£ 26.75
WATER INVOICE	PEN CC	£101.70	£ -
GAS INVOICE	PEN CC	£960.50	£160.08
MILLENNIUM HYGIENE SERVICES	PEN CC	£1,039.12	£173.19
LHB SUPPLIES LTD	PEN CC	£ 92.26	£ 15.38
WATER INVOICE	THE VENUE	£ 75.15	£ 4.64
BOOKER LTD	THE VENUE	£462.86	£ 77.14
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	THE VENUE	£285.85	£ 13.61
GAS INVOICE	THE VENUE	£222.58	£ 10.60
ELECTRICAL TESTING	THE VENUE	£283.20	£ 47.20

Cllr Turner asked about the invoice from Millennium Hygiene. The Town Manager noted that it was an annual invoice, so the amount covered their service at Penwortham Community Centre for an entire year. She also noted that the charges to the credit card had been for printer cartridges.

Cllr Patten proposed that the presented accounts be noted. Cllr Howarth seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the presented accounts be noted.

130. **Hill Road Cemetery – January 2025**

The Democratic Services Officer reported that in January 2025 there were 7 interments at Hill Road Cemetery. Of these, 5 were full coffin burials and 2 were for cremated remains. Two of the interments were in new plots.

The Democratic Services Officer requested permission for the Mayor to sign four new deeds: the deeds for the two new plots allocated in January, an advance purchase approved by the Town Manager, and one deed which related to a burial the previous year, for which the fees had only just been settled.

RESOLVED: that the presented deeds be approved.

……Town Mayor

(The meeting finished at 7:40pm)

The minutes of this meeting will be published on the website
www.penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk