PENWORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held at Penwortham Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham on Tuesday 4th March, 2025 at 7:40pm.

Present:	The Mayor:	Cllr D Shaw
	Councillors:	A Cassidy, G Crewe, H Crewe, P Cronin, T Flannery, D Howarth, K Martin, A Rae, A Turner and I Watkinson.
	In attendance:	Marie Curran, Town Manager Daniel Guise, Democratic Services Officer
		Members of the Public: 2

131. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Will Adams, Deborah Ashton, David Bennett, Sarah Emery, Harry Hancock, Jim Patten, and Robert Taylor.

132. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Cllr Howarth proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Cllr Rae seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the mayor.

133. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Cassidy noted that the draft new Central Lancashire Local Plan was mentioned in the written report from the Town Manager. The plan had been put out for consultation by South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC). Cllr Cassidy declared an interest insofar as he was professionally involved in the process of creating the Plan.

134. **Communications by the Town Mayor**

The mayor reported on his visit to St Mary Magdalen's Primary School on 10th February, where the Archbishop of Liverpool blessed the new nursery unit, and there were refreshments with the school governors.

135. **Town Manager's Report**

The Town Manager reported as follows:

i) HILL ROAD CEMETERY AND PENWORTHAM WAR MEMORIAL

The lengthsman has been carrying out responsive work throughout the town, such as cutting back hedges, litter picking and general tidying work as well as maintaining Hill Road Cemetery to a high standard.

The lengthsman is currently completing a tree survey of the trees immediately surrounding Penwortham War Memorial.

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

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

- Saturday 1st March – The Ivy Home Birth team are re-starting their "Preparation for Home birth" workshops. These will be on alternate months, starting Sat 1st March 10am – 12 noon, at Penwortham Community Centre.
- Tuesday 4th March – Kings Church are holding their annual Pancake Day event.
- Saturday 8th March – Penwortham in Bloom seedling swap and coffee morning event at Penwortham Community Centre. Also a sunflower growing competition launch. 10:30am to 12 noon.
- Wednesday 12th March – Trybe Fitness/The Larder women's fitness classes begin. 12:30pm – 1:30pm on Wednesdays at Penwortham Community Centre.
- Tuesday 18th March – Mini-Market at Priory Lane, 10:45am - 3pm.
- Saturday 29th March – Belly dance and sound bath workshops by Sarah Swirled.

WHAT'S ON AT THE VENUE

There's lots of great events coming up at Penwortham Arts Centre - "The Venue" this March... Including:

- King's Church Pancake Event - Tuesday 4th March.
- Way Back When – Friday 14th March. From Blue Elephant Theatre in London -to Penwortham... A Free Theatre Show for Ages 4–99, about Family History & Sharing Memories!
- County Pilots - Following their previous SoId out appearance at The Venue, they're back!... Come and "Experience the energy of live Rock n Roll"!
- Red Hot Drop - Warmed up and ready to blow your mind with a sizzling performance of up-tempo Rock, Soul and Funk!
- Maelstrom & Barbwyre - Male voice choirs, singing together in the sprit of friendship and harmony!
- Cinema Film Screenings - From Modern British and World Cinema, to Hollywood Classics and beyond! Check out the listings to find out which blockbusters movies we have on this month!
- Comedy Night - After another SoId out event in February, Join us for another hilarious night of comedy in March, with Comedians Tony Cowards, Allyson June Smith and Mick Ferry

For tickets and full details on all of these events, see: www.TinyURL.com/The-VenuePenwortham

South Ribble Live – Penwortham 2025. This is a live music festival in the Penwortham area to be held on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 May, from 7pm – 11pm on both evenings.

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

iii) FURTHER UPDATES AND REPORTS

South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) commenced their consultation on the final draft ('Regulation 19') of the Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP) at 2pm on Monday 24th February 2025. All the documents are published on the Local Plan Webpage.

Following the consultation, they will submit the Plan for examination in the Summer. At this point, the deadlines are dictated by the Planning Inspectorate, but the Borough are aiming to get it adopted during 2026.

The date of the next meeting of the Climate Change Working Group is due to take place on Tuesday 11th March. Members of the Town Council and interested residents are welcome to attend. Meetings take place every month at Penwortham Community Centre from 6pm until 7pm.

Please note the recent change to meetings of the Town Council. Following ratification by full Council, future full Council meetings will commence at 6.30pm and Committee meetings will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, commencing at 6:30pm.

Please see the below response from the Chief Planning Officer, South Ribble Borough Council, to the Town Council's request to consider making a compulsory purchase order:

Dear Marie

Many thanks for your letter dated 14th November 2024 which notified me of the Town Council's decision on 12th November 2024 to ask South Ribble Borough Council to consider making a compulsory purchase order of the former Shampan site on Pope Lane, in Penwortham.

I have now had time to consider this request and can confirm that it is not something that the Local Planning Authority intends to take forward for the reasons set out below.

1. My officers have visited the site and provided photographs which show that the site is cleared, fenced off and remains clear ready for development.

2. There is an extant planning permission on the site (ref 07/2020/00907/FUL) and various conditions on that planning permission have been formally discharged- this indicates that the developer is getting ready to start building on the site.

3. I have also been notified that the developer has submitted the initial Building Control Notice which also indicates that they are near to the point of commencing development.

Although I do understand you have concerns in relation to the amenity of the area being affected by this site, I consider that as it is close to being commenced in terms of construction, the long-term future of the site is positive. (I also highlight that there a condition attached to the planning permission which ensures a landscaping scheme is in place and that this is managed and maintained in the future).

I realise that this is not the outcome you wanted at the time of writing the letter, but I hope that the positive moves we have seen towards the development of the site puts minds at rest.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me again should you need to discuss further.

Kind Regards.

Please see the below response from Lancashire Highways to the concerns raised at a recent meeting of the Town Council regarding the traffic light sequences at the Tesco junction on Liverpool Road:

Dear Ms Curran,

Thank you for your emails dated 5 February 2025 and 12 February 2025 regarding the traffic lights outside Tesco at the junction on Liverpool Road in Penwortham.

Once a pedestrian enters the crossing area in the carriageway there are detectors which monitor the crossing to determine if someone is still in the carriageway. These detectors are known as On-Crossing Detectors. These extend the time pedestrians have to complete their crossing up to a defined maximum period.

If however there are no pedestrians within the crossing area then the detectors will not extend this time period. This will allow a slightly change to green for traffic. In the case of the 2 crossings on this junction the absolute maximum time that pedestrians could be given to complete their crossing is as below:

Crossing across Tesco Entrance / Exit – 16 seconds
Crossing across Liverpool Road – 14 seconds

Please note the above times do not include the 'green man time' which is set at 5 seconds for both crossings. This means that pedestrians can have up to 16 or 14 seconds to cross, depending on which crossing point they use.

In light of your email, our engineer attended the site and confirmed the timings above were in place. However, there was a misaligned on-crossing detector over Liverpool Road. This misaligned detector may have impacted the pedestrian crossing time, preventing pedestrians from completing their crossing safely. We have now realigned the detector to address this issue.

We thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Kind regards.

The Town Manager also reported on a new online tool provided by Lancashire County Council, for clerks to liaise with LCC. She reported on a response from LCC concerning speeding concerns on Leyland Road. They reported that the Highways team had conducted two separate investigations, and did not see exceptional speeding issues.

The Town Manager also noted that a Mental Health First Aid course, arranged by the Town Council through Lancashire Mind, would take place on 13th & 14th March. There were 11 trainees fully enrolled at the time of the meeting.

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

A member of the public asked for an update on the Town Council's request for a compulsory purchase of the former Shampan site. The Town Manager reported that SRBC had declined to take the requested action, but that SRBC were confident that redevelopment would start, because the developer had submitted the required initial building control notice.

The same member of the public asked about the prospect of getting traffic calming measures in place on Cop Lane and Pope Lane as a separate project, rather than as part

of the A582 upgrades which had been proposed. Cllr Rae advised the resident that LCC had no intention of doing the traffic calming separately, and it was part of a bid for strategic funding that LCC had put in. Cllr Cassidy advised that planning permission was still pending for the scheme, and the bid could not be approved until the scheme had planning approval. Cllr Howarth advised that the purpose of the traffic calming was to alleviate a knock-on effect from proposed changes to the A582, and if the changes to the A582 were not done, there would be no knock-on effect. He advised that traffic calming without the A582 changes was not going to happen, because LCC would only do this as a stand-alone matter if there were a history of serious road accidents. Cllrs Howarth and Martin both reminded the resident that Penwortham Town Council had no control over LCC Highways.

Cllr Rae reminded the Council and the resident that the Town Manager had already written to LCC Highways, on 2nd July 2024, about speeding on Cop Lane and Pope Lane. Cllr Rae noted a portion of the LCC response of 10th July 2024, which said:

"*The result of the investigation of the casualty and speed data for Cop Lane would suggest that there is not a clear speeding issue on the road which would justify measures at this time. However, following a similar investigation for Pope Lane, we have prioritised the instalment of temporary signage to help remind drivers to think about their speed. We plan to place temporary signage on the road between October & December 2024. The signs will be re-installed between April & June 2025 to maximise the effect of the message."*

137. **Development Control – Plans List**

No comments were made.

138. **Minutes of Committee Meetings**

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

Community Centres Management Committee – Thursday 20th February 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Planning Committee – Monday 24th February 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Strategy & Finance Committee – Monday 24th February 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

139. **Dates of Committee Meetings**

The mayor noted that the Town Manager had advised there were no agenda items expected for Strategy & Finance in March. So, in an update to the agenda, the only proposed meeting was of the Events Committee:

Events Committee – Tuesday 18th March 2025
Cemetery Committee – Not Applicable
Community Centres Management Committee – Not Applicable
Environment Committee – Not Applicable
Planning Committee – Not Applicable
Strategy and Finance Committee – Not Applicable

The Council was asked to approve the date.

RESOLVED: that the proposed date be approved.

140. **Delegates' Reports**

Cllr Martin reported that he was expected to become Vice-Chair of LALC. He noted that the Vice-Chair sits on the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. Cllr Turner congratulated Cllr Martin on the appointment.

141. **Accounts for Payment – February 2025**

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

FEBRUARY 2025 ACCOUNTS FOR AUTHORISATION

FOR	AREA	AMOUNT	VAT
VODAFONE LTD	ADMIN	£ 22.80	£ 3.80
ONECOM LTD	ADMIN	£244.38	£ 40.73
LINE-A-TONE LTD	ADMIN	£ 3.00	£ 0.50
DVLA ROAD TAX	CEMETERY	£335.00	£ -
ALLSTAR FUEL	CEMETERY	£ 64.84	£ 10.81
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 12.35	£ 0.59
WATER INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 18.46	£ -
C&W BERRY LTD	CEMETERY	£145.51	£ 24.25

WATER INVOICE	PRIORY LN	£105.91	£	-
GAS INVOICE	PRIORY LN	£1,197.47	£	199.58
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PRIORY LN	£ 776.59	£	129.43
GAS INVOICE	PEN CC	£1,060.27	£	176.71
WATER INVOICE	PEN CC	£101.70	£	-
DES - EMERGENCY LIGHTING TESTS	PEN CC	£240.00	£	40.00
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PEN CC	£703.03	£	94.69
WATER INVOICE	THE VENUE	£123.68	£	9.64
NISBETS - FRIDGE LOCKS	THE VENUE	£ 29.36	£	4.89
GAS INVOICE	THE VENUE	£251.08	£	11.96
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	THE VENUE	£286.29	£	13.63
BOXOSO LTD CCTV SERVICE	THE VENUE	£ 90.00	£	15.00
SWM PLUMBING & HEATING BOILER REPAIRS	THE VENUE	£165.00	£	-
XSOLVE MEDIA LTD	THE VENUE	£708.00	£	118.00

Cllr Cassidy proposed that the presented accounts be noted. Cllr Martin seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the presented accounts be noted.

142. **Hill Road Cemetery – February 2025**

The Democratic Services Officer reported that in February 2025 there were 12 interments at Hill Road Cemetery. Of these, 9 were full coffin burials and 3 were for cremated remains. Four of the interments were in new plots.

The Democratic Services Officer requested permission for the Mayor to sign the four new deeds.

RESOLVED: that the presented deeds be approved.

……Town Mayor

(The meeting finished at 8:15pm)

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