

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Friday 3rd December 2010 at 7.30pm, at Parbold Women's Institute.

Present: Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Arnold, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Harry, Cllr Mrs Middleton, Cllr Rance & Cllr Mrs Raju.

Cllr Bithell chaired the meeting.

Before the meeting began the Chairman invited comments from members of the public attending.

Chris Burdett, Douglas Music Society's treasurer explained the situation with regard to the piano – Item 8. He explained that the intention was to sell the baby Welmar, and use the proceeds to purchase a full sized Steinway in order to avoid hiring charges for visiting pianists. The intention was to sell the Welmar by public auction to ensure the best price. He confirmed that should Douglas Music Society cease to exist, the Steinway comes to the ownership of the Parish Council.

PCSO Dave Benson apologised that there had been no police representative at the last meeting but explained that 5th November was a very busy night. He thanked the Parish Council for taking an interest in PCSO funding and appreciated any assistance that might be gained from discussion of this issue.

Residents of Bramble Way asked for clarification on Item 11 – consideration of request from Shevington Sharks to install a canopy at Alder Lane, though it was explained that this item had been withdrawn. They stated that they had grave concerns about road safety implications for the Bramble Way car park now that Shevington Sharks were using the playing fields. They commented that they were pleased that there was not the bad language that had accompanied the footballers and that their sole concern now was that the car park is just not big enough to accommodate the number of visitors to the site. The narrow road is further restricted when people park along it.

Cllr Arnold reported attending the site on the 14th November 2010 when Wigan Anglers were also there and there were considerable traffic problems. He had suggested to the groups using the site that they undertake traffic management and use cones to prevent parking along Bramble Way. He said he would continue to keep an eye on the situation.

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Wess. Cllr Mrs Middleton had contacted the Clerk by e-mail to explain that she would be late.

2 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Mrs Butts - personal interest in village hall matters as Parish Council appointed observer to the PCA General Committee

Cllr Rance – personal interest in matters relating to Parbold Youth Club & The Pear Tree.

Cllr Mrs Middleton – personal interest (declared by e-mail) in matters pertaining to her membership of Parbold Wildlife Group

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 5th November 2010

Resolution (72/10): The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Butts, seconded by Cllr Mrs Blake, all in favour.

4 Any Item of Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chairman

Cllr Bithell raised the issue of the letter received from Rosie Cooper MP and the Clerk distributed the issued response.

5 To consider an application for funding from Mencap West Lancashire

Resolution (73/10): That a section 137, LGA grant of £50 be donated to the Mencap, West Lancashire appeal. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Raju, seconded by Cllr Mrs Butts, seven in favour, one abstention.

6 To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

291110	E A Broad	Salary (October 2010)	s.o.	£ 660.74
291110	Sherwoods	Grass cutting contract	s.o.	£105.95*
031210	David Secrett	Cleaning/gardening	s.o.	£128.00
031210	SRB Gas service	Gas service at Village Hall	2095	£175.00
031210	Inland Revenue	Tax & NI for November 2010	2096	£88.39
031210	Parbold WI	Room hire 051110	2097	£20.00
031210	E A Broad	Reimbursement for stamps	2098	£15.06
031210	Chris Horridge	Bramble Way-Chapel Ln footpath	2099	£315.00
031210	Yates Playgrounds	Repair work carried out Oct 2010	2100	£696.20*
031210	Mencap WL	Section 137 donation	2101	£50.00

*contains VAT

No recent bank statement was available but the following balances were given over the telephone.

Business high interest account = £97,940.68

Business current account = £38.47

Total = 97,979.15

Resolution (74/10): That the accounts be ratified and authorised for payment. Proposed by Cllr Bithell, seconded by Cllr Mrs Butts, all in favour.

7 To receive budget report and ratify level of precept at £30,000

Resolution (75/10): The budget report was received and level of precept for the financial year 2011/12 set at £30,000. Proposed by Cllr Bithell, seconded by Cllr Raju, all in favour.

8 To consider Douglas Music Society's request to upgrade the Welmar Baby Grand piano to a Steinway

Resolution (76/10): That the Parish Council give permission for the disposal of the Welmar Baby Grand in order to upgrade to a Steinway piano, to be held under the same conditions as stated in the Transfer of Ownership document of January 2007 and having made a reasonable attempt to contact the donor of the piano to inform him of this action. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Butts, seconded by Cllr Mrs Blake, all in favour.

9 To consider an application for funding from Mencap West Lancashire

Item deleted – had been inserted into agenda twice by mistake.

10 Village Hall Matters:

- **To confirm date for liaison meeting with PCA**

The meeting date was fixed for Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 7.30 pm at Parbold Village Hall to include Cllr Bailey, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Raju & Cllr Mrs Wess. Cllr Mrs Raju commented that she will attend if available.

11 Alder Lane:

- **To note progress of creating an interpretation board at Chapel Lane Meadow**

The Clerk reported in the meeting briefing notes that the artist was currently working on Christmas commissions and would pick this item up again in the New Year.

- **To receive update on gates at Chapel Lane entrances to the fields**

The Clerk gave a brief update following her meeting with the Forever Meadows Project Officer. She acknowledged the Parbold Wildlife Group, thanking them for their assistance. She also confirmed that she had made the request that the gates meet the need for access for the disabled as well as restricting access for quads and 4x4's.

- **To receive update on progress of field drainage of old pitch**

No update available at time of meeting. Cllr Arnold confirmed that he was also investigating this issue.

- **To consider request from Sharks to place a canopy at the end of the containers**

Cllr Arnold informed the meeting that Shevington Sharks had withdrawn this request.

- **To acknowledge receipt of applications for use of new field from Parbold Cricket Club and Mawdesley Tennis Club**

The Clerk read out the recent e-mail from Mawdesley Tennis Club. Councillors noted that it appeared to place the onus for capital funding of a tennis club onto the Parish Council.

It was noted that Mr Blanchard wished to present ideas for Cricket Club development at the January meeting.

Cllr Mrs Middleton arrived at this point (7:50 pm)

Cllr Bithell asked that all Councillors consider ideas that can be incorporated into a detailed plan of what requirements the Parish Council might have of any group wishing to use the fields. This way a detailed criterion can be compiled that includes the questions that need to be asked to ensure that the groups fits in with the Parish Council's development plans and that it meets the needs of the widest range of people in the local area.

For example he suggested that any group requesting use of the field might be asked to respond with comments on a number of areas, including their ability to fund proposals, their membership, their approach to maintaining a public open space, that they are an-established body; that their activity includes a proportion of village use and that they have strategies to meet the limitations of the site and impact on Bramble Way residents.

If the Parish Council can compile a suitable "application for use" form that can then be subject to a clear, open, publically debatable process to determine which groups can be given precedence for use of the fields. A timetable will need to be set.

Cllr Mrs Harray pointed out that the application form should also ask whether the activity is for a single sex or open to all.

Cllr Bithell asked that all Councillors feed back to the Clerk what ideas they would want to see on an application form.

In the short term the Clerk was asked to contact Wigan Anglers via their website and request their schedule of meetings at Alder Lane.

Cllr Arnold pointed out that the ideal situation would be to tarmac the car park and mark with white lines so that parking was obvious: though this action would be expensive, it would prevent the haphazard parking currently happening.

The Clerk was asked to contact Shevington Sharks to ask that effective marshalling be undertaken to ensure that the car park is used properly and parking in front of the houses avoided.

It was noted that Shevington Sharks would cease to use the site now until around March 2011, but that this was an ideal time to talk to groups about parking and how they communicate with their members.

Cllr Mrs Raju asked Cllr Bithell what use the Cubs had of the fields and he explained that Shevington Sharks had been most accommodating with regard to vacating the fields should the cubs wish to play there but that so far no formal arrangement had been reached.

12 To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2010/1211/FUL

Brandreth Lodge Nursing Home, Stoney Lane, Parbold, Wigan

Two storey extension to provide an additional ten bedrooms and single storey day room extension. New car park and alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian access.

Parish Councillors noted that they had found the WLBC public access system difficult to use and had not actually looked at these plans in detail. One Councillor said the files would not open. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Borough Council to complain that Parish Councillors could not access the information and so did not feel fully informed to comment, however, some obvious comments immediately came to mind and a response (below) was formed.

Parish Council Response: The proposal presents a significant increase to the footprint of the original building. The main concern however is the impact on traffic in the immediate and wider area. The exit to Stoney Lane is set back and difficult to negotiate and the traffic then feeds into an area that already has significant traffic management issues, with frequent accidents where Lancaster Lane meets The Common. This proposal will increase the number of traffic movements and put pressure on the local roads.

The Parish Council noted that WLBC were in contact with the Wayfarer's Restaurant regarding their use of A board signage. Cllr Arnold asked that the Clerk e-mail WLBC Planning Department to inform them that the pump house is not an actual house but is a remote control pumping station and therefore incapable of response on planning consultations.

13 To decide how to mark next year's Royal Wedding on 29th April 2011

Item deferred to next meeting.

14 To receive LCC response in regard to improvements of Alder Lane traffic lights

The meeting noted no response to date. The Clerk was instructed to write to LCC Chief Executive to complain that there has been no response to this urgent issue. The request is that traffic management officers consider an extension to the time lag between the amber lights.

15 To consider what action the Parish Council can take to promote Parbold Library (Cllr Mrs Butts)

Cllr Mrs Butts asked that the matter be highlighted in the Parish Council newsletter when it is produced. She had approached library staff and been told that people are not borrowing books as often as they might. A recent Question Time t.v. programme had mentioned that

branch libraries that are not used are under threat of closure and she implored the Parish Council to encourage people to use their local libraries, even if it is a matter of simply keeping on taking out books. Parbold residents had waited 20 years for that library and they don't want to be going back to a mobile service. There is a beautiful building there and the Parish Council needs to encourage people to use it. The library is trying hard to promote their services in organising competitions and 6pm visiting lectures etc, so what can the Parish Council do?

Cllr Mrs Raju pointed out that services that are not used ought to be discontinued, public money shouldn't be used to support services that are not used and that the library must promote their services themselves.

In addition to promoting the service in the Parish Council newsletter, the Clerk as instructed to ask the PCA to continually promote services in their newsletter and formally request the local schools to write to their parents. Cllr Mrs Harry remarked that the PCA newsletter gave a list of society secretaries so the Parish Council could write to each on list asking that they promote library services to their members.

16 To consider what action is needed if funding for PCSO Benson is removed (Cllr Mrs Raju)

The Clerk was requested to write a letter to the Chief Constable in support of our PCSO Dave Benson and encourage groups and individuals to do the same. It was also suggested that the other parishes that PCSO Dave Benson works in be contacted and asked to write in or consider collective lobbying. The letter also to be copied to WLBC as they part-fund PCSO's at the present time.

17 To introduce ideas for any possible WLBC Capital Funding application

The meeting suggested that should applications be invited this year, Alder Lane (any project that might fit the criteria), cctv, and Parbold's PCSO be ideas to put forward for capital funding.

18 To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

No upcoming meetings though Members were reminded to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend the WLCVS/Planning Aid training at Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre on 9th February 2011.

19 Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Arnold, - Cricket and tennis applications to use the fields and a debate on the structure of dealing with applications for use of the fields

Cllr Mrs Butts – proposal to move meetings back to village hall

Cllr Mrs Raju – discussion of parking at Bramble Way

Cllr Bithell - money spent on charitable applications, with the proposal that any group requesting funding be asked to provide names and addresses of six Parbold residents who support their proposal in order to ensure that the Parish Council are funding projects supported by Parbold residents.

Cllr Bithell also informed the meeting that there will be a Carol Sing a-long Concert at 7pm on Thursday 23rd December 2010 in Parbold Village Hall.

- 20 Resolution (78/10): Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (terms & conditions of employment), the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda.**

Proposed by Cllr Raju, seconded by Cllr Rance, all in favour.

- 21 To determine next action in regard to Main Hall Flooring**

Resolution (79/10): That the Parish Council do not spend any further money on the lawyers, as detailed in Brighthouse Wolf letter because spending public money on this could not be justified in the light of the advice given. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Butts, seconded by Cllr Arnold, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Harrhy, Cllr Mrs Middleton, Cllr Rance, for: Cllr Mrs Raju abstained. Named recorded vote request by Cllr Mrs Raju

Resolution (80/10): That the Parish Council continue to pursue Denovo Design Ltd through Trading Standards. Proposed by Cllr Bithell, second by Cllr Mrs Butts, all in favour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm.

Chairman – Cllr R M Bailey

Clerk – Mrs E-A Broad

Date