

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Friday 1st April 2011 at Parbold Women's Institute, at 7.30 pm

PCSO Dave Benson reported that he was just back from leave and had issued the latest police newsletter by e-mail. He gave a brief update on police cutbacks and informed the meeting that Dean Holden was now a Chief Inspector of CID and will be replaced by Geoff Hurst.

Cllr Mrs Raju said that Alder Lane Traffic lights were in chaos tonight because there are temporary lights operated by United Utilities that are not co-ordinated with the permanent traffic lights. She had attempted to inform LCC but as it was now the weekend no-one answered the phone. She was therefore telling the police.

PCSO Benson also updated the meeting on the issue of the damage at the village hall, camping at Alder Lane and confirmed that there had been no recent incidents of antisocial behaviour in the village hall play area. He said a search over the last six years revealed only five reports, mostly from the same complainant or regarding one noisy party held at the village hall.

1. To record apologies for absence

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

Apologies received from Cllr Rance and Cllr Mrs Butts.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Bailey – personal interest in any items relating to his position as a member of West Lancashire Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Peter Lathom's Charity Board of Trustees and WLBC Standards Board.

Cllr Mrs Blake – personal interest in items relating to her position as a member of West Lancashire Borough Council.

Cllr Mrs Middleton – personal interest in matters pertaining to her membership of Parbold Wildlife Group.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th March 2011

Resolution (111/10): That, following slight amendment, the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Raju, seconded by Cllr Mrs Blake, all in favour.

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

The Chairman reported that two young people were inhabiting a tent at Alder Lane, on the biological heritage site. It was not certain whether they had moved on already. Waste was accumulating but the two people were considered to be local individuals who were currently homeless. The Parish Council wanted to treat this with sensitivity, preferring to assist, rather than reproach, the individuals. The meeting therefore agreed that they would await a report back from PCSO Benson, seek advice from LALC and SLCC as to what action can be taken, Cllr Mrs Raju and Cllr Mrs Wess agreed to approach the individuals to see why they were there.

5. To consider request for funding from Village Festival Committee

Resolution (112/10): That £200 be donated to the Village Festival Committee proposed by Cllr Mrs Blake, seconded by Cllr Arnold, all in favour.

6. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

280311	David Secret	Cleaning & gardening work	s.o	£128.00
280311	E A Broad	Salary (February 2011)	s.o.	£ 660.74
280311	Sherwoods	Grass cutting contract	s.o.	£105.95*
010411	Inland Revenue	Tax & NI for February 2011	2116	£88.39
010411	DP Planings	Planings Bramble Way car park	2117	£250.00
010411	B Skinner	Signs at Village Hall	2118	£160.00
010411	Parbold WI	Room hire	2119	£20.00
010411	Fire Equip Services	Village Hall extinguishers service	2120	£120.12*
010411	LALC	Annual renewal of membership	2121	£368.36
010411	Village Festival	Grant	2122	£200.00

*contains VAT

Resolution (113/10): That the accounts be ratified and authorised for payment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Middleton, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, all in favour.

7. Village Hall Matters:

- **Update on major damage to the building following vehicle collision to the front wall**

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the building repair work was complete and that Grimshaw Construction had provided the guarantee recommended by the insurance company and payment had been made directly by Zurich Insurance.

A problem with the location and volume of the speaker for the alarm system was giving some concern but Argus Security, who maintain the intruder alarm system, are due to undertake a routine review of the system and will address the volume of the alarm at the same time.

- **Receipt of notes following Liaison Meeting on 23rd March 2011 with PCA**

The meeting notes had been distributed. Cllr Mrs Wess asked that Michael Hammond be recorded as sending apologies. The Clerk pointed out that when the group was set up he was not proposed as a member of this group by either the PCA or the Parish Council.

Item 13 was brought forward for discussion.

Resolution (114/10): That the Clerk enquire of the Borough Council solicitor as to the legality of a cctv camera on a play area and obtain two more comparative quotes. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Bithell, all in favour.

8. Alder Lane:

- **Update on progress on contract for drainage of old pitch**

The Clerk reported that work was due to start at the end of April, but that the firm selected had not provided a copy of their insurance, Health & Safety policy or a map of the work to be done. Cllr Arnold raised concern that part of the quotation included removal of infill when the contractor told him he would use the infill material to level the area between the two pitches. He sought clarification on this issue. The meeting agreed that the Clerk tell the contractor he must not start work until he has provided a map of the drains, copies of his public liability insurance and health and safety policy, reminding the contractor that this is public, open space and the public need protecting while the work is being undertaken. The Parish Council is not going any further with this project until these things are received in writing to their satisfaction.

- **Changing facilities (Cllr Arnold)**

Resolution (115/10): That the Clerk apply for planning permission for a portacabin 60 x 12 x 12 in the corner of the car park at Bramble Way and that Cllr Arnold offer up to £500 to secure the portacabin that has been viewed by Cllr Mrs Raju and Cllr Mrs Wess. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold, all in favour.

- **To consider response from WLBC regarding nominating Alder Lane Playing Fields as a Queen Elizabeth II fields**

The Parish Council are awaiting response from Cabinet meeting of WLBC to determine the mechanics of how Alder Lane fields could be designated a Queen Elizabeth II field. The meeting noted that this may require a transfer of ownership of the land and the Parish Council considered the liability for the landfill site might be too great to accept.

- **To receive notes of Public Meeting held 8th March 2011**

The notes were considered by the meeting and some concern expressed about comments recorded. It was reiterated that these notes are not published but are for Councillors information only.

9. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2011/0149/COU

Proposal: Conversion of barn into residential dwelling and refurbishment/extension of existing dwelling.

Location: West Barn & Bungalow, Chorley Road, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7AN,

Application Number: 2011/0150/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Conversion of barn into residential dwelling and refurbishment/extension of existing dwelling.

Location: West Barn & Bungalow, Chorley Road, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7AN,

Parish Council Response: The Parish Council wish to see a wildlife survey of the barn and bungalow i.e. for owls and bats etc, and that this be done as a matter of urgency as the breeding season has now begun. Also, there is a mature hedge and a number of mature trees which should be protected for the wildlife before, during and after any building work.

Application Number: 2011/0225/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and pitched roof over detached garage.

Location: 10 Scarisbrick Avenue, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HE

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

The meeting was reminded that the Clerk can only make comment on applications as directed by the council as a whole and cannot make complaints, directed by individual councillors, without knowledge of the full council.

10. To form response to WLBC proposal that pre-application advice will become subject to charges

Parbold Parish Council is very concerned that this proposal will put ordinary householders off seeking advice regarding conservation issues, TPO's, listed buildings etc and before making alteration to their own property, because to seek advice will be costly. The level of charges are not clear, in that no hourly rate is specified; nor are they fair, as they are higher than those of other local authorities. This council feels that there must always be free access to proper advice for all householders. Therefore, it is crucial that helpline questions should be answered for free (or rather covered by the amount paid by householders in council tax) and any visit or in-depth enquiry be charged at a reasonable rate.

11. To complete LCC questionnaire on Charter review

This meeting declined to complete the questionnaire.

12. To receive LCC response regarding grass verge cutting

Resolution (116/10): That the Parish Council accept the agreement proposed by LCC, under which LCC will pay the Parish Council money that they would normally use for five cuts of the verges within their responsibility. The Parish Council will continue to cut the grass more frequently and put this money towards that cost. Proposed by Cllr Bithell, seconded by Cllr Arnold, six in favour, one abstention.

13. To consider use of cctv at Parbold Village Hall (Cllr Arnold)

Discussed at Item 6

14. To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Butts attend the Mayor's At Home on the 19th April 2011.

15. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Item deferred

16. Resolution (117/10): 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 Bailey, seconded by Cllr Bithell, all in favour.

17. To determine longer term licence for field use at Alder Lane Playing fields

The meeting decided that the lateness of the hour precluded full discussion of this issue at this time and a further meeting date to discuss the specifics of how to cater for as many sports as possible was needed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm

Chairman

Clerk – Mrs E-A Broad

Date