

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council which at 7.30 pm on Friday 2nd September 2011 at Parbold Women's Institute.

Present: Cllr Bailey (Chairman), Cllr Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bithell, Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Stapleton, Cllr Mrs Wess.

Prior to opening the meeting the Chairman invited questions from members of the public present. The Council was asked what is going on with Alder Lane fields. From a gentleman called Mike who said he was representing twelve kids who wanted him to ask. The Chairman gave a brief overview of the groups that had been discussing field use and explained that Shevington Sharks had paid for exclusive use on match days and for practices but only for Pitch 2 (currently set up with rugby posts) and the rest of the time this field is still open access, for anyone to go down there for a kickabout. At the present time Pitch 1 is not quite ready for play following the drainage renovation. It was anticipated that Pitch 1 would be open to the public more often because the two applicants for use of this field had withdrawn interest in it. Mike explained that the kids he had spoken to were worried that they would not be allowed to play at the fields; they are not in a position to pay for club football or rugby but would like to play informally rather than be hanging around, near the pubs, with nothing to do. The Parish Council reiterated their commitment to the residents of the village, that the fields will always have some open access for informal play. Charges for the fields will only apply to groups who want exclusive use for a particular period of time on a particular day.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Middleton

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 Mrs Houlgrave - personal interest in any items relating to her position as a member of West Lancashire Borough Council

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

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

Cllr Arnold – personal and prejudicial interest planning The Wayfarers as a neighbour.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 1st July 2011

Resolution (34/11): That the minutes, as amended, be accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold, eight in favour, one against.

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

Nothing to add

5. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

260711	Yates Playgrounds	inspections x 4	2150	£139.20*
260711	Hosting System	renewal of domain name	2151	£47.99*
280711	David Secrett	Cleaning & gardening work	s.o	£128.00
280711	E A Broad	Salary (July 2011)	s.o.	£ 660.74
280711	Sherwoods	Grass cutting contract	s.o.	£1,206.08*
280811	David Secret	Cleaning & gardening work	s.o	£128.00
280811	E A Broad	Salary (August 2011)	s.o.	£ 660.74
280811	Sherwoods	Grass cutting contract	s.o.	£1,206.08*
020311	SPOILED CHEQUE		2152	
020911	Inland Revenue	Tax & NI two months	2153	£176.78
020911	Parbold WI	Room hire	2154	£20.00
020911	C Abel	Padlock & chain at Chapel Lane gate	2155	£16.39
020911	Clean Tec	Replacing glass units village hall	2156	£94.70
020911	Ian Carter	Graphic design of Interpretation board	2157	£125.00

*contains VAT

Resolution (35/11): That the accounts be ratified and authorised for payment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Butts, seconded by Cllr Stapleton, all in favour.

6. Alder Lane:

- **Update on Queen Elizabeth II playing fields nominations**

The Clerk read out the benefits listed on the FIT (Fields In Trust) website, which the Parish Councillors considered. The costs involved in land transference appear to outweigh these benefits so the unanimous decision to discontinue application for Queen Elizabeth II status was made.

- **Update on Football Pitch (Pitch 1) Drainage**

The meeting noted that the drainage was complete but the restoration of the playing surface was very poor. WLBC's John Nelson had visited the field on a few occasions and most recently reported: the field still has some dry patches in the middle, which need reseeding and a number of small depressions around the field, these can be easily backfilled. Overall it is looking much better; the recent grass cut has helped to level out some of the undulations. Another couple of grass cuts and backfilling of the holes will see it ready for use.

On the basis of this the Clerk was asked to check with the contractor if he thought the holes were drainage sinks or just holes made by rabbits. Also, to remind the contractor that the agreement includes putting the field back to playing standard. The final 10% of the contract price will not be paid until this is done. However, the upheaval of an entire field for drainage will require time for repair so it was agreed to look at this matter again next month. The ground is ready for casual play, which might assist keeping rabbits at bay.

- **Update on pitch renovation of Rugby Pitch (Pitch 2)**

The Clerk reported that James Forshaw Ltd had applied clover treatment, filled the dipped holes and was cutting the grass there for the next few weeks to ensure the restoration is complete. Whilst he would prefer that it was not played on yet, the rugby league season was starting now and the ground had to be available for play. John Nelson commented that the ground would benefit from cuts with a large gang mower to keep undulations at bay, rather than the smaller equipment being used by Mr Forshaw, so Sherwoods will be asked to cut the pitch as well, with the larger mower.

- **Update regarding car park maintenance**

Lancashire County Council's quotation to resurface the car park in a permanent manner was considered but noted to be outside the current budget. The Clerk was asked to bring quotations to the next meeting for another fill with road planings.

- **Interpretation Board**

The draft design was available at the meeting and Councillors looked at this, suggesting minor changes. The site, near the sloped entrance to the field, was confirmed but it was noted that the ground here was soft. The Clerk was instructed to progress the order for the board.

- **To consider formal Opening of Chapel Meadow Access for All Pathway**

It was decided to hold the event when the wild flowers were visible, probably in May 2012.

7. Village Hall Matters:

- **Notes of the PCA Liaison Committee meeting on 31st August, if available**

The notes of the meeting were distributed and the following matters considered:

RESOLVED (36/11):

- **Visual, electrical check – confirmed that this would be done without delay and at Parish Council cost of £149, to include PAC testing of the parish council laptop.**
- **Intruder Alarm – PIR moved from behind the curtaining at Parish Council cost, as previously agreed, but further, more costly, cabling repairs to be put out to tender.**
- **Annual maintenance checks – the Parish Council had concerns with both fire equipment and intruder alarm checks and considered it might be more cost-effective to have one company cover both items. A tender to be drawn up and**

brought to next meeting. The Clerk was instructed to obtain full details of the current agreement between the companies and the PCA and to obtain the latest reports on the system.

- **Main Hall Flooring – The Parish Council grant permission for the cleaner to use the recommended maintenance fluid on a 3m x 3m square test patch. If this causes no further damage and improves the look of the flooring, it can be used on the whole of the floor.**

Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded Cllr Bithell, all in favour.

- **Land Registry Issues**

The Chairman explained that the registration fee for this exercise would be substantial and off-putting, when there was no material benefit to the village. The documents that Greenfield Avenue residents had were unnecessary for the application as land charge certificates were held by the Parish Council. Pursuing this, will require a resolution of council due to the costs involved.

Resolution (37/11): That the Parish Council complete the application if costs do not exceed £500. Proposed by Cllr Arnold, seconded by Cllr Raju.

For Cllr Mrs Wess, Cllr Stapleton
Against Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Houlgrave
Abstained Cllr Bailey, Cllr Bithell

Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Mrs Raju.

8. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2011/0394/FUL

Proposal: Erection of one detached two storey dwelling. Creation of new vehicular/pedestrian access.

Location: 15 Tan House Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HG

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council continues to object to this proposal.

Application Number: 2011/0751/FUL

Proposal: Single storey glazed extension to rear to house brewing vessels, porch to side to allow for fire escape for upstairs and solar panels to roof.

Location: Wayfarer Restaurant, 1 - 7 Alder Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NL,

Parish Councillors were asked whether they object to this particular proposal: one objection with eight abstentions: no comment to make on this proposal.

9. To consider response to loss of Parbold Police ‘station’

In response to the current consultation regarding closures of police stations, the Parish Council would ask if Lancashire Constabulary can consider establishing a police presence in Parbold Library as an alternative to the loss of Parbold Police Station.

10. To review maintenance of the alleyway at the back of the shops on The Common

Cllr Bithell explained that the Scouts had helped him to clear this area and it is looking much better. They could do with some advice about the trees growing there and a couple more weeks of weedkiller application to clear it completely. He then anticipated that an hour, once a quarter, would keep it looking tidy.

11. To determine action regarding potholes on the car park at The Common

Initially, it was thought that the potholes had already been filled in November 2010, however on inspection it could be seen that these were new pot holes and the filled holes are still intact.

Resolution (38/11): To accept the £390 plus VAT quotation from Lancashire County Council and refill the potholes urgently. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold, all in favour.

12. To consider nomination for WLBC Standards Board

The meeting had no nominations for this position.

13. To request clarification on the status of the timings at 'level crossing'

Councillors and residents have noticed that the barrier at Parbold Railway Station level crossing is down for a considerably longer period of time than in the past. The Clerk was asked to investigate what has changed because cars are now backing up the road much farther than before and it is causing more of a hazard.

14. To consider proposal to be put to Lancashire Association of Local Council's AGM:

Resolution (39/11): *If a member of the public is not happy with a service provided by their local authority the office of ombudsman exists to investigate such matters, (i.e. County Councils, Borough Councils and other local authorities) but excluding Parish Councils in most instances.*

Parbold Parish Council feel that the same service should be afforded to members of the public in Parished areas where a Parish Council exists.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Raju - seconded by Cllr Mrs Wess

For: Cllr Bithell, Cllr Stapleton, Cllr Arnold, Cllr Mrs Houlgrave
Against: Cllr Bailey
Abstentions Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Blake

Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Mrs Raju

15. To consider the purchase of a policy of insurance that covers the Parish Council for legal costs, should action later be required, against contractors - Cllr Mrs Raju

Cllr Mrs Raju agreed to research this further and asked that the matter be listed again on the next agenda.

16. To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

The following provisional appointments were made:-

Cllr Arnold, as Vice-Chairman will attend the Mayor's Civic Service on and Lathom Parish Council Civic Service on Sunday 25th September 2011 at 3pm at St Cyprians Mission, Hoscar Moss Road, Lathom

LALC AGM on the 12th November – Cllr Bailey, Cllr Arnold (two voting reps) Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Mrs Wess.

LCC Parish Council conference - Cllr Bailey

LALC conference 29th October – to be decided at next meeting.

17. To consider application for donation to the Cory Ashcroft's Sports Day Appeal

Local Government Act, Section 137 rules demand that any donation be to the direct benefit of residents of Parbold and for this reason it was deemed ultra vires to donate money to an appeal for a child outside the village. Councillors were very disappointed not to be in a position to assist with Parish funds but decided to donate their own money, which was collected around the table and given to Cllr Brian Arnold to deliver. Councillors were very impressed with the fundraising efforts so far and incredibly proud that the young people of Parbold are putting their talents to such good use in this way. They thanked Alex Worthington for providing everyone the opportunity to support the Ashcroft family and wished success for the Sports Day venture.

18. To consider application for donation to Bowland Penine Mountain Rescue Team

Proposal: To donate £50 to the Bowland Penine Mountain Rescue Team, proposed Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju

For: Cllr Mrs Wess, Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Bailey,
Against: Cllr Mrs Houlgrave, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Arnold
Abstention: Cllr Stapleton

Chairman's casting vote required: against. Motion defeated.

Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Mrs Raju.

19. To consider application for a donation of £150 for the brass band for the annual Carols around the Christmas Tree

Resolution (40/11): That £150 be donated for the brass band to accompany the annual Carols around the Christmas Tree event. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Blake, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, six in favour, three abstentions.

20. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Mrs Blake reported that West Lancashire Borough Council had tidied up the ground around the top of Burnside at her request.

Cllr Arnold: The cracks on Bridge 38 at Alder Lane.

Cllr Mrs Wess: Three issues:

1. What can be done to slow traffic down on the A5209 at the junction with Mill Lane.
2. A number of complaints about wild and vicious geese on the canal
3. Hedge encroaching across the pavement outside 52/54 Burnside

Cllr Bithell: Parbold Hill speed camera (perhaps link with junction problem above)

21. To ratify terms of field licence use to be offered to Shevington Sharks, The Stocks Tavern & Ashton Mens Football Team

The Stocks Tavern and Ashton Mens Football Club had withdrawn interest in Pitch 1. Shevington Sharks Rugby League Team had signed their field licence yesterday. It was noted that rugby league will be changing to a summer sport with a season running from March to October.

Resolution (41/11): That the terms of the field licence for Pitch 2 be ratified. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold.

For: Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Houlgrave, Cllr Stapleton

Against Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Mrs Wess

Abstention Cllr Bithell

Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Mrs Raju

22. Resolution: 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

Resolution considered unnecessary as Item 23 now in the public domain.

23. Follow-up on collision damage at the village Hall in February 2011

The meeting noted the court date of 6th September 2011 to answer prosecution for driving offences following the collision into the Village Hall in February. The Clerk informed the meeting that it may not be possible for her to attend court, if she is later required as a trial witness, and so may have to rely on the police to keep her informed of the outcome.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20 pm

Chairman – Cllr R M Bailey

Clerk - Mrs E-A Broad

Date