

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 10th April 2015 in Parbold Village Hall.

Present: Cllr B Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Butts, Cllr Murrin-Bailey, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Wess.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Blake and Cllr Bithell. Cllr Holland gave notice that she had to leave at 8.45pm.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 6th March 2015

The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation:

The meeting will be adjourned for an appropriate time (four minutes maximum per speech) for members of the public to raise matters of concern or interest as notified to the Chairman.

Item brought forward as Cllr Holland was required to leave at 8.45pm.

- Cllr Holland - update following the Alt Crossens drainage meeting**

The last minutes recorded that the three tier forum had decided the pumps won't be turned off. This statement required clarification, in that the main pumps will not be turned off, however, the Environment Agency will not maintain the intermediate pumps, which may lead to the flooding of farmland.

Cllr Holland had attended the Drainage meetings, which seemed to comprise mostly of Parish Councillors. The meetings decided to look at the feasibility of establishing an Internal Drainage Board, capable of maintaining the pumping stations for the benefit of the region and keeping the flood-threatened farmland dry and usable for food production. The task is a big one, including a great deal of research that all those attending the meetings will have to undertake. Ultimately, the landowners may have to take responsibility to protect their own

land. At present, WLBC are aware of the issue but don't want to fund it, so co-operatives of groups of farmers will need to run this. The group, now meeting and clerked by John Herbert, former Scarisbrick Parish Clerk, are requesting the sum of £100 from each Parish Council in West Lancashire, in order to continue to meet and investigate the feasibility of a drainage board, having checked boundaries and land holdings. The money is required for administrative purposes to continue the process just started. It is requested that all Parish Councils, even those who are not at risk of flood, contribute in an act of solidarity.

The meeting heard that many Internal Drainage Boards are funded by a drainage review levy on the land owners or farmers using the land and these Boards are Statutory Bodies, with prescribed rights and responsibilities and a collective body in the form of Association of Drainage Boards. These would probably be able to provide information for a newly formed drainage board. It was noted that Parbold is not in this catchment area in any respect and if the Parish Council were to fund this, they may well be caught by a levy entirely outside their control.

It was resolved that, at this stage, further information was required before funding towards this could be considered. Exactly what involvement would be required.

This Council would like to support initiatives of this nature, and thanked those individuals who had attended the meetings and put their skills forward in this way.

There was then discussion that this drainage meeting had started a cross-parish discussion and such processes are essential for parishes moving forward. It would be helpful to form such alliances. Another issue that requires collaboration is the newly formed Preston Bypass. Construction has begun and it may be time to lobby LCC to set some rules to encourage HGV drivers to avoid Rufford Road, Robin Lane, through Parbold Village, and use the new bypass. It would be useful to engage the support of all the Parish Councils in this effort, as collectively we can be stronger.

5. Update on issues regarding Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre

The next meeting date for a public meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 28th April 2015. The Clerk will arrange a venue. There was a problem with odour in March but it was caused by muck spreading on the fields. The monthly meetings between United Utilities and WLBC are continuing. Paul Quirk has had site visit and saw slight improvements to the last visit. It was understood that the Environment Agency had a meeting planned with United Utilities. The number of complaints have been down on this time last year. The meeting decided that it might be productive to visit a waste water treatment centre that employed covered tanks.

6. To consider Parbold Unlimited - proposals for Street Festival in September 2015

The meeting considered the proposals presented, and determined that the project should be encouraged. There were however some concerns and the Parish Council would like to know how big the event is like to be. Before granting permission to use parish land, can Parbold Unlimited report what the anticipated footfall is likely to be, confirm who will be responsible for tidying up after the event, outline exactly what insurance is in place, particularly public liability and what noise abatement plans are in place?

The Parish Council believes this is a great initiative and wants to encourage individuals who are trying to make the village better. Very many elements detailed in the plans are appealing but it does appear very ambitious.

It was agreed that the meeting on the 15th May 2015 will give an opportunity for Parbold Unlimited to present their plan directly to the new Council and answer any further questions.

7. To consider any policing issues

The meeting noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 5th June 2015 and Councillors were asked to consider what question they may have for him in advance so that he may attend prepared.

The theft of designer sunglasses from the optician on The Common was reported. The police helicopter had been deployed at the time, because police were already in attendance in the village and the perpetrators had been caught. The perpetrators were also implicated in a number of house burglaries. Crime statistics from the Lancashire Constabulary reveal increases in many crimes, including violence against the person and the lack of visible policing in the area continued to be of concern.

8. Issues on The Common:

- **Consider proposal to employ a Parish Warden**

The Chairman closed the meeting briefly to allow members of the public to speak. Paul Quirk had spoken with Cllr Holland and they had sought information and advice from David Tillary at WLBC. They were able to confirm that WLBC Dog Wardens will be holding an environment enforcement day during "education week." around the 27th April 2015. In order that any Parish Warden has "teeth", they would require training and set procedures to be in place to follow up any failure to comply. Ideally, they would have to be self-employed, as the Parish Council is not in a position to take on dealing with national insurance, health and safety, etc. The meeting was reminded that David Secrett will be discontinuing litter-picking duties in July 2015. It may be preferable to pay WLBC or Wigan Council to undertake the litter picking, parking warden or dog warden duties more often in the village as they are already trained. It was agreed to invite expressions of interest in the next newsletter. A small working group headed by Cllr Wess and Cllr Stewart will be formed and other councillors are invited to feed any ideas through to them.

9. Issues regarding Parbold Village Hall:

The meeting referred back to the 28th February letter to the PCA including the following comment:-

[The Parish Council is] "informed that the PCA has undertaken some work in the storage area of the main hall which could, possibly, have compromised the integrity of the flooring in the main hall. A number of Councillors have requested reassurance that this is not the case and an explanation of why work affecting the fabric of the building was undertaken without the Parish Council knowledge."

The meeting noted the following response:-

"Thank you for your letter of 28th February. The committee has asked me to clarify that the Village Hall is still used for far more sporting activities than performance. Over the full year in excess 80% of the bookings are for sport.

With regard to the integrity of the flooring we can assure councillors that nothing that has been done would compromise the floor in either the storage area or the main hall."

Whilst, not all the issues raised by the Parish Council were addressed in this response, it was resolved to accept that each party had clearly defined their position in this regard.

- **Any update on green heating system**

The vent had been covered so that no heat loss into the play area was now possible. A report from the contractor who visited the hall was still awaited.

- **Update on maintenance of windows**

Comparative quotations had not been obtained in the time given. It was agreed to keep seeking such quotations and to ask if WLBC or Wigan Council can provide a quotation from their building services or advise of a suitable contractor.

- **Consider maintenance of fire doors**

It had not been possible to obtain comparative quotations because the metal fire doors quoted are of a unique design. The meeting noted that two companies refused to quote because they were aware that their product, as a fire door, was intended for emergency use only and would not withstand the constant usage of the current doors.

The Chairman and Clerk will meet with a Fire Officer to determine whether four fire doors are essential in the main hall. If not, two will be closed permanently and two will be replaced with the metal fire doors on the quotation. If four are required, all four will be replaced at a cost of approximately £4,795.

- **Consider power- wash of play area surfacing**

It was resolved that volunteer councillors would complete the power-washing, once the election period was over.

10. Issues around Alder Lane Playing Fields:

- **Conclude agreement for use of football pitch by Appley Bridge Boys Football Club in Season beginning September 2015**

It was resolved that the requirements outlined in this proposed lease far exceeded what had been requested earlier and mirrored closely what Shevington Sharks had when they first started to use the fields. Hence a figure of £600 would be more closely appropriate to the full year, two day a week field usage.

Cllr Stewart presented written amendments to the draft licence, including a clause that a named person from the Football Club be responsible for holding the keys and examining the shipping container and maintaining a log book of usage.

£200 was a suggested sum for five hours on a Sunday, September to March. However, this proposal was for Saturday and Sunday, August to July.

It was resolved that:-

Sunday only, September until March would be £200.

Saturday and Sunday from September to March would be £400.

Saturday and Sunday, from 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016 with use of the Parish Council shipping container for changing rooms, would be £500.

With a review at season end before any renewal will be considered.

Any extra usage would be subject to advance booking at a rate of £10 per hour.

The meeting determined that a small working party (to include Cllr Wess and Cllr Stewart) would consider any further negotiations.

- **Consider proposal for raising rent agreement with Shevington Sharks**

Cllr Bailey proposed that rent of £1,000 be accepted plus matched funding up to an annual total of £500 - seconded Butts - all in favour. Recorded vote requested.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Gareth Counce, Licensee of the Stocks Tavern to advise him that any sale of food or beverages at the Bramble Way car park requires permission of the Parish Council.

It was resolved that the fields be eradicated of moles, as required to ensure the safety of those playing sport on the fields. Cllr Wess wished it to be noted that she objects to the mole removal by extermination.

- **Request by Festival Committee for use of Fields and support by provision of grant funding - 11th July 2015**

It was resolved that permission to use the fields and car park for the village festival would be granted under the same conditions as implemented previously.

These conditions include that only light vehicles be permitted onto the playing pitch and that there would be a review immediately after the event to consider and record the condition of the playing fields. The Parish Council will not withdraw permission should heavy rain precede the event but do expect the Festival Committee to take any steps necessary to mitigate damage in such circumstances.

The Village Festival Committee must accept responsibility for any damage caused to the pitch and supervise what vehicles do enter the field. The entrance used for the field is of particular vulnerability as the drainage system for both pitches meets here and the landfill cap is close to the surface, so care must be taken and protective covering should be considered.

However the shipping container could not be used as it is inadequate for the large number of visitor anticipated and the Festival Committee will have to hire portaloos for the event.

It was also resolved to make a payment of £250 under LGA 1972, section 145, provision of entertainment, to the Festival Committee to assist with costs of the event.

11. To receive financial report for Financial Year 2014/15

The financial report was distributed to councillors and will be put onto the website for public view.

The Clerk was asked to enquire about the feed-in tariff relating to the solar panels.

12. To complete audit form and agree Annual Governance Statement

The Statement of Annual Governance and audit forms were approved and signed for submission to the Internal Audit examination, and ultimately the External Auditor.

13. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

280315	E A Broad	Salary (March 2015)	s.o.	£762.80
280315	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening	s.o.	£128.00
100415	Parbold WI	Room hire	2493	£24.00
100415	Parbold Festival Committee	Section 137 donation	2494	£250.00

The first half of precept has been received by bank transfer = £1,414.00

Balance of accounts as at 31st March 2015:-

Business High Interest Account	£79,073.65
Business Current Account	£27.25
End of Year bank balance:	£79,100.90

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

14. To note Planning and Planning Applications

2015/0228/FUL

20 Beech Avenue Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NS

Two storey side extension and one storey rear extension

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

2015/0315/FUL

Greenslates Tanfield Nook Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DQ

Demolition of existing studio building and erection of detached dwelling.

Parish Council Response: still under consideration.

2015/0337/LDP

Holly House 71A The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7EA

Certificate of Lawfulness - Proposed single storey rear extension.

Parish Council Response: Will await to see if this appears as a full planning application.

15. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Cllr Bailey - maintenance of village open spaces**

Discussed above as this is part and parcel of the extension of the contract for a lengthsmen. It was agreed to ask in the newsletter whether there were any areas of the village that require attention.

The meeting discussed Lancaster Lane, near the bottom of Brandreth Delph where some stone had been stolen and additional maintenance is required. Also the area of Lancaster Lane near the school that would benefit from being tarmaced and used as a pull in for car parking. The Planters at the shops on The Common also need looking at.

- **Cllr Holland - update following the Alt Crossens drainage meeting**

Item brought forward to Item 4

16. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Wess - please remind residents to cut back their hedges to keep the wayside clear.

Cllr Murrin-Bailey - broadband speed - noted that the village had fibre optic but not Infinity.

Cllr Bailey - the Statement of Nominations excluded the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Council is required to co-opt to fill vacant seats at the AGM if candidates are readily available.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm.

15th May 2015

Chairman -