

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 11th September 2015 in Parbold Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bithell (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Holland, Cllr Murrin-Bailey, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Stewart.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Arnold, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Wess.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 3rd July 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.

No items raised.

5. Follow up on Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre, Hoscscar

The update from Paul Quirk was distributed. The next meeting will be arranged for the first week of October and more widely advertised.

6. Issues regarding Parbold Village Hall:

- **To agree replacement of Fire Doors in the Main Hall**

It was resolved to replace the current wooden fire doors in the large, main sports-hall with fire doors from Strongdor Ltd. The Clerk was asked to obtain clarification that these are two fitted doors and not a large single door at each exit/entrance.

7. Issues around Alder Lane Playing Fields:

- **Follow up after Village Festival**

It was agreed that there was very little rubbish following the event and the fields were generally in good order. There was a vote of thanks for the Festival Committee and their volunteers for creating a superb atmosphere and memorable event. It was agreed that the grass on the field could have done with an extra cut just before the festival and this will be arranged for next year's show. It was acknowledged that satisfaction surveys undertaken after the Festival reported a very favourable review amongst Parbold residents.

Noting some cross-over of organisers with last week's Arts Street Festival, the meeting discussed this also. The closure of the main street appeared to be most successful and helped create a better atmosphere, particularly with the procession.

- **Consider re-opening project for a MUGA (multi-use games area)**

It was agreed that a sub-committee would be required to oversee any development and is now needed to kick-start the project. The meeting noted some objections to a MUGA at Alder Lane and asked that the Clerk investigate the following: Is it the case that a MUGA in Skelmersdale was erected and removed because it was not used? What is the usage of the MUGA at Hesketh-With-Beconsall and what are the running costs and income from it? Putting a MUGA at one of the village schools was suggested, but dismissed as public access is crucial to the project.

- **Capital Grant scheme update -benches, hedgerows and bee garden**

An update was given. Concerns were raised about a bee garden; particularly over finding a suitable location for it. Parbold Wildlife Group feel it may be counter-productive near to Chapel Meadow and proximity to where children are using the playing fields may be risky. In view of the doubts as to whether the Parish Council insurance policy covers the risks associated with the intentional planting of a plants to attract bees where members of the public are, the Council resolved to pursue the other elements of this scheme first and drop the bee garden for the time-being.

8. Update following the Alt Crossens Drainage Group Meeting

The next meeting will be in October 2015 and Cllr Holland will attend if available. The Environment Agency have given notice of their intention to turn off the secondary pumps which will lead to the flooding of prime agricultural land. Although Parbold will not be directly affected initially, flooding could include the rail track between Parbold and Southport, disrupting the train services. The economic prosperity of West Lancashire is at risk as the vegetable-growing farmland will be lost. This group is seeking an alternative and the creation of an Internal Drainage Board was considered but new Boards will not be funding, only existing Boards received government financial support. Co-operatives would be an idea as a certain amount of funding could be claimed against tax, however, this is not a popular view with the group currently meeting. It is all down to whether and how these secondary pumps would be funded? WLBC has made it clear that they would not fund this as it would require a rates rise, though it could be considered their responsibility as it clearly risks the economic welfare of the whole of West Lancashire. Ultimately it may have to be sorted by the land owners.

9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

100715	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening	s.o.	£128.00
210715	Glasdon Products	Benches	2516	£93.30*
210715	BDO Stoy Hayward	External Audit	2517	£240.00
290715	E A Broad	Salary (July 2015)	s.o.	£718.46

290715	J Stewart	Installing benches	2518	£375.00
310715	ParboldWI	Room hire	2519	£24.00
Spoiled cheque number: 2520				
240815	B Rawsthorne	Grounds maintenance June/July	2521	£1,078.00
240815	WLBC	Election costs	2522	£120.00
240815	Fire Equipment Service	village hall	2523	£126.00
240815	Yates Playgrounds	3 x play area inspections (£58 each)	2524	£208.80*
240815	Paul Scott	Repair hole in soffit at village hall	2525	£120.00
290815	E A Broad	Salary (August 2015)	s.o.	£718.46
110915	Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Annual Inspection	2526	£159.60*
110915	B Rawsthorne	Grass cutting August	2527	£515.00
110915	Argus Security	village hall security system check	2528	£120.00
110915	A P Pest Control	Mole removal - 2nd visit required	2529	£120.00
110915	David Secrett	Final payment for litter-picking	2530	£128.00
110915	PCA	Room hire - 150915	2531	£34.00
110915	Post Office Counters	Tax/NI x 3 months	2532	£43.11
110915	E A Broad	Stamps	2533	£14.04

Bank Reconciliation:

Bank Balance as at 31st March 2015	£ 79,100.90
Bank Balance as at 28th August 2015	£ 92,883.61
Add Income:	£ 23,451.46
Subtract Expenditure	£ 9,792.39
adjustment due to un-presented cheques	+£123.64
Balance:	<u>£92,883.61</u>

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment. A full bank reconciliation was provided to each Councillor present.

10. To receive External Audit Report

The External Auditor's Report was received noting that there were no issues of concern raised.

11. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number 2015/0776/FUL
18 Brandreth Drive
First floor extension to side of property

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2015/053/FUL
9 Brookfield Avenue
Raising ridge height to form front and rear dormers.

Parish Council Response: No comment on this proposal.

12. To consider ROSPA Inspection reports on the play areas and agree any maintenance work following their recommendations

The essential work requiring the replacement of the two cradle seats on the swings at £105 each, and treating the rubber surface to remove algae at £55 was agreed. The Clerk to ask if the contractor can also lubricate the seesaw at Burnside. Grounds work was underway to cut back the hedgerow at the Village Hall play area and to enlarge the hole for the bolt on the village hall play area gate, making it easier to open and close. The Clerk was asked to inform WLBC as owners of the litterbins, of the report in regard to the comments made about the litterbins. Quotations for repainting equipment were being obtained.

13. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Cllr Bithell** - discussion of the special objectives of the new council, its' role in the village and main objectives for continuity, expansion or change.

Discussion at the last meeting was returned to briefly with some concepts to be explored further.

14. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Butts: Trees on Greenfield Avenue. Last year a tree was removed because it died following WLBC putting weed-killer around the base. The tree has not been replaced and the contractors have now put weed killer around the base of the remaining trees. Clerk to contact WLBC to request replacement of the missing tree and that a proper maintenance programme be followed for strimming around these trees carefully, without using weed killer at the base.

Cllr Schaffell - with big health service funding gap, particularly health and social care, LCC and Darwen Council are considering a combined Lancashire Authority. There will be a consultation document produced in the coming months and Parish Councils may wish to become involved in comment on this.

Cllr Stewart - consider proposal that the Parish Council meets on the second Friday of each month as other organisations meet on the first, including the Ormskirk Archaeological Society. Apologies offered for the next meeting; this proposal to be put to the November meeting.

Cllr Holland - Increased incidence of parking on pavements so that pushchairs, wheelchairs and pedestrians have to go into the road to get around. Problem also occurs with larger vans and work vehicles around houses that are being renovated. Can the Parish Council draw up a Code of Practice for drivers? To remind them of the inconvenience they are causing, perhaps draft a letter to attach to the cars that have been parked on the pavements.

Cllr Blake - Asked for confirmation of the current football field use. Sunday mornings - Eccleston Youth Team and Sunday afternoons - Appley Bridge Youth Team. Unfortunately this is the same time as Shevington Sharks are using the rugby pitch, and may occasionally be the same time that Wigan Anglers hold their competitions, so there will be a great deal of pressure on the car park on Bramble Way. All local participants are encouraged to leave their cars at home and each club has agreed to marshal parking.

Cllr Bithell - Discuss whether there is anything that the Parish Council can do to support the Library? Also, devolution of powers - much is expressed about devolution and the Parish Council wouldn't want to miss an opportunity to take responsibility for things that improve the village.

15. 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, the public and the press, leave the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda

Unnecessary, as no members of the public were present.

16. Follow up on village litter-picking contract

Three contractors were considered and the candidate who is a local resident offering the cheapest price was selected. Contract to be on an ongoing basis, with either party to give two months notice to finish. Cllr Bithell wishes to meet the successful contractor and the Clerk was asked to thank the other two contractors for their interest.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

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Chairman - Cllr B Arnold

2nd October 2015