

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th December 2015
in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts,
Cllr Murrin-Bailey (arrived 7.55 pm), Cllr Stewart.

1. To record apologies for absence

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

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

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

Speaking as a member of the public, Cllr Blake informed the Parish Council that she had been in contact with County Cllr Westley regarding rumours that the crossing patrol at Parbold had received notice of termination of employment. They were assured that this is not the case. A letter of consultation had been sent out, as all LCC services, including the county-wide schools crossing services, were under review. This may have led to the misunderstanding that there was an immediate threat. However, continued funding has been agreed and there are currently no plans to installed an automated system in Parbold.

The meeting heard that workmen had been along Lancaster Lane manually scraping the squashed leaves from the pavements, around the Brandreth Delph retaining wall, where the machinery couldn't reach. The Clerk was asked to thank WLBC for the prompt attention once complaints had been made.

The end bollard on The Common, in front of the shops, has again been hit and the brickwork paving flags has lifted.

5. Issues around Alder Lane Playing Fields: brief update following maintenance work

Hedge planting in accordance with the Capital Grant Scheme has been completed. The hard standing behind the gate to the fields has been drained. It was agreed to meet with Shevington Sharks representatives after Christmas to ensure maintenance is kept up, as they agreed to reduced pitch rental on condition that assistance with site management was provided. It was noted that the drains were again blocked and vandalism suspected.

6. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

301115	E A Broad	Salary (November 2015)	s.o.	£718.46
041215	John Stewart	Alder Lane work	2545	£1,480.00
041215	Parbold WI	Room hire	2546	£24.00
041215	OPSTA	Annual subscription	2547	£10.00
041215	Community Futures	Annual subscription	2548	£30.00
041215	Fields in Trust	Annual subscription	2549	£25.00
041215	Post Office Counter	NI for three months	2550	£43.11

Cheque Number 2551 cancelled.

041215	Tree Wardens	To buy bulbs	2552	£20.00
041215	PCA	Room hire (budget meeting)	2553	£27.00
041215	E A Broad	Clerk's expenses (travel costs)	2554	£31.20
041215	Chris Horridge	Gardening path at Chapel Meadow	2555	£290.00

Balance as at 30th November 2015
Reserve account £105,020.66
Current account £72.06

Clerk's travel costs one visit to Garstang Hotel for SLCC meeting on 3d December 2015 (September meeting cost met by Lathom South PC), = 80 miles round trip at .39p per mile = £31.20.

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

7. To receive minutes from budget meeting on 25th November 2015 and ratify recommendations.

The Minutes had been distributed with the meeting notes and were accepted. Financial regulation documentation was also approved. The recommendation of maintaining the precept requirement at £35,000 for 2016/17 was resolved. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bithell for his expertise on the accounts.

8. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Ref. No: 2015/1117/FUL Proposed new classroom extension with group room.

Our Lady And All Saints R C Primary School Brandreth Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HD

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council is in general agreement with this proposal, however, notes that Parbold Schools are expanding, with a far wider intake from neighbouring towns and villages. This increases the number of vehicles in the village leading to traffic problems. Also, increasing numbers in Parbold schools may create an unintended consequence for neighbouring schools, reducing their intake. A strategic perspective may be required to ensure this does not happen.

Ref. No: 2015/1185/FUL Double storey rear extension

14 Greenfield Avenue Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DH

Cllr Arnold declared an interest, and took no part in the decision.

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2015/1192/FUL Demolition of existing garage and erection of attached garage at front. Two storey extension to rear, single storey extension and alterations to provide larger kitchen/utility area and other alterations to front and side of dwelling

9 Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council objects to this proposal because the area is known to have drainage problems, impacting on homes along Brandreth Drive. The alterations to the front and side of the dwelling clearly introduce a new access for the rear of the property supporting any back-land development. This proposal introduces additional built development on an area subject to flooding onto neighbouring properties (to the rear), and indicates an intention to open up the land behind for future development.

9. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Consider meeting on the changing the day of meeting - second Friday of the month, rather than the first**

It was resolved, in principle, to trial meetings for six months, on the third Friday of the month, in Parbold Women's Institute Hall from May 2016. The proposal at the AGM will be that meetings be held at 7.30pm on Friday 17th June, 15th July, 16th September, 21st October, 18th November 16th December 2016.

- **Compile list of litterbins requiring repair or replacement**

The meeting noted that dog bins will no longer be replaced and dog owners will be encouraged to use any bin. This item will be deferred until January due to recent adverse weather. The Clerk to request a list of litter bin locations from Graham Concannon, WLBC.

- **Consider maintenance at the dry dock near Mill Leat**

Cllr Stewart had been in correspondence with WLBC regarding the heritage position of the dry dock on Mill Leat. It was agreed to ask that WLBC consider making this a Grade 2 listed building, so that it has more protection and the owners (Canal & River Trust) will be prompted to maintain it properly. The meeting discussed the possibility of arranging a community development day, incorporating village groups or requesting assistance from the

Probation Service in tidying up the area. However, each of these proposals will required land-owner agreement and adequate insurance and facility provision.

Photocopy and circulate amongst councillors.

- **Problem of clearing leaf-fall on pavements along Tan House & Lancaster Lane**

The meeting noted that leaves along Lancaster Lane were cleared but leaf fall has been such that the pavement soon filled again. Additionally the grass verge on the pavement has been churned up by walking across and vehicles parking there. The Parish Council wish to explore the feasibility of tarmac here to allow safer parking to support the schools.

It was noted that LCC have been monitoring traffic on Lancaster Lane.

It was acknowledged also that residents ought to ensure leaf fall from their trees is cleared up outside their property, as we are now all aware that public service cuts mean less frequent clean-ups. The Clerk was instructed to write to Lancaster priory to request that they arrange removal of leave-fall outside the convent if possible.

LCC and WLBC con-ordination on the timing of clearing gullies, drains and road ways would greatly assist. However, it is still noted that leaves a brushed by one department, but left to wash back in creating a problem for the next authority.

- **Respond to concern about library and bus services raised in The Champion newspaper**

The meeting considered LCC draft strategy for a parish run bus service and determined that Parbold Parish Council is not in a position to run a bus service or community transport scheme. The nature of public transport passing through a number of communities requires a centralised system. The demand for a parish run bus service can only determined once LCC has informed the public which bus services will be discontinued. The Parish Council is happy to assist with marketing to explain inevitable changes. If subsidised services are unsustainable, prices for travel should be advertised, explaining that charges must be made to keep the service running.

There was insufficient information available to discuss library services in any depth. However, there was general agreement that the local library is highly valued and Parbold Parish Council will assist to keep the service open.

10. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Arnold - noting articles in The Champion highlighting WLBC money being spent on playing fields in Burscough and asking why such funding cannot be accessed for Alder Lane Playing Fields.

Cllr Murrin-Bailey - Double parking at the bottom of Brandreth Drive and Tan House Lane. Cars are noted to be there all day and it is envisaged that drivers are parking there and going on the train for the day.

Cllr Bithell - has met people on the train who come out of the village and park here all day. Suggests a letter is put onto the cars to ask that they consider their parking more carefully and avoid double parking.

Cllr Blake - noting Steve Morgan's intention to arrange a village event on 16th January 2016. The Parish Council has no objection to the village hall play area being used to stage the event but the clerk was asked to remind him of noise issues from the past and recommend that he liaise with neighbours. The use of the shed at the rear of the village hall for equipment must be rejected on grounds of insurance requirement that no equipment increasing fire risk can be stored in there.

Cllr Blake - asked that thanks be sent to Parbold Unlimited for providing one of the nicest Christmas trees and decorative festive lighting around.

11. 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

Resolved.

12. Update on Lengthsman Contract

Item deferred.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold

8th January 2016