

Minutes of the next Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th March 2016 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 5th February 2016

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.

Members of the public requested what action the parish council was taking to ensure Parbold Library stays open?

A proposal was heard that a membership-only, bus service might replace some of the 3A bus services.

PCA representative and badminton club members attended the meeting to explain how lack of reliable heating system in the main sport-hall is affecting their activities, to the extent that they may have to find alternative room hire for this.

Paul Quirk updated the meeting on issues around Hoscar Sewage Works. Understandably at this time of year complaints were low. A follow-up report is being prepared by WLBC expert. £650k funding has been allocated for the storm tanks and a suitable vehicle capable of cleaning them more thoroughly and remotely, has been obtained.

Paul Quirk has also done considerable research on existing Flood Action Groups and will feed the information he has into the Parbold group, when formed.

Complaints about poor parking continue and the Parish Council was asked to expedite the production of a letter to be attached to poorly parked vehicles.

5. Follow up from Flooding Public Meeting on 29th February 2016

The minutes were distributed. It was agreed that a Flood Action Group be formed, with Parish Council representation on that Group in order to report back to Members, but not organised by the Parish Council. A separate FAG is recommended in order to tap into funding that a Parish Council isn't eligible for.

6. To apprise Council Members of Parbold Unlimited of plans for Festivals in 2016, including Parbold Festival

The meeting heard that:-

1. The Street Festival will go ahead again in September with an intention to extend into the area at the end of Mill Leat Close to create a 'Green Zone' area and include some interactive stalls for kids, Art Exhibition on the Rose of Parbold, stalls, refreshments, entertainment etc
2. In August there will be a 'Ukelele' Festival.
3. The Annual Village Show will be held at Alder Lane Playing Fields on 9th July 2016.

The meeting resolved to grant permission to use of Alder lane Playing Fields for the Village Show on the usual terms:

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 Parbold Unlimited to take any steps necessary to mitigate damage in such circumstances.

Parbold Unlimited 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, in the event of poor weather conditions, protective covering should be considered.

The parish-owned shipping container can be used however it is inadequate for the large number of visitors anticipated so Parbold Unlimited ought to consider hiring portaloos for the event.

With regard to the use of Mill Leat area, Parbold Unlimited ought to approach WLBC as owners of that land for permission.

The meeting authorised an extra cut for the fields on Wednesday 6th July 2016 to ensure that the grass was not too long for the Show.

7. Alder Lane issues

- **To apprise Council Members of the return of teams to use the fields**

The Chairman reported that the return of the teams to the fields was not without problems, and he had been asked to attend to see the issue of poor parking. However, the following week, marshals were visible and parking problems much reduced.

- **Contract with Shevington Sharks regarding additional work at Alder Lane and repainting their shipping container.**

The meeting heard that Shevington Sharks had promised to spend club funds to improve and enhance and that they would shortly be re-painting the shipping containers.

8. Village Hall Issues

- **update on the heating system problems in the main hall**

Item moved to the end of the meeting to allow free discussion of issue and consider quotations.

9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

290215	E A Broad	Salary (February 2016)	s.o.	£718.46
050316	Parbold WI	Room hire (29/02/16)	2565	£30.00
050316	Parbold WI	Room hire 040316 (2 1/2 hours)	2566	£30.00
050316	Smart Heating	Boiler at village hall	2567	£330.00
050316	Rawsthorne	Grass cutting - play areas	2568	£198.00
050316	Midstream Ltd	Grounds clearance Chapel Lane	2569	£210.00*
050316	Avalon Doors	Deposit for fire doors, village hall	2570	£3,000.00*

*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

10. To note Planning and Planning Applications

There were no new applications this month, however further comment on Tan House Lane development - Application Number 2015/1243/FUL was agreed as follows:

Parbold Parish Council objects in the strongest possible terms to **any building whatsoever on this garden land.**

Chapter 7.8 (Garden Land Development) states

'It is acknowledged that for neighbours of proposed developments the issue can be particularly acute. National and local policies do not allow the development of garden land if neighbours amenity would be unacceptably harmed'

West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan P94:

Chapter 3 (Trees and Landscaping) West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan
'Development involving the loss of, or damage to, woodlands or trees of significant amenity, screening, wildlife or historical value will only be permitted where the development is

required to meet a need that could not be met elsewhere, and where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss or damage'.

The Council's Criteria for Sustainable Development - Policy GN3 - "reasonable levels of privacy and amenity should be retained" and the development should "complement or enhance attractive attributes through appropriate siting, orientation and landscaping".

Policy RS1 for Residential Development

c) Development on garden land

Noticeably there is no allocation of land for housing developments within the Local Plan for Parbold, whilst this Policy makes it quite clear that in considering proposals for residential development on garden land, careful attention must be paid to relative policies, including but limited to, those relating to the amenity of nearby residents, the character of the immediate area, vehicle access, biodiversity and design. If such matters cannot be satisfied then residential development should not be permitted.

A contractor felled mature trees in 2015 prior to planning application? What action is WLBC taking? Residents managed to get TPO's on some others.

Wildlife - loss of habitat - bats - hedgehogs - nesting and feeding birds - blackbird, robin, song thrush, mistle thrush, wren, bluetit, great tit, coal tit, chaffinch, greenfinch, bull finch (a S41 Species) nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker, jay, tawny owl and sparrow hawk, willow warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap. Tawny owl, great spotted woodpeckers. jays, nuthatches and sparrowhawks. All have been seen by residents.

The following affects residents of Tan House, Alderbrook and Brandreth

Loss of privacy - amenity - light

Flooding - slope of the land - especially in view of recent serious flooding in the area.

Land drainage issues - especially in view of recent serious flooding in the area.

Footpath - increased danger to school children and parents with pushchairs from vehicles exiting on to what is already a very busy road

Light & noise pollution

11. Update following publication of the LCC budget resulting in a reduction in library services, with possible closure of Parbold Library and the 3a bus service

3a Bus Service: The meeting heard that the LCC working group proposals to retain the 3A bus service will be finalised next Tuesday and presented to the LCC Cabinet Member for their consideration. The decision may take another fortnight.

Having heard a proposal from the floor of the meeting earlier about the possibility of a community run 'members-only' scheme, the matter will be on the next agenda for full discussion at the next meeting. The meeting heard that the proposal received at the last meeting from Up Holland Parish Council for a joint-parish system had been withdrawn.

Whilst discussing public transport, the meeting resolved to support OPSTA in objecting to the proposed withdrawal of train service from Piccadilly - Southport from April 2017.

With regard to the threatened closure of Parbold Library, the Parish Council resolved to support any initiative to keep it open. The Clerk was instructed to write to LCC in terms that the library is crucial and closure would be damaging, particularly for children who have no other access to books and computers. The Parish Council also want to know if the land, and that of other libraries is subject to lease or owned by LCC, and whether relocation of the library into another Parbold building has been considered and may be feasible.

12. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Cllr Stewart - consider maintenance at the dry dock near Mill Leat and adjoining land**

It was resolved to link this issue in with the flooding from Dock Brook to see if the land can be utilized as some sort of water holding area in the event of flooding. The land is owned and maintained by WLBC but is in a poor state of repair. Dialogue with the Borough Council revealed that there is little money to maintain this land and it has been allowed to revert to rough ground. There is a possibility of a community group or parish council leasing the land, but liabilities make this an expensive prospect for any group.

- **Cllr Stewart - proposal to address road safety issues**

Deferred until next meeting.

- **Cllr Wess - update on the celebration to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday**

It was resolved that this event will be in the Parbold Women's Institute on Tuesday 14th June at 12 noon for senior citizens who are residents of Parbold (60 places only). Quotations for catering were available and it was resolved to select Parbold Deli to cater the event. The event will be advertised by poster and in the PCA Newsletter.

13. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Wess: overhanging trees and bushes are worse this year because the trees never really died off this year due to the mild winter. Dog owners not removing dirt from the pavements.

Cllr Schaffel: car parking on The Common car-park has reverted to parking all day again. Enforcement action must now be considered.

Cllr Stewart - The highway problems on Lancaster Lane. There is a large flood on the highway at Lancaster Lane just before it curves and the hedgerow alongside is overhanging in such a manner that buses cannot get the full value of the land. The Clerk was asked to inform LCC Highways so that action can be taken.

Cllr Bithell - Consider undertaking a survey to produce a strategic plan for property in the village. Should the Parish Council explore this? how do we start to debate alternative options? When we get issues about library closure etc - has the parish council got a role in helping to co-ordinate? how? Can we bring the chairmen of each of the buildings (library, meeting rooms, WI, CA, schools) to a meeting to discuss?

Cllr Murrin-Bailey - Potholes around the village are worsening and little being done other than patching. The Clerk to make complaint to LCC Highways.

14. 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.