

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council which will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 7th October 2016 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Blake, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Wess 8 members of the public present.

**1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Butts, Cllr Holland, Cllr Schaffell, and Cllr Stewart,

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared

**3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 9th September 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.**

**Item 12 Parbold Library**

Brought forward for open discussion with Members of the Public present. Cllr Westley informed the meeting that LCC Cabinet had yesterday considered Parbold Parish Council's expression of interest and accepted the proposal in principal subject to the receipt of a viable business plan. It may be that a free transfer of the building with additions, and some grant support of approximately £5k, then £1k per year. The Conservative group are trying to reverse the closures, but the building has ceased as a library at this stage.

There was discussion about the financial viability of community use and whether there was a covenant insisting it be maintained for public use. It was uncertain as to how long LCC will give for the drawing up of a business plan. The idea of a Parbold Community Hub as raised, and it was concluded that those interested in running the building should meet to draw up a business plan. Joanna Caste presented some draft ideas as she is anxious to assist in keeping the building for community use, even if supported by some commercial venture. Tim Cornah had ideas about a satellite library service run from Coffee Etc and Parbold Unlimited expressed interest in use of the library building for music and the arts. A public meeting could encourage more residents to volunteer.

**5. Follow up from Parbold Unlimited regarding this year's Festivals**

Parbold Village Show Treasurer attended to give a follow up report after the Village Show, The poor weather led to a reduction of numbers of visitors and was overall about a third

down on the previous year; however there were almost normal numbers of local residents. Holding the event "Sunshine Sunday" helped to spread the costs a bit for tables chairs and offset losses a bit on the gate. The AGM will be held on the 7th November and will report a balance of £8k in the bank, the event having lost about £1,500. There was a modest amount of damage to the field due to the poor weather. The rugby field was unscathed but the football field impacted slightly. This was examined earlier this week and a some of approximately £200 should be sufficient for re-digging and re-turfing to do. We want to do it and sort it out.

Next years date is set as Saturday 8th July 2017 so the plan is to put marquees up on the 6th until the 10th July 2017. It would be helpful to used the toilets as well as ordering portaloos.

It is frustrating if the Parish Council raise issues just before the Show when we can do nothing about it so if there are any issues with the use of the fields for July 2017 the Festival Committee would like to know before Christmas.

The Parish Council appreciate that the Committee has been running the event for many years and does not wish to interfere but the issue this year was HGVs on the playing field pitches and the damage they cause to the drains beneath. The drainage system was expensive to install and is easily damaged.

Steve Morgan responded that he damage was caused by the marquee contractor and it is one of the reasons that the marquee supplier has been changed for next year.

It was explained that adding top soil only compacts the drains and is not a sufficient repair.

One complaint raised was that the mud caused problems with prams and walkers and perhaps straw could be used in future if similar conditions arise.

Steve Morgan, Parbold Unlimited gave a review of the two Festivals: August Ukulele Festival and September Parbold Street Festival which were both well attended and enjoyable events. The festivals create the accumulation of equipment and storage facilities for this are currently being sought. It would be helpful if storage in a shipping container on Bramble Way carpark could be provided by the Parish Council as this would be a contribution to thee village activities.

It was confirmed that Parbold Unlimited remains an informal partnership with the structure formalised in part by a series of managers who take responsibility for individual aspects of each festival. The PCA act as agent for bidding for grants but the work is all done by an army of volunteers; the tentacles spread out a long way to ensure everything is done.

## **6. Update on odour problem from Hoscar Sewage Works**

Paul Quirk and the Clerk attended the meeting at Hoscar in September. An increase in complaints in June and July was due to a major power cable failure whilst routine maintenance was being carried out on the primary inlet tanks. Sludge built up and had a knock on effect with other equipment failing because the sludge had hardened. The recently installed tank cleaning equipment also failed in a number of tanks and this was ripped out and returned to the manufacturers for refurbishment and improvements. This has

been a recurring theme. The staff at Hoscar are doing their best to reduce odours but their main concern is returning water to the river to a very high standard set by the agencies.

Continued investment for improvements and maintenance depend upon continued reporting of odours as this is the only mechanism United Utilities look at when deciding future funding. There is continued assistance from Rosie Cooper MP.

The Chairman and Mr Quirk will visit the site for an informal inspection at a date to be arranged.

It was agreed that long term pressure is essential, a group that can keep prodding, need to find statistics for the performance of other sites, that might get elevate in priority for budgets, ultimately to go to the company Chief Executive and insist he go public on how he is allocating his money, attend their AGM and remind them we are top of their list of odour problems.

#### **7. To hear update from Flood Action Group**

County Councillor Westley told the meeting that the Environment Agency has quotes for undertaking a survey of this part of the river and has promised a copy of the survey when it is done. Rachel Crompton, LCC is pursuing Wigan Mining, as the riverbank owners. The Section 19 Flood Report on Flooding in December 2015 had now been issued by Lancashire County Council as required under their responsibility as Lead Flood Authority. With LCC financial restraints, gullies and gutters will not be routinely maintained but broken or blocked grids that are reported will receive attention.

Residents will be requested to report any blocked grids near their property, using LCC's Report It website. Land owners will be encouraged to keep watercourses running freely. The Flood Action Group want to purchase sandbags, protective gear, torches etc and will be seeking storage for these items. Anyone affected by flooding is eligible to apply for the resilience grant administered by WLBC but applications will be closing at the end of October.

#### **8. To consider donation to Royal British Legion and make arrangements for Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Arnold will present a wreath at Christ Church, Douglas-in-Parbold, and Cllr Blake will present a wreath at Our Lady & All Saints RC Church. It was resolved to issued a cheque for £100 to cover the cost of a wreath and a small donation to the Poppy Appeal.

#### **9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented**

071016	E A Broad	Clerk's salary	s.o.	£741.83
071016	B Rawsthorne	Grass cutting (October 2016)	2608	£ 354.00
071016	Parbold WI	Room hire for 7th Oct 2016	2609	£ 30.00
071016	Fire Equipment Service	Annual check of fire extinguishers	2610	£126.00

071016	P Scott	Clearing gutters at village hall	2611	£45.00
071016	E Broad	Reimbursement for stamps	2612	£12.79
Cheque number 2606 £48.78 payable to Post Office Counters is cancelled and replaced with:				
071016	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax 3 months	2613	£48.78
071016	Shelley Signs	Interpretation Board	2614	£852.00*
071016	Smart Heating	Boiler repair Village Hall	2615	£225.00*
071016	Royal British Legion	Donation to Poppy Appeal	2614	£100.00

\* contains VAT

**Current bank balances:      Current account: £95.43 Reserve account: £93,257.15**  
**TOTAL:      £ 93,352.58**

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment

#### **10. Village Hall Issues:-**

- **Confirm date to meet with PCA**

The meeting was confirmed for Monday 24th October 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and it was resolved that it be restricted to Cllrs Arnold, Bithell, Butts & Wess, to retain the closeness of the meeting though substitute Councillors may attend if these ones are not available

- **Update on heating problems**

The application to the flood resilience fund could not be completed because the village hall doesn't meet the required criteria.

The heating is currently working. The newly installed switch was working correctly, however another component sensor was switching the system down possibly due to dust on the sensor as it was out of use during the summer months. The sensor was replaced on Tuesday 4th October 2016.

It was resolved to arrange the annual boiler service for autumn each year before the system is switched on for full use.

#### **11. Alder Lane Issues:-**

- **Confirm meeting date with Parbold Wildlife Group**

The meeting will be held on Thursday 20th October 2016 at 7:30pm in Parbold Village Hall, if available. Cllr Arnold, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Butts, and Cllr Blake will attend.

- **Playing Field pitches - progress of WLBC Protection Order**

The update given today by Andrew Hill, WLBC is that the process has been delayed as additional surveys were required to add Alder Lane Playing Fields to the scheme. The proposals will be put to public consultation. Only if there is no objection will the scheme be implemented and it is hoped that the project will be complete by 31st March 2017.

## **12. Parbold Library update**

**Item discussed earlier in public participation section of the meeting - Item 4**

## **13. To note Planning and Planning Applications**

Reference Number: 2016/0961/FUL

Plot 8 Chapel Lane Parbold Lancashire

Stable building with tack room and engineering works for change of use of agricultural land to form private mooring

Reference Number: 2016/0973/FUL

Plot 7 Chapel Lane Parbold Lancashire

Stable building with tack room and engineering works for change of use of agricultural land to form private mooring

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council object to this proposal. This would serve to consolidate an unwelcome residential presence on this prominent site in the Green Belt. It is a step too far. The plot is at the far end of an unmade green route off Chapel Lane. It is badly churned up in winter, as is the access across the plot to the boat. Access to the stable block would sooner or later involve horse boxes/trailers, and an application for hard surfacing which would compound the visual damage to the area. This creeping development ought to be stopped. Even though a small stable might be tolerated in the green belt, the access is poor and visibility high (after the felling of the original trees).

Reference Number: 2016/0984/FUL

69 Burnside Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7PE

Single and two storey extension

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Reference Number: 2016/0918/FUL

89 Burnside Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7PE

Single storey rear extension

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

## **14. To form response to Local Plan amendment**

It was agreed that Councillors will contact the Clerk with comments by email.

## **15. Items raised by Councillors:**

- **Speed Indicator Devices**

Cllrs Arnold, Wess and Stewart are continuing this project.

- **Lancaster Lane parking at school times**

The Clerk was asked to write to the new Head Teacher so that they are aware of the problem and suggest a drop-off system so that cars do not have to be parked whilst parents wait until school opening time.

- **Items for inclusion in the next newsletter (November)**

The following was suggested:

As winter approaches, please cut back overhanging trees and hedges but take care to dispose of cuttings carefully; use the green bin and do not allow the cuttings to block gullies or gutters. Ensure any watercourses on your land are running freely. Focus on flooding and prepare yourself because flooding can happen anywhere. Please take five minutes to look at Lancashire County Council's video guidance at <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/flooding>

Take a look at the road outside your property - are the grids and gullies clear? If not, your property may be at risk of surface water flooding. Tell Lancashire County Council using their "Report It" page on their website.

The Parish Council is seeking a self-employed lengthsman to litter-pick around the car-parks at The Common Shops, Village Hall and Bramble Way. If interested please email your details to the Parish Clerk.

## **16. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings**

Cllr Blake, has asked LCC Highways to cut the hedgerow along Alder Lane from the bridge as far as wall to the Catholic Church,

Cllr Bithell, wishes to discuss lengths-man and fracking

Cllr Bailey - asks who is the PCSO covering this area since Dave Benson has left. The Clerk replied she believed it would be PCSO Nick Markwick whom he had met whilst dog-walking.

Cllr Wess, - is it possible to get CIL funding for flood defences? Can we write to the Railway Public House to ask that they cut back the trees at the rear of their property as they are overgrown.

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

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Chairman - Cllr B Arnold

4th November 2016