

Parbold Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB (Hons), MA, CiLCA

1 Pinewood, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UZ

Tel: 01695 557678 Mob: 07973 340254

e-mail: parboldpc.clerk@yahoo.com

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 5th October 2018 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall.

Present: Cllr Brian Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Charles Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr May Blake, Cllr Denise Butts, Cllr Sarah Carruthers, Cllr Susan Holland, Cllr Justin Stopford, Cllr Tony Schaffel.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ellis Gill. The resignation of Cllr Rob Bailey was noted. A notice of casual vacancy had been erected on the notice board.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Bithell declared an interest in Item 7 as a volunteer with Parbold Scouts. Cllr Blake declared personal interest in Item 7 Parbold Scouts, as family members attend the group.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th September 2018

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

4. Public Participation:

No issues raised at this time but the meeting was opened up to Members of the Public to speak at Item 5.

5. Update on odour problems from Hoscar Sewage Works following site visit with MP

Paul Quirk updated the Parish Council on the meeting held on 14th September 2018 at Hoscar by providing the following report:-

Attendees: Rosie Cooper MP + her pa,
United Utilities Oliver Andrews (Area Production Manager), Peter Molyneux (Production Manager for Hoscar) and Laura Doyle (Wastewater Process Asset Manager),
UU PR and press representative John Martin (External Affairs Manager).
Paul Quirk, resident: Jean Taylor, resident: Brian Arnold Parish Councillor Chairman

The meeting with UU was requested by Rosie Cooper in response to numerous complaints from local residents about the continuing odours from the Hoscar treatment plant.

UU used a presentation which showed historical complaints and updated the meeting with more recent 2018 contact figures. These showed that for the months June, July and August the complaints had fallen from the high in 2014 but had peaked again in 2016 and again in 2018. The worst month being July which had 76 in 2014 then 11, 31, 23 in the following years and then 42 in 2018.

Residents asked about the reporting channels as some had been sending via email and it appears that these reports had not been included. UU promised to investigate and if the emails still existed then they would add the figures to the complaints. Rosie Cooper was dismayed that the reporting was still an issue and demanded that it be sorted once and for all.

Oliver Andrews then took the meeting through an operational update. He explained UU were dosing the network to reduce the risk of septic influent. Also UU have brought in a lubrication specialist to help reduce the risk of asset failure. They have brought in specialists to carry out a full inspection of the odour control equipment and they confirmed that all the odour control equipment is operating normally. He then explained some of the possible reasons for the increased odours during 2018. In the spring of 2018 UU had a mechanical failure of the sludge transfer system, which was resolved within 5 days. They are now in the process of investing over £200k to make this system more reliable & resilient. In mid-July UU completed critical maintenance on a Primary Settlement Tank and this resulted in 14 complaints over a 4 day period. He also explained that exceptional weather conditions played a part as during the summer there were very long periods of hot, dry weather. This had an adverse impact on incoming sewage temperature and septicity, which in turn has affected sludge settle ability in the primary tanks. He then addressed one of the council's major concerns - preventive maintenance and explained that UU had recently refurbished the Chainlink conveyor & the filter beds. There are plans to refurbish the storm tanks, the Humus Tank and the primary tanks in the very near future. This was followed by a Q&A session when the residents asked about the effectiveness of WLBC environment team, the breakdown of the sludge processor which took 5 days to repair but caused at least 3 weeks of odours due to the backlog etc. UU confirmed they are currently investing over £1m in the works described above. UU requested that residents use the survey gizmo where possible as this gives them better information on the likely source of odours, meaning UU's efforts can be targeted more effectively."

It is disheartening that after all the years of campaigning residents still come up against WLBC who claim to have never smelled the odour on their visits after receiving reports and UU who say they need more reports so they can find the source of the odours.

Their experience from numerous meetings and site visits indicate that the odours come from the settlement and storm tanks and the sludge transfer system. United Utilities continue to hide behind "best practice" and WLBC despite having the power just haven't got the inclination to take UU to court.

The best option is to encourage residents to continue reporting odours and for the parish council to keep the pressure on UU and WLBC by continuing the site meetings every 6 months or so.

UU also confirmed the following are alternative contact points for us for issues relating to odour:

- Telephone 0345 672 3723 Option 1.
- Alternatively customers can e-mail us at customer.service@uuplc.co.uk This mailbox is monitored and all e-mails will be responded to
- The surveygizmo

6. To confirm arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, consider donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and order wreaths for presentation at the local churches

It was resolved to order two wreaths from the Royal British Legion for delivery to Cllr Blake. Cllr Blake will present a wreath at Our Lady & All Saints RC Church and the Chairman, Cllr Arnold will present a wreath at Christ Church Parbold-in-Douglas. It was resolved to issue a cheque for £100 to the RBL Poppy Appeal as charitable donation.

7. To consider donation to assist Parbold Scout Group

Cllr Bithell left the room for discussion of this item.

The committee have been developing the hut for all users. This includes replacing doors, upgrading storage, buying chairs, buying new tents and equipment for the 3x Scout groups. They have been successful in obtaining a grant for certain of these developments from Whitemoss of £3,791 which requires a third party contribution of £423.

It was resolved to support this project as third party contributor and issue a cheque for £423.

At 19.55 hours - the meeting was suspended briefly to hear comment from Members of the Public who had just arrived. Two residents of Bramble Way spoke of their concern about visitors to the car park after dark who appeared to be involved in antisocial behaviour and possible drug dealing. Whilst the police have been informed it is rare that anyone comes out. They would favour more active protection, by cctv if at all possible. Cllr Blake agreed to ask WLBC if the area, which is WLBC owned and leased to the parish council, could be considered for inclusion on the cctv surveillance system already in use. The residents also complained that the trees opposite their homes are over-large and shadowing their living-rooms. They agreed to send photographs to illustrate the issue and asked that councillors consider removal or at least drastic pruning of some of the trees.

8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

210918	RBS	Bank charges	d.d	£5.00
280918	E A Broad	Salary for September 2018	s.o.	£710.33
280918	NEST	pension (£15.19 Parish contribution)	d.d.	£69.87
051018	T & VP Wade & Son	mowing, bailing and removing grass (Chapel Meadow)	2770	£420.00*

051018	E A Broad	Stamps and stationery	2771	£20.00
051018	Parbold WI	Room hire	2772	£32.50
051018	B Rawsthorne	Grass cutting September	2773	931.00
051018	Royal British Legion	Donation to Poppy Appeal	2774	£100.00
051018	Whitemoss Ltd	Third party contribution for funding	2775	£423.00

*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To set a date for personnel committee to consider employment issues

Committee:

Finance

Terms of Reference:

Budget/Employees/External grants

Finance Committee Composition:

Cllr Arnold
Cllr Bithell

Cllr Bailey (resigned)
Cllr Carruthers

Cllr Butts
Cllr Gill

It was agreed that the Finance Committee (details above) will meet at 7.30 pm on 21st November 2018 to consider the budget, internet banking and the clerk's contract and rate of pay.

10. Alder Lane Issues:-

- **To address concerns about security of the site**

This meeting heard during public participation that the car park area was attracting anti social behaviour and gathering of youths after dark.

Borough Councillor Blake agreed to ask WLBC if their system of cctv surveillance could be extended to cover the Alder Lane Playing Field site.

The gate will require a new chain and key following removal by the Festival Committee.

- **Set meeting with Parbold Wildlife Group to discuss Chapel Meadow management**

It was resolved to meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday 30th October 2018 at Parbold Village Hall. All Parish Councillors are invited to come along and listen to the work the PWG do.

11. Village Hall Issues:-

- **Update on proposal to demolish shed and replace with shipping container for use by Festivals organisers**

Having considered the probable cost of demolition of a functioning garage and acquisition of a shipping container, the probably eyesore and noise for neighbours created by a shipping container at this site and the requirement for planning application for such a proposition, it was resolved to keep the concrete shed/garage in situ and continue use of this for storage.

- **Receive concerns from PCA that the heating system in the main hall is not suitable for current use of the hall**

It was resolved that a meeting with the PCA was required to assess the adequacy of the new small hall heating system and consider what requirements remain for the large hall. It is accepted that the large hall has had a change in use from the sportshall with a high open roof reaching a peak to the dropped roofed room that is also used for concerts, theatre and film activities.

12. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2018/0923/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of an existing dwelling and adjacent coach house and construction of a single replacement dwelling.

Location: Douglas Dale 23 Bradshaw Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NQ

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council does not object to re-development at this site, but has some concerns that this large, urban style design is out of keeping in this very rural area, off the end of Bradshaw Lane. There is an immediate disparity with other properties in the vicinity and the surrounding fields. Additionally, there is concern about the likelihood of further future development as there is no provision for a garage.

The recent problems of flyposting have been reported to WLBC and LCC, with LCC agreeing to contact companies who fly post, particularly on the lamp-posts in the village. There are still some problems of local business signs such as A boards obstructing the pavements.

13. To confirm draft for newsletter

The following wording was approved for submission to the editor.

Many thanks to the organisers of the summer festivals. A great deal of work goes into creating the lovely village atmosphere. As winter approaches can we please ensure that adequate groundwork on our land has been completed. No overhanging trees or vegetation and any culverts or waterways are kept clear of debris. It really is essential in the areas of flood risk. Also, can local businesses please refrain from putting notices up on the lamp-posts as it may constitute fly-posting which is subject to the imposition of a fine.

Please use the litterbins; there are new ones along the Common purchased and installed by the Parish Council. These bins can also accept dog waste so there is no excuse to leave it on the ground.

WLBC have produced a consultation on future development within West Lancashire, and the document proposes one hundred houses be built in the fields at the back of The Common towards the junction with Lancaster Lane. The Preferred Options paper can be viewed at:

<https://westlancs.gov.uk/lpr>

To comment please follow the links on the website. Details of public events to publicise the Local Plan are also found on the website, including one event on Monday 29th October 2018 at Parbold Village Hall. Registration is required to participate in the consultation.

14. Confirm response to the West Lancashire Borough Council's Local Plan Preferred Options Paper

The consultation period will begin on Friday 12th October for twelve weeks. Residents are urged to look at the proposals and comment if they so wish. There will be a number of open days where WLBC planning officers will be available to answer questions, with the local event being held at Parbold Village Hall on 29th October 2018. Attendance must be booked in advance. Consultation responses will be accepted online using the WLBC online form.

The following response was approved as a basis for the Parish Council comments on the paper, though these statements will be input alongside the policy to which they apply.

There is a great deal of public concern at the proposal to build an estate of one hundred houses on the land to the south of The Common.

There are already infrastructure problems in Parbold with inadequate water drainage and a sewerage system unable to cope with the current level of demand, without the additional hundred houses being built here. There are significant traffic issues throughout the village with HGVs using the roads that would surround this estate. Plans to create a retirement village where the current Roman Catholic convent is, are already adding significant numbers to the village which is a draw on resources and there is little justification for creating another housing estate expanding our village to this extent. The fields concerned currently form green fields and assist houses on The Common maintain their rural viewpoint. They offer panoramic views and are more useful as agricultural fields rather than housing development. If built, they would take housing even closer to Hoscar Sewage Works (Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre) already responsible for the infamous "Parbold Pong", it would be grossly unfair to put new housing here when the problem is well known.

The preferred options paper anticipates another 6,000 houses in West Lancashire, which is more than West Lancashire requires or ought to be providing. It is clear that some of the housing allocation designed for neighbouring councils is being taken on by West Lancashire and we believe this to be unfair to current residents who chose to live in a small village and not a town.

The alternative sites are no better placed and Parbold Parish Council would urge that West Lancashire Borough Council continue with the Local Plan that is in place until 2027 rather than overlie this flawed one.

15. Update on project to resurface the footpath between Parbold & Newburgh School

This footpath runs from the Windmill along the canal, on the non-towpath side, to Newburgh School. It is not suitable for prams, pushchairs or wheel chairs. This project would like to resurface it with a layer of gravel and finish with a suitable coating use all year round. As it joins Newburgh we need to get agreement from Newburgh Parish Council and inform development people what we need to do. At this stage the main focus is establishing what work will be involved and the source of potential funding. There will be a meeting on 17th October 2018 with Newburgh Parish Councillors. There is general support for cycling and walking routes, there is an interesting West Lancashire Wheel based upon the Preston Guild Wheel which this route could be an add-on to. The overgrown section of footpath along the canal will be reported to LCC as in need of strimming. This was allocated a LCC reference number of 358494.

16. To consider online banking following closure of local RBS branch

It was resolved in principle to change to an internet account because all banking systems are being moved in this direction. The matter will be taken forward by the Finance Committee when they meet in November.

17. To hear any update on arranging a meeting with Network Rail regarding the level crossings

Network Rail had not responded to a request to meet and discuss their proposals for the level crossings in Parbold.

18. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Carruthers - can anything be done about the Station House which is in such poor repair with broken wall and fencing. Although the railway has been asked, directly and via Rosie Cooper MP, the situation is unchanged.

Cllr Holland - consider re-joining the Lancashire Association of Local Councils. Consider the future of Scarisbrick House - the site of the Royal Bank of Scotland Parbold Branch which is shortly to close. Perhaps this could be used as a railway car park. Consider a donation of £250 to Christ Church Douglas-in-Parbold to assist with the cost of running the civil graveyard.

Cllr Stopford - The Parish Council Notice Board is desperately in need of cleaning. It has not been possible to find a suitable contractor to clean it. The perspex is damaged in places but the original supplier no longer produces this style of board.

Cllr Butts - the clearance of shrubbery at the Heys. Agreed at the last meeting complaint has followed from nearby residents who believe the land to be in their ownership. The complaint arrived after the issue of this agenda but it will be discussed in full at the next meeting. Secondly, the highway along Greenfield has been resurfaced but the pavements along this stretch are far worse than the road was.

Cllr Carruthers - LCC resurfaced the highway along Broadmead but the signs giving notice of closure are still up. Can LCC be urged to remove them please?

Cllr Blake - has received compliments on the new Parbold Parish Council litter bins around the village. The parking area off the canal on Station Road is still in poor condition and there is no agreement as to who owns this land. Some diseased trees at the Railway Hotel have been cut down with agreement of WLBC arboriculturalists, the KEEP CLEAR signs at Beacon Crossing will be repainted shortly, the dropped grid on Beacon Crossing has been fixed, there is a section of Lancaster Lane, outside the school has been roped off as LCC will fix this soon.

It was also noted that the railway subway is flooded again.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:30 pm.

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Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold

2nd November 2018