

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd February 2012 at Parbold Women's Institute.

Present: Cllr Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bithell, Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Houlgrave, Cllr Mrs Middleton, Cllr Stapleton and Cllr Mrs Wess.

Cllr Arnold took the Chair.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey & Cllr Mrs Raju

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Mrs Blake declared a personal interest in Item 12 as a member of WLBC Planning Committee

Cllr Mrs Butts declared a personal interest in Item 10 as Parish Council appointed observer to the PCA General Committee

Cllr Bithell declared a personal, prejudicial interest in Item 8 – Parbold Scouts

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2012

RESOLVED: The minutes were amended, then accepted as a true record of the meeting.

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.

PCSO Dave Benson attended and introduced Sgt Gee who explained that he is based at Ormskirk Police Station, and in charge of community policing over a wide area, including the area covered by PC Steve Hackney and PCSO Dave Benson, who are based at Skelmersdale. From 1st April 2012, Sgt Mark Smithson will take over from PC Hackney and he will have a liveried police vehicle available to him. This cannot assist PCSO Benson, as present policy prohibits PCSO's driving liveried vehicles, however this policy is under review.

Sgt Gee was asked whether this remote method of overseeing was working and he assured the Council it was working well. Members of the public are encouraged to report incidents via the 101 number to the central office and response times, which are automatically recorded, are extremely fast with a rapid response team based at Skelmersdale. Traffic police control is now at Bamber Bridge or Salisbury for the motorway patrols.

The new 20 mph limits shortly to be implemented will be patrolled, but verbal warnings will be given to start with whilst people get used to driving slower along these roads.

The issue raised at the Parish Council about illegal parking opposite the double white lines on Lancaster Lane illegal during weddings and funerals was explained to the police. The police confirmed that this is an endorseable offence which carries penalty points.

Cllr Mrs Wess asked that Sgt Gee note the Parish Council's satisfaction with PCSO Dave Benson explaining that he had made a really big impression on a lot of people since arriving in the village.

Cllr Mrs Wess then raised the following items as a member of the public:

1. Alder Lane repair fencing is dangerous and needs LCC Highways Department to complete the required work to make it safe
2. The Environment Agency is using non-hazardous spray, not harmful to pets or people, whilst working at Mill Leat.

A resident raised concern about the patch of ice that had formed on the pavement and road outside 19 Tan House Lane.

5. To notify Councillors of LALC Executive Secretary's comments regarding minutes and modify note taking accordingly

RESOLVED: That future minutes follow LALC Executive Secretary's guidelines in recording only the resolution, without making record of votes unless a named, recorded vote was requested.

The meeting considered producing four residents' newsletters a year would not add value, since the PCA monthly newsletter includes the Parish Council notes section.

The issue of councillors' accessibility in terms of publicising names and addresses will be considered at a later date.

6. To revise of Standing Orders

Item deferred to next meeting. Councillors were asked to look at their copy of the Standing Orders and consider if revision was necessary.

7. To consider application for funding from MENCAP

RESOLVED: That a £75 grant be awarded to MENCAP under LGA 1972 Section 137

8. To consider application for funding from Parbold Scouts – deferred from December 2011

Item wrongly listed - to be discussed in the March meeting.

9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

280112	E A Broad	Salary (January 2012)	s.o.	£ 660.74
280112	Sherwoods	Grass cutting contract	s.o.	£110.90*
280112	David Secrett	Cleaning & Gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
030212`	Inland Revenue	Tax & NI contributions	2193	£88.39
030212	Parbold WI	Room hire	2194	£22.00

030212	R I Taylor	Electrical work at Village Hall	2195	£116.40
030212	Lancs Best Kept	Village Competition	2196	£20.00
030212	Fields in Trust	Annual membership	2197	£35.00
030212	E A Broad	reimbursement for Stamps	2198	£9.84
030212	MENCAP	Section 137 grant	2199	£75.00

*contain VAT

RESOLVED: The accounts be ratified and authorised for payment.

Balances from the latest available bank statements:

30th December 2011

Current Account	£	96.08
Business High Interest Account	£	99,758.62
TOTAL	£	99,590.89

The accounts were given to Cllr Bithell for quarterly review.

10. Village Hall:

To receive notes from PCA Liaison meeting 1st February – if available

The notes were distributed and the following proposals considered:

1. That the Parish Council consider installing a security light to the front of the hall.

Agreed

2. That the Parish Council pay Fire Equipment Services Ltd to complete a Fire Risk Assessment on the Village hall at a cost of £250.00

Agreed

3. That the Parish Council agree in principal to installing solar power to the village hall.

Agreed in principal to installation, but further discussion would be required on funding and distribution of any generated income

4. Consider forming a working group (perhaps to include the current membership of the Liaison Group) to investigate funding sources for a new boiler and roof solar panels at the Village Hall.

Agreed. The current membership of the liaison committee will take this matter forward. Cllr Mrs Wess offered to assist PCA Treasurer, Michael Hammond, to complete funding application forms.

Update on Flags at the front of the hall

The quotation was considered and comparative quotations deemed necessary. The Clerk was instructed to ask contractors for their opinion on what was required and to return to the original contractor to ask if a more limited, and less expensive, option might be available.

Update on Annual maintenance checks for fire equipment and intruder alarm

The meeting agreed that Fire Equipment Services Ltd would continue to maintain the fire equipment at the hall and Argus Security would maintain the intruder alarm as arranged by the PCA for the time-being.

Cllr Arnold agreed to meet with Argus Security and that a written quotation for repair work be obtained from them.

11. Alder Lane:

- **Update regarding car park maintenance**

The meeting agreed that this was the wrong time of year to arrange work at the car park.

- **Update on any discussion with Shevington Sharks regarding a temporary changing room facility**

No progress.

- **Consider costs for hedging to either side of the access gate to the pitches**

Item deferred as quotations not yet available.

12. To note Planning and Planning Applications

2011/1347/FUL

Land Adjacent 76A The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7EA
Erection of one detached two storey dwelling.

Parish Council Response: No objections in principal but would ask that consideration be given for sufficient measures to protect the privacy of neighbours, and surface water flooding issues, are resolved before construction starts.

2011/1360/FUL

46 The Common, Parbold,
First floor extension over garage at side. Single storey side extension and extension to front porch. Replacement conservatory at rear

Parish Council Response: The Parish Council object to this development as it will overlook neighbours at the rear affecting their privacy. There are also concerns about loss of a significant tree and the alteration of the visual amenity.

Application Number: 2012/0056/FUL

Proposal: Two storey extension to rear with porch to front and pitched roof on garage.

Location: Netherwood House, 17 Tan House Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HG

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council have concerns about surface water problems that appear to emanate from this and the neighbouring house and are exacerbated in the area by increasing hard standing. An extension of this type and removal of trees could worsen an already intolerable situation. For this reason, the Parish Council would like to see the inclusion of a planning condition that adequate drainage is installed first.

13. To approve action plan for creating a Neighbourhood Plan, and establish why Parish Plan was not published

It was agreed to hold the plan in abeyance for the present time until the value of such a plan is established. It was proposed that all councillors consider issues that they would like the parish council to address. These are to be written down to form a Parish Council Framework so that objectives can be identified and reviewed periodically to reflect on goals achieved.

14. To consider commissioning an independent flood risk assessment of the village

It was agreed to wait until completion of the culvert work at Mill Leat to see if flooding in that section of the village improved before commissioning a flood report. The Environment Agency maps had been distributed by email and it was noted that they will shortly be revised. The immediate issue of flooding across Tan House Lane, clearly coming from No 19 was discussed and the Clerk asked to write to the householder. As this has been an issue for many years the Clerk was also instructed to ask Lancashire County Council what action they would be taking.

15. To make arrangements for an Official Opening of the Chapel Lane Footpath

Cllr Mrs Wess agreed to lead this.

16. Update regarding aggressive geese on Parbold canal

WLBC Environmental Health team organised a group, led by Beacon Ranger Dan Massey and a group of volunteers, who caught the seven geese and relocated them to a farm in Dalton. Councillors thanked the Clerk, Cllr Bithell and Cllr Bailey for their contribution.

17. To respond to consultation on WLBC Local Plan – Preferred Options Paper

It was resolved that the Clerk would respond on behalf of the Parish Council, listing the points raised in the draft circulated; emphasizing that the Parish Council objected to any green belt development; requesting that more attention be given to allotments and growing initiatives (particularly because the Parish Council had received enquiries about land for allotments) and asking for clarification on the land at Lathom Avenue set aside in the plan for a play area.

18. To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

None

19. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Mrs Wess – asked that the newsletter item include overhanging hedges and dog fouling which were issues again causing problems. Also that the Parish Council ask the Borough

Council to clear the alleyway between The Common and Fairhurst Drive, as it was overgrown and untidy.

Cllr Arnold – wants to list an item to consider the Three Tier System – asking that parish councillors explain what they understand of the system to ensure that the parish is fully contributing to it.

20. Resolution: 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 (terms & conditions of employment), the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda

Agreed

21. To decide frequency of inspections and chose a contractor for Play Area Inspections for April 2012 – March 2013

Resolved: That quarterly checks be continued by Yates Playgrounds and an additional annual ROSPA check be arranged in August at a cost of £129 as an independent inspection to ensure that no safety issues are missed.

22. To select Internal Auditor of accounts for financial year 2011/12

Item deferred to obtain more information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm

Chairman

Clerk - Mrs E-A Broad

Date