

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 7th February 2014 at Parbold Women's Institute Hall.

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Blake.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 10th January 2014

The minutes were amended to remove an irrelevant item, then 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.

Former Borough Councillor William Waterworth introduced the issue of the Peter Lathom Stone. Whilst attending Parbold Hall Open Gardens he noticed an inscribed stone and made enquires about it. Sir Peter Lathom purchased land in Parbold, Dalton and Newburgh and this stone had been placed on a public footpath running through these villages. It is believed that a tractor hit the stone, knocking it over, so the driver took it back to Parbold Hall where it has remained ever since. The markings on the stone read: "Crook Fields, 11 acres, belongs to Peter Lathom's Charity 268/269 38 in Parbold". A Google search revealed Crook Fields are mentioned in 1896 Parliamentary Papers but nothing else. The Farms & Finance Committee of Peter Lathom Charity decided the stone should be back in Parbold, Dalton or Newburgh. Enquiry with Peter Moores who owned Parbold Hall at the time, responded that as long as there is no attempt to reclaim the fields concerned, we can have the stone and put it where the public can see it. Peter Moores confirmed it belongs to Peter Lathom Charity so we need to find a place for it. The footpath where it was is not really a suitable place. Newburgh Parish Council has considered the matter but is not interested in having the stone back. Since it says Parbold on it, perhaps it could be located in the Jubilee Gardens? Historically the fields were in Parbold and the stone forms part of the history of this village.

Financially, Peter Lathom's charity can't spend money on things like this so it would have to be financed by the Parish Council. The new owner, Mr Ainscough, also accepts that it belongs to the Peter Lathom Charity. It is in a poor state of repair so does need cleaning and moving and then setting in concrete.

Cllr Wess raised the issue of the methane gas vents at Alder Lane Playing Fields. She had been told by a member of the public that only one vent, on the far side of the rugby field was working and the others are not working. The Chairman reported that Mr Kelly had noticed that the leachate tank was overflowing and probably flooded. The Clerk was asked to inform WLBC at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr Wess also asked for an item to be placed in the PCA newsletter: a reminder that there are two books held in the library listing the names of Parbold soldiers killed in the two world wars.

5. To consider item raised by member of the public: finding a suitable location for Peter Lathom historical stone

It was unanimously agreed to assist with the relocation of the stone to the Jubilee Gardens up to a total cost of £250.00.

6. Alder Lane:

- **Update on Village Survey on Alder Lane Playing Field facilities**

Cllr Bailey has the flyer and questionnaire and will arrange to print them. They will be ready for delivery by the 16th February 2014. Delivery will be divided up amongst Councillors or the Scouts may be asked to assist.

7. The Common:

- **Follow up regarding the floor surface in the alleyway behind the shops**

Two Councillors visited the site the morning after the last Parish Council meeting. It was appreciated that this section of land was troublesome, occasionally attracting antisocial behaviour and that the ground was slippery. However, the slippiness is caused by leaf-fall, spillages and rain, so covering with tarmac or paving stones would not measurably improve the situation and would cost. The idea of gating the alleyway off was again considered. However, it would require a substantial gate, which may be expensive and simply provide roof access for youths who already congregate here. Were the gate to be locked health and safety issues, particularly for shop-customers in the event of a fire would ensue. It would also provide a secluded area for antisocial behaviour.

After much discussion, it was proposed that the owners of the Delicatessen be warned that the slippery surface can only be improved by regular cleaning and is worsened by the practise of storing bins there. This is not a suitable location for storing refuse bins in any case. The Parish Council would have to charge the shop owners if they were to undertake such cleaning. The bins must be moved out of the alleyway for the refuse collectors to empty, just as any commercial or private premises has to take their bins to the edge of the road for collection of waste from them.

8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

240114	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
300114	E A Broad	Salary (January 2014)	s.o.	£718.46
070214	Lancs BKV	Best Kept village application fee	2391	£25.00
070214	Ambirad Ltd	Repair to village hall heating	2392	£270.00*
070214	Carr, Faulkner	Drain tracing at Bramble Way	2393	£72.00*
070214	Parbold WI	Room hire 070214	2394	£22.00
070214	Lancs CTP	Training session on insurance	2395	£25.00

*contains VAT element

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To consider any further action on vehicles parking on double yellow lines, particularly on Mill Lane

It was reported back that the police had limited resources to deal with this issue. PCSO Dave Benson offered to look but, as a PCSO, has limited powers and would require a police officer to attend any obstruction hazard to take the matter further. Obstruction is also a rather subjective matter that is difficult to establish. Police Sgt Lodge agreed to look when passing.

The response from LCC Highways was noted but the figures were questioned and a second set of lower figures were then produced. The Parish Council found this unsatisfactory and instructed the Clerk to bring this to the attention of County Councillor Westley.

During discussion, similar issues of obstructive parking were noted at Parbold Tandoori when a large white delivery van parked across the pavement in dark, wet weather creating a hazard. Also, double-parking at the entrance of Brandreth Drive was now a regular occurrence, with many of the driveways empty.

10. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Ref. No: 2014/0005/FUL

The Sheepbarn, Parbold Hill

Conversion of 2 nr. apartments into a single dwelling including fenestration alterations to front and rear elevations and internal works

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal

Ref. No: 2014/0006/FUL

2 Wood Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7TH

Proposed alterations and extensions to existing bungalow, replacement garage and store

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal

Ref. No: 2014/0053/FUL

52 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7EA

Single storey side extension with additional living accommodation in roof space

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal

11. Follow up from Chairman's attendance at WLBC Member Training Event on the topic of Gypsies and Travellers

The Chairman had been unable to attend the meeting so no report possible. The matter had been considered by some Councillors and was not believed to be a high priority for Parbold Parish Council at this time.

12. To form any response to Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council Joint Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

(Ref: www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/atoz/a_to_z/service.asp?u_id=3904&tab=1)

This document requests completion of an online questionnaire to respond. It was considered relatively favourably by this meeting but accepted that, because of specific flooding issues in Parbold, it required more depth of study before responding. It was agreed that three councillors meet and formulate responses to the set proforma and the Clerk will submit these online. Everyone was encouraged to consider the document, respond as an individual and encourage their neighbours to do the same.

The document outlines how you should understand flood risks, and suggests actions that individuals and communities can do. It contains constructive suggestions about increasing flood resilience, community groups reporting and taking part, planning what we can do and what is relevant to us.

The document prioritises action as: high (homes), medium (highway) or low (open area fields, paths, gardens). One could argue that gardens are immediately adjacent to homes so should be moved into high priority area.

The meeting considered whether a group should be formed similar to the Rufford Flood Watch Group, to assess flood risk and form appropriate action. From a parish council perspective, the Council could support that group, and come up with finance for any gulley clearing or whatever the group recommends is required. The group could be encouraged to think about where the problems start and contact landowners to remind them of their responsibility to monitor their land, cleaning out watercourses regularly.

The meeting heard that there are flood wardens within West Lancashire and there is some money available to put resilience measures such as reinforced doors. Homeowners can access these funds via flood warden groups.

When WLBC undertakes grid clearance, the detritus is weighed and a graph produced to highlight the heavy duty ones, which are cleared with more frequency so it is no longer possible to say that they are cleaned on a routine basis. They are assessed and regularity of clearing is done more efficiently. Those that don't fill up quickly are left longer.

It was believed that LCC now have issued a single point of contact telephone number for flood matters.

New building on areas of flood risk is considered by the document. The Planning Authority is not mentioned as an involved organisation but United Utilities and Lancashire County Council are always statutory consultees on any planning decision.

A response will be prepared for submission before the deadline of the 28th February 2014.

13. To consider any response to consultation regarding Whitemoss Ltd's application to the Major Infrastructure and Plans Directorate to extend the Hazardous Waste Landfill at Skelmersdale (Ref: www.whitemoss-consultation.co.uk)

The following response to this consultation was agreed:

Parbold Parish Council does not support this development, particularly because of concerns about hazardous waste travelling through the village on heavy goods vehicles causing infrastructure damage. The Parish ask that the Planning Authority secure a lorry routing agreement to use the M58, so that contractually all vehicles are kept away from Parbold village.

14. To form any response to WLBC Housing Strategy Consultation

It was decided that the consultation form was restrictive and not pertinent to Parbold, so no formal response would be submitted.

15. To discuss food hygiene standards in Parbold premises

The Food Standards Agency, rating scheme, was considered. This public document, available for use on mobile devices, revealed good/excellent scores for the vast majority of food premises in Parbold, but two were low and of concern. It was noted that the inspections dates were some time ago in many cases and conceded that the two low scores were approximately a year old so the issues they raised had probably been resolved by the appropriate agencies.

It was agreed to write to WLBC Environmental Health, explaining that the Parish want a reassurance that the premises have taken action to resolve whatever issues led to these poor ratings.

16. To consider purchasing a mobile cctv

The Parish Council was asked to consider whether it would be prudent to purchase a mobile cctv for parish-council use to investigate and monitor issues such are inconsiderate parking and whether such photographic evidence could then be used to tackle the problem. This was discussed but dismissed at this time due to ethical issues regarding filming the general public.

It was confirmed that WLBC's cctv camera was working at the time of the robbery at McColls and evidence from it had been given to the police.

17. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

- Cllr Bailey: Revisit the idea of installing solar panels on the village hall, and bring any update on Dog Control Order for Alder Lane Playing Fields.
- Cllr Murrin-Bailey: There is an increasing amount of dog poo around the village - ideas of how to tackle this - can the Dog Warden come and paint the stencils on the pavements again?
- Cllr Wess: Via the newsletter can residents be asked to keep any gullies or streams free of debris. Following high winds there are bits of trees everywhere and they are blocking the drains quickly increasing the flood risk.
- Cllr Holland: Continuing from that issue, can residents brush in front of their homes and pick up leaves, not brush them into the road where they clog drains. If everyone could keep their little bit of the pavement and road clear there would be no build up with catastrophic effect.

18. To approve 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.

19. Village Hall:

- **Distribution of notes from PCA PPC Liaison Meeting 29th January 2014 if available**

The notes were distributed to Parish Councillors.

- **To consider agreeing in principle to support funding applications by providing any third party contributions required, up to a total sum of £8,000.**

The request for funding of up to £8,000 in order to access other funding, by acting as third party contributor for the funding schemes at Grantscape (Whitemoss Ltd) and Biffa, was considered by this meeting.

The Parish Council appreciated the direction in which the village hall was developing however there were some concerns expressed as to whether it was meeting the needs of the village and whether there would be further requests for financial support in the future. The level of funding requested was considerable, at almost a third of the precept raised, as many village groups require funding and the Parish Council already has many commitments. However, the Parish Council owns the building, appreciates the considerable work already undertaken by the PCA and supports growth and development. To ensure that everyone is aware of the direction this development is going, the Parish Council want to see a development plan, that takes into account contingencies as well as regular maintenance and renewal of equipment costs.

This is felt necessary because the Parish Council has no control or strategic understanding of where this development is going. Considering a year ago there were concerns about the hall

being viable at all, and six months ago the equipment was more than adequate, there need for a development plan to see what is around the corner.

It was resolved that the Parish Council supports these funding applications in principle and is thus content to be included on applications as a third party contributor. However, the actual figures involved and the ultimate method of providing these funds is to be discussed in more detail, with a clear business plan formed to clarify where all funding is coming from and on what it is to be spent. The provision of funding a third party contributor may be by way of gift, or by way of loan that would require PCA repayment.

20. To consider appointing internal auditor of accounts

It was agreed to request that Sandra Jones, Newburgh Parish Clerk and qualified chartered accountant to conduct the Internal Audit.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.

Chairman - Brian Arnold

7th March 2014