

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 8th September 2017 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Blake, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Schaffell, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Wess.

**1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Carruthers and Cllr Holland.

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

Cllr Wess declared an interest in Item 22 and an intention to leave the meeting before discussion of this item.

**3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th July 2017**

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.**

The following issues were raised:

Number 3a bus is to continue on a slightly different route, Skelmersdale, Parbold,

Knotweed at Mill Leat - WLBC have examined it and will be dealt with invasive weeds programme over a three years period. The Keep Clear sign will be repainted on The Common works order raised, as resources allow.

Today (8th September 2017) there was a LCC Highways van and the driver said he was surveying potholes and broken kerbs, and marking them up for action, He noted the one at the top of Broadmead

Paul Greenall confirmed that the Library will be re-opened in due course.

There was then discussion of the recent street festivals. Some concern was raised about the lack of parking facilities for visitors attending these attractions, also three complaints of antisocial behaviour, damage to roadside gardens/hanging baskets and rubbish left in public areas. The Parish Council had a litterpick arranged for the next day. Parbold Unlimited confirmed that they would remove the branches cut down for the Parbulele Festival. It was also confirmed that Coffee Etc was now under new ownership and previous charitable sale of goods there could not continue. Parbold Unlimited was in the process of forming a non-profit company, always ploughing any profit into the community of Parbold. It would helpful if the Parish Council could assist financially, for example contribute to skip hire or portable toilets.

The Parish Council Chairman agreed to consider this issue at the November meeting, though explained that the use of public money can only happen where there is visibility of accounts and there is only a small sum available for grants.

#### **5. To note any odour problems from Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre over the summer**

Paul Quirk updated the Council following a site meeting. Alan Frew has moved on and Peter Molyneux taken over. Mr Molyneux lives in Burscough so is aware of odour issues and keen to do all he can to eliminate them. There were maintenance issues with break downs during the summer and some of the dosing chemicals have been removed from use under Environment Agency new classifications.

The Clerk was asked to write to WLBC Environmental Health to complain that they have not kept the Parish Council informed and only gave the retrospective figures at the end of each month.

It was resolved to organise a public meeting, inviting EA, United Utilities, WLBC Environmental Health and Parbold residents. Possible dates will be circulated and the meeting will be set administratively.

#### **6. Update from Flood Action Group**

Cllr Wess read out the latest Flood Action Group report to the meeting.

There was still great concern that many roadside grids were blocked. The Clerk was instructed to write to LCC Highways requesting that the grids be unblocked and having given his option point out that they are liable for flooding because they refused to clear them. If possible the parish council will seek a private contractor to do the work and charge the county council for it, however, it is not straight forward as LCC would normally need to give the contractor permission to access the roadside drains.

#### **7. Update from Parbold Heritage Group**

The email from Kathryn Georgeson was circulated and Cllr Stewart gave an explanation of how the three groups; Burscough Heritage Group, West Lancs Dry Docks Restoration Group, and Parbold Heritage are working together.

It was resolved to pay for the meeting room hire for the next four meetings with the hope that funding will be forthcoming to continue without this support from the Parish Council.

Cllr Stewart left the meeting (8:30pm)

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

|        |           |                                   |      |         |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|------|---------|
| 170717 | UK Host4U | Domain name annual fee            | d.d. | £47.99  |
| 170717 | UK Host4U | Website maintenance every 2 years | d.d. | £119.99 |
| 100717 | NEST      | April & May pension payments      | d.d. | £122.10 |

| (PC contribution £14.88) |                        |  |      |             |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|------|-------------|
| 210717                   | RBS                    | Bank account charges for June 2017                           | b.t. | £ 5.00      |
| 300717                   | E A Broad              | Salary (July 2017)   | s.o. | £695.71     |
| 100819                   | NEST                   | pension July - Parish contribution £7.44)                    | d.d. | £61.05      |
| 300717                   | OPSTA                  | Renewal of subscription                                      | 2689 | £10.00      |
| 300717                   | Homelands              | Removal of broken fence at Alder Lane                        | 2690 | £100.00     |
| 300717                   | E A Broad              | stamps   | 2691 | £14.52      |
| 020817                   | Lancs Environment Fund | 1/3 party contribution                                       | 2692 | £3,850.00   |
| 210817                   | RBS                    | Bank charges for August                                      | d.d. | £6.51       |
| 310817                   | E A Broad              | Salary for August 2017                                       | s.o. | £695.71     |
| 080917                   | NEST                   | pension (£7.44 Parish contribution)                          | d.d. | £61.05      |
| 080917                   | Barry Rawsthorne       | Grass cutting July 2017                                      | 2692 | £1,240.00   |
| 080917                   | Argus fire & Security  | Intruder alarm checks  | 2693 | £120.00     |
| 080917                   | J Mallinson Ltd        | Field renovation Alder Lane                                  | 2694 | £15,848.40* |
| 080917                   | Playsafety Ltd         | ROSPA annual inspection of play areas                        | 2695 | £163.80*    |
| 080917                   | Yates Playgrounds      | - play area inspections                                      | 2696 | £69.60      |
| 080917                   | Barry Rawsthorne       | grass cutting August 2017                                    | 2697 | £1,016.00   |
| 080917                   | E A Broad              | - postage stamps, key cutting and travel to Garstang meeting | 2698 | £62.41      |

(Clerk's travel costs one visit to Garstang Hotel for SLCC meeting on 7th September 2016  
80 miles round trip at .39p per mile = £31.20.)

Balance of accounts as at 31st August 2017 = £21.71 current account, £107,245.94 reserve  
account = Total = £107,267.65

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

Cllr Bailey left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

## 9. To receive external auditor's report, if available, and address any issues raised

Deferred to the next meeting as the accounts had not yet returned from the External Auditor.

**10. To receive ROSPA annual report on play areas and address any issues raised**

The ROSPA annual report highlighted mostly low risks, medium risks included poor state of repair of the timber benches, particularly the one on Burnside Play Area. It was agreed to obtain quotations for benches similar to those on Chapel Meadow to replace the play area benches.

The bins were also highlighted as in a poor state of repair but these belong to WLBC. WLBC will be asked if they might be replaced.

Yates Playgrounds will address the issues of gaps in the tiling and replacing bearings in the swings.

Repainting of equipment remains outstanding.

**11. To review the grass cutting contract, commencing April 2018**

The Chairman, with the clerk, will confirm the grass cutting schedule of work after more investigation and it will then be sent out for tender. The Clerk was asked to invite residents to suggest areas requiring further maintenance, via the PCA newsletter.

**12. Apprise Members of plans for Lancaster Lane Convent development; proposals for a new retirement village**

Following a site meeting during the summer, the Parish Council was apprised of the intention to develop a retirement village at Lancaster Lane Convent. It is expected that a planning application will shortly be submitted. The main area of concern immediately evident is that of parking along Lancaster Lane, which is already a problem due to proximity with the Parbold Douglas Academy. The Clerk was asked to list on the November agenda consideration of parking around the school now that a new Head Teacher is in place.

**13. To respond to residents' complaints about poor parking around the village, including around Parbold Douglas School, Mill Lane & Alder Lane**

Lancashire County Council Highway Authority is responsible for most of the issues raised. It was agreed to return to this item in November when there has been the opportunity to discuss issues with the new Head Teacher at Parbold Douglas Academy.

**14. Village Hall Issues:-**

- **Update on heating problems and grant funding for new systems**

One grant had been secured with the Parish Council as third party contributor and the other is still under consideration. Ideally the work for both will take place at the same time during the quieter, winter months.

- **Note the noise complaints from Greenfield Avenue resident and respond accordingly**

It was resolved to ask the PCA to include in conditions of hire of the hall that the fire doors are only opened in the event of emergency and that notices to this effect be erected on the doors. It was noted that noisy activities such as Zumba tend to open the doors for ventilation. It is considered that this ought to be unnecessary, and will certainly become unnecessary once a new heating system with air conditioning is installed. Councillors asked for a copy of the recent accounts which they hope will show how much rental income is obtained from the organisations making the most noise as, if their activities are causing distress to neighbours and the revenue from them is small, it may not be worth continuing these activities at the hall.

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

- **Apprise Members of completion of football field renovation**

The drainage and top soil has all been completed and weed and feed will be done once the seed has taken.

- **Consider further improvements at the entrance to the football field**

Removal of one or two trees from this corner was discussion. Estimated costs could be £500 per tree. Whilst it is clear that the trees are closely planted, WLBC arboriculturalist advised cutting back the trees rather than removal. Residents opposite the trees would prefer removal as their homes are quite dark due to the trees. It was agreed to obtain quotation for the construction of a pathway leading to the gate and some fencing surround.

#### **16. Consider proposal to request Lancashire County Council consider installing a zebra crossing on The Common, near the shopping parade and bus stop**

It was resolved to request, via County Councillor Paul Greenall, that LCC consider installation of a zebra crossing on Station Road between the chip shop and the pub, or on The Common near the shopping parade.

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

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and first floor rear dormer extension. Application Number: 2017/0884/FUL Location: 24 Brandreth Drive, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HB,

Ref. No: 2017/0770/FUL

Manor Cottage Miry Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7TA

External works (retrospective)

Parish Council Response: There are some concerns that installing more hard surfacing at this site close to Alder Lane Brook could increase the flood risk.

Ref. No: 2017/0769/LBC

Manor Cottage Miry Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7TA

Listed building consent (retrospective)

- as above -

Ref. No: 2017/0759/FUL

28 Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG  
Single storey rear extension

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal

Ref. No: 2017/0743/FUL  
27 Lindley Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7ED  
First floor extension and raising of the eaves

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal

Ref. No: 2017/0659/FUL  
Croasdale Corner Croasdale Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HR  
Proposed new garage, boundary wall and associated landscaping

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal

Ref. No: 2017/0682/FUL  
46 Greenfield Avenue Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DH  
Two storey side extension

Parish Council Response: No objection, however, this is an area of flood risk so all relevant flood conditions should be adhered to.

2017/0196/FUL 9 - 15 Tan House Lane

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council strongly objects to this proposal. Altering the location of the houses infringes current residents' privacy and amenity. The whole development increases the flood risk and if the simplest of matters of building where the plans say they should, fail to be adhered to, then we have no confidence about the capability of addressing the flood risk in this area. It is of great concern that the developer has not followed the agreed design, there have been four acknowledged infringements of the planning permission to date and the Parish Council notes that trees and shrubs were removed during bird nesting season. We urge West Lancashire Borough Council to ensure that this development progresses within the planning rules as the local community has lost confidence that this developer will do so independently. There continue to be daily problems at the site, including noise disturbance and mud on the road outside the development.

The Clerk spoke against the application at WLBC Planning Committee meeting, however, the retrospective application was approved.

Planning Reference: 2017/0897/PNT

Proposal: Development by Telecommunications Code System Operator - The installation of a 17.5m slim-line monopole supporting 3 No. shrouded antennas, 2 No. equipment cabinets, 1 No. meter cabinet and ancilla...

Location: Telephone Exchange Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG

Parish Council Response: Whilst understanding that this is a prior notification of an intention to erect the monopole rather than an application for planning permission, there is huge local concern about the location chosen. Although it is the applicants own land it is situated in the middle of our very petty village, with conservation orders covering most of the area and being at the very heart of the residential population. BT have not been the best of neighbours and have allowed their building and surrounds to fall into disrepair. The Parish Council has asked on a regular basis that they fix the white fence around the building and they decline to do so. It has been referred to as an eyesore by judges in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition to the extent that we now ask for it to be a disregarded section of the village as it is beyond our power to keep it looking nice. This does not fill the Council with confidence that the applicant has any interest in our village and we worry that the new structure could be equally ugly and possibly become poorly maintained. Even if well maintained the structure destroys the visual amenity right in the centre of the village.

However, the overriding objection is regarding the health issues for those living closest to it. Whilst appreciating that medical effects of living near such a structure are not evidenced, the fear of such is sufficient to create a genuine detrimental effect on the health of residents. The existence of a telecom tower an unknown effect disturbs the quiet enjoyment of their own properties.

Finally, it is concerning that the location chosen is the applicants own land as this raises the concern that it is chosen more for economic reasons than either practical or consequential effect on the neighbours. Parbold Village is surrounded by rural hills where surely a mast would be more effective and not create concern as there are few if any neighbours to upset. We are aware of the viability study of different sites and some were discounted merely because the applicant received no response from the land owner to a single enquiry. We feel more effort could have been made to seek another, possibly more suitable site.

The meeting noted an appeal was lodged for the following:

Planning Application: 2016/0973/FUL

PROPOSAL: Stable building with tack rooms, change of use of land for keeping of horses, engineering works to provide private mooring.

LOCATION: Plot 7 Chapel Lane Parbold START DATE: 18th August 2017

The Parish Council's objection to the proposal has already been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.

2017/0884/FUL | Single storey rear extension and first floor rear dormer extension. | 24 Brandreth Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HB

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

### **18. To note new arrangements for Parish Council Sunday Civic Service for Sunday 25th February 2018**

There was concern that holding this event outside the normal Sunday service may reduce the congregation so it was decided to delay it to give more time to structure and organise the

Civic Service. Consideration will also be given to combining with St Georges Day Celebrations or making it the Sunday after the Parbold Show.

### **19. To confirm items for next newsletter (October edition)**

The Parish Council is grateful to Lancashire County Council's new administration for implementing their election pledge to re-open Parbold Library. It is now essential to make the project work so please use your library, look out for special or promotional events and support your library.

The Parbold Community Association is to be congratulated for successfully bidding for funding towards a new greener system of heating at the village hall. This reduces the amount of parish council funding required to upgrade the system.

The Parish Council will shortly be taking stock and reviewing contracts to ensure good value for the public money spent. One of the larger contracts for the grounds-work and grass cutting is currently being re-written to keep it relevant to changing needs. If you think there are areas in the village that could benefit from more attention, please drop an email to the parish council with your suggestions.

Following the Parbold Show, a complete surface renovation has been undertaken at the football pitch. Some WLBC capital funding was obtained to support this project though parish funds have also been invested here to protect this valuable asset. The restorative work will make it more attractive for football teams and a safer surface for play. The Parish Council request cooperation in refraining from using these playing fields for the exercising of dogs. There is now a Public Protection Order on the fields requiring that dogs be kept on leads and all faeces must be removed. Those breaching this may be fined, so please take advantage of the surrounding fields and public rights of way to walk dogs and keep them off the pitches.

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

Cllr Wess: noticed that the Station House been tidied up. Could all residents be asked to cut back their hedgerows.

Cllr Wess left the meeting at 9.25pm.

Cllr Bithell: Request copy of the PCA Accounts

**21. 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.

### **22. Consider projects for Community Infrastructure monies**

The sum of £19,200 is due to be paid in instalments over two years to Parbold Parish Council in respect of development at 9 - 15 Tan House Lane. This money must be spent on



- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or
- (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

It was decided to wait and see how much it will cost to install new benches and bins in the play areas, and for the fencing and footpath at the corner of Bramble Way as these could be purchased with CIL money.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm.

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Vice-Chairman - Cllr C Bithell

6th October 2017