

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 6th September 2024 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Gill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Stopford, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Holland, Cllr Long, Cllr Butts and Cllr Shaffel.

2 members of the public in attendance.

1. To record apologies for absence

No apologies were offered.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. 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.

- A representative from the PCA gave an update on the increase of recent bookings and interest in hiring the village hall. She reported that general maintenance of the hall had been undertaken during the summer and that the installation of the new solar panels was already having a positive impact on the hall's energy bills.

The representative gave a brief outline of the PCA's vision of an extension to the hall, and was asked to request a written proposal from

the PCA to include a basic cost benefit analysis for the proposal. It was confirmed that this topic will be covered later in the meeting.

The representative also reminded the Council that 2025 will be the 30 year anniversary of the opening of the village hall. There was a suggestion of an event to celebrate this milestone and a request that this topic be discussed at the next meeting.

Finally, it was reported that staff at Parbold Surgery are fully utilising their own car park before staff are parking on the village hall car park, as per the recent agreement with the Surgery. This seems to be working well and is freeing up spaces for both Surgery and village hall users.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 12th July 2024

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

5. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented or already paid

300624	Bank charges	D/D	£18.00
120724	OPSTA	BACS	£10.00
150724	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
190724	O2 CCTV	D/D	£28.07
250724	HMRC Employer quarterly tax/NI	D/D	£804.03
280724	B Joule – salary	S/O	£886.10
010824	Argus Fire & Security	BACS	£138.00
010824	Laurence Davis groundworks July 2024	BACS	£1910.00
120824	Boiler Care – village hall	D/D	£19.25
130824	Yates Playgrounds – new seesaw	BACS	£5394.00
140824	Paul Scott – clearing of rear of village hall	BACS	£130.00
140824	Fire Equipment Services – V/hall inspection	BACS	£54.06
150824	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
150824	O2 CCTV	D/D	£28.07
210824	PJH Handyman Services – CCTV repair	BACS	£87.50

220824	ADK Security Ltd – CCTV repair	BACS	£146.40
280824	B Joule – salary	BACS	£886.10
280824	Stationary, stamps, stickers	BACS	£12.54
280824	PROW grant to Parbold Wildlife Group	BACS	£300.00
290824	Wrightington Windows	BACS	£20.00
290824	KC Computers – repairs to laptop	BACS	£110.00
300824	Laurence Davis groundworks August 2024	BACS	£1910.00
050924	RoSPA playground inspections	BACS	£192.00

(Signatories – please note that following authorisation at this meeting the requests for BACS payment will mirror this list).

6. To note Planning and Planning Applications

- Application No: 2024/0618/FUL
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear and sides
Location: Bracken Lodge, The Delph, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire.
Comments: The Parish Council offers no objection to this application.
- Application No. 2024/0721/FUL
Proposal: Garden room
Location: Holly Bank, 16 Station Road, Parbold, Wigan.
Comments: The Parish Council offers no objection to this application.

7. To consider joining the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

Councillors discussed whether the cost of joining LALC part way through the year was cost effective, and whether the services that LALC offer represent value for money for the Parish Council. LALC are currently offering a course on Planning for Parish and Town Councils at a reduced cost for members. It was resolved not to join LALC at this time but to enrol the Clerk and one Councillor on the Planning course as this looks to be very relevant and of use to the Council.

8. Village issues

- **To consider what provision should be made for village festive installations this year**

Last year the Parish Council provided a Christmas tree and lights, sited outside the Women's Institute hall in the centre of the village. It was resolved to provide a similar tree again, and to consider decorating the Village Hall or other public building with festive lights. Estimates will be sought and provided at the next meeting.

- **To consider support for Remembrance Day**

Councillors voted unanimously to support the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday, with a donation of £120.00.

- **To consider how to sustainably care for the border adjacent to The Heys**

Several local residents very kindly volunteered their services to help maintain the small area of land outside The Heys. As the residents were predominantly from the immediate vicinity of The Heys it was resolved to suggest that they could take over the management of this area with support from the Parish Council. It was noted that there may be plans for the small area between the Library and this border and this will be taken into account.

9. Alder Lane issues

- **To receive an update on the Sport England grant application for Shevington Sharks**

It was reported that this application was successful, which means that Shevington Sharks and the Parish Council are now jointly contracted to improving the rugby pitch on Alder Lane. This 6-year improvement programme will greatly benefit the land and will establish a sustainable pitch for the future.

- **To review the use of the playing field for the Village Show**

With regard to the above programme, it was agreed that care will now have to be taken to preserve the pitch whilst improvements are made. This may restrict the amount of land available to the Village Show to use for their events. It was resolved to liaise with the show committee to ensure that the rugby pitch will be protected.

10. Update on Councillor raised issues

- **To receive an update on the purchase of a directional sign for the Bottle**

As there is still the issue of the requirements of LCC to ensure that there are no utilities underneath the area in question, enquiries have been made with a stonemason company to see whether a sign could be made that would compliment the existing stone on the top of Parbold Hill, and a quote is awaited.

- **To receive an update on progress with the underpass flooding issue**
Cllr Arnold has secured permission to pass on correspondence from Ashley Dalton MP to the Council to follow up on planned works to the underpass drains.

11. To discuss the implications of the Dingle Quarry application

The Dalton Parish Clerk passed on details of an application to infill Dingle quarry, Dalton, with inert waste as a means of restoring the quarry. Members noted this and Cllr Bailey will monitor this situation to see whether or not it may adversely affect Parbold.

12. Clerk's Report

The report was duly noted.

13. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

- Cllrs Holland and Stopford informed Members that they will be leaving Parbold and moving to Yorkshire imminently. On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked both Councillors for their dedication and hard work for the Parbold community over the years and wished them well in their new venture.
- Cllr Gill requested a date for the next meeting with United Utilities, as there have been several instances of odours and no notification from UU of any planned cleaning work.

- Cllr Butts reported a large pothole on the junction of Greenfield Avenue and Fairhurst Drive and also damaged and uneven pavements. This will be reported via the Love Clean Streets App. It was also noted that the traffic lights over the canal bridge on Alder Lane are not working correctly.

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, the public and the press, leave the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, if any.

14. To consider a donation to the Lions Club toward a replacement defibrillator for the village

A request had been made by the Lions Club for a donation towards a replacement defibrillator, as the one situated at the WI building is now obsolete. This unit has been used twice and has reportedly saved lives. Members were fully supportive of this and it was resolved to donate £400.00 to this cause, under the Public Health Act 1936 s234 (provision of life saving equipment).

15. To receive an update on the grant work on Chapel Meadow

This project has been held up for a number of reasons, but predominantly due to the prolonged bad weather. It was necessary to wait until last autumn for the contractor to make a start, only for the ground to become waterlogged and totally unsuitable to take machinery onto the meadow. Unfortunately the dreadful weather over the winter caused a lot of further damage to the paths, parts of which remained under water for weeks at a time. This made the meadow virtually impassable for visitors and walkers and made the sub structure of the paths unstable.

When finally the contractor started work last month it became evident that significantly more work was needed to reconstruct the paths to a suitable standard for mobile aids and wheelchair users, which was one of the main factors of the grant. Without this additional stabilisation the paths would not become fit for purpose or remain that way.

The work has now been completed, with a substantial sub base up to the final surface and is now fit for long term use by all visitors. The total cost has increased significantly but this could not have been anticipated when the original quotes were sought. In light of this, applications have been made to both of the grant providers to ask if they would provide additional funding.

16. To further consider the request for Architect's fees for the proposed village hall extension plans

The Chairman outlined the details of the quote from the architect chosen by the PCA. This included three stages of concept design and preparation through to pre-application submission. It was resolved to propose to the PCA that the Parish Council would cover the cost of the first stage, which is £350.00 plus VAT. It was also resolved to ask the PCA for a business plan or written proposal of their vision of this project.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2125hrs.

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Chairman

6th September 2024