

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 7th February 2025 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Gill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Carruthers and Cllr Schaffel.

7 members of the public in attendance.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Butts and Cllr Long.

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 PCA representative asked whether a sign could be created to warn owners of vehicles who park on the village hall car park that it is at their own risk to leave their vehicles there. Also, whether a sign could be placed on the gate at the rear of the village hall to show that it is a private area with no public access. It was suggested that the gate be secured with a key code lock.

The matter of low water pressure on the Greenfield Avenue and Fairhurst Drive area was raised by a member of the public. It was explained that due to a number of recent leaks United Utilities have reduced the water pressure in order to undertake repairs.

It was asked when the final part of the canal path will be finished, between the Alder Lane and the Windmill bridge. Cllr Bailey explained that he has been pushing for an answer on this, and although it appears that it will be completed there is no confirmed date as yet.

A member of the public asked about the situation with smart meters in Parbold – they have bought an electric vehicle but cannot make use of the reduced rate to charge it as their smart meter doesn't work.

The changes to the bus timetable was also raised. The bus to Chorley now stops in Parbold at 0923hrs, instead of the previous time of 0933hrs. This means that a senior bus pass cannot be used as it is not allowed before 0930hrs.

Two members of the 2025 Parbold Show committee were present in case there were any questions in relation to item 7 on the Agenda.

A representative from Appley Bridge Football Club (ABFC) was present in relation to item 8. He explained that in order to gain access to a grant from the Football Foundation a pitch licence of longer than 12 months is required. Currently the licence is reviewed annually in August.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 3rd January 2025.

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

030125	Donation to Christ Church - fencing	BACS	£500.00
050125	Equiphase web hosting	BACS	£66.00
060125	Hodgson Tool hire – barriers for tree	BACS	£179.23
100125	Wrightington Windows	BACS	£20.00
120125	Boiler Care – village hall	D/D	£19.25
150125	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
150125	O2 CCTV	D/D	£28.07
170125	WI – use of electricity for tree lights	BACS	£50.00
010225	Cobbs Brow Nurseries – Christmas tree	BACS	£200.00
280125	B Joule – salary	S/O	£907.98
290125	J W Moore & Co – village hall service	BACS	£1675.20
301225	Office supplies	BACS	£15.94
301224	Bank charges	D/D	£6.00

020225 Laurence Davis – gate posts/noticeboard

BACS £460.00

6. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application no: 2025/0038/FUL

Proposal: Installation of one Air Source Heat Pump.

Location: 7 Mill Leat Mews, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NH.

Comments: The Parish Council offer no objection to this application.

Application No: 2025/0046/FUL

Proposal: To drop the kerb in front of the property to allow access to the car park space.

Location: 15 Mill Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NW.

Comments: There appears to be double yellow lines outside the property which end outside the next door building. The Parish Council have a concern that there may not be a sufficient visibility splay and asked that this be further investigated.

7. Village issues

- **To further discuss any matters arising from the meeting with Parbold Village Show committee held on 4th February 2025.**

Councillors met with committee members earlier in the week to discuss issues around the show that had been raised at previous meetings, with a view to finding workable solutions. The main problem is that of vehicles driving onto the showground, over drains that have been laid to keep the land dry. In previous years heavy vehicles have been allowed onto the field, further damaging the drains and causing the area around the entrance gate to become boggy. The committee members were able to suggest ways to minimise vehicle access to the field and protection of the gateway with matting. It was acknowledged that a complete ban of vehicles onto the field would effectively make the festival unworkable, so careful management of access by vehicles is imperative. Also, with the agreement to work with the Football Foundation to improve the football pitch it will be essential to protect this area too.

The meeting was closed from 2015hrs to 2020hrs in order for Members to confer with the show Committee members present, particularly

around litter picking and rubbish collection. It was agreed that proper marshalling of vehicles during the preparation and closing of the show is essential, and that vehicles will be expected to leave the showground once set up, unless they are integral to the sales (such as ice cream vans). It was resolved to work with the show committee to minimise the risk of damage to the field and facilities and the Clerk will act as a point of contact in the lead up to the show. Close liaison both immediately prior to and after the show is also necessary, in order to satisfy the needs of the committee and to maintain the integrity of the playing field.

- **To discuss the recent changes to the bus timetable which affects senior bus pass use**

As outlined earlier, a change to the bus timetable now means that a senior bus pass now cannot be used when boarding the bus in Parbold for Chorley, as the time has been changed from 0933hrs to 0923hrs. Passes can only be used after 0930hrs. This is a two hourly service so this has quite an impact on passengers. This has been highlighted to Borough Cllrs Katie Jukes and Rob Bailey, who will make further enquiries to see if this is just a winter adjustment or a permanent change.

- **To discuss any issues following the meeting and site visits regarding flooding in the village**

Cllr Arnold gave an update of the recent meeting with local MP Ashley Dalton regarding the flooding issues in the village. Cllr Arnold met with Ms Dalton and Borough Councillors Katie Jukes and David Whittington to visit several problem areas in the village, including Dock Brook, Burnside and West View. A drop in event is being arranged, where the relevant authorities will be present to meet residents and discuss how to find long term solutions to the flooding problems that have plagued the village for so long. As soon as details of this event are confirmed they will be circulated via social media and the village newsletter.

- **To discuss the outcome of the recent meeting with the Parbold Community Association (PCA) and Parish Council**

Cllr Schaffel gave an update of the meeting that was recently held between the Parish Council and the PCA, to discuss how to progress the PCA's desire to extend and remodel the village hall. It was suggested at that meeting to hire a design consultant, who could listen to the PCA's problems and wishes and help to design a building that is more

fit for purpose and suitable for today's demands. Initial enquiries show that a cost for this could run in to several thousand and it was resolved to defer this to the next parish council meeting so that a firm estimate can be obtained.

- **To discuss the recent car parking issues within the village**

Recent concerns about parking in the village have been reported to the Council. This includes inconsiderate parking outside the shops on The Common where the disabled bay had been taken up by a non-badge holder, and the parking spaces being taken by drivers who are not using the shops. It was recognised that parking within the village in general is at a premium and although Councillors are reluctant to impose a waiting limit on their car parks it may discourage people parking there all day. Issues around the top of Broadmead were also raised, where vehicles are parked close to the junction in order to access the nearby shops. It was resolved to monitor the situation and ask residents for more consideration when parking in the village.

8. Alder Lane matters

- **To consider the draft fire risk assessment for the cabins on Bramble Way car park**

The draft document had been created following a visit from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service to the cabins sited on Bramble Way car park. These are available for use by Shevington Sharks RFC and Appley Bridge FC but in reality are little used. The document had also been circulated to both clubs and it was resolved to ratify the risk assessment without amendments.

- **To consider a request from Appley Bridge FC for an extended contract**

A request had been made to the Parish Council by Appley Bridge FC regarding the length of the current licence to use the football pitch on Alder Lane playing fields. It had been explained that this has the potential to release funding via Football Foundation for goalposts, pitch improvements and improvements to facilities.

The Football Foundation provides support and funding for various football related activities, such as goal posts, changing facilities, storage

containers, pitch maintenance and improvement. Some of these are 100% funded, some are majority funded by the foundation.

The Football Foundation sets out criteria for each category for those requesting funding, in most cases this is a lease over 12 months. With a longer lease ABFC would be able to raise any applicable funds and apply for funding in agreement with the Parish Council.

It was resolved to agree to a licence of 5 years, with an option to extend if all parties are in agreement. It was agreed that this is an opportunity to work collaboratively for the mutual benefit of the Parish and football club, and improve the facilities.

9. To consider the draft budget and precept request for 2025-26

The draft budget spreadsheet and budget meeting report had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Cllr Carruthers talked through the draft document and explained that the Capital and Reserves boxes at the bottom of the spreadsheet had been simplified for ease of understanding. It was resolved to increase the precept request by 5% to £40,069.00, which would increase the resident's contribution by £1 to £39.00.

10. To review the Asset Register document

It was resolved to accept the circulated Asset Register document as a true record of the Parish Council's assets.

11. Update on Councillor raised issues

- **Smart meter issues in Parbold**

Cllr Bailey gave an update on the issue of some resident's smart meters not working within the village. This is an ongoing problem which does not appear to have a quick solution. Cllr Bailey will continue to explore this issue as it has a negative impact on many householders in Parbold.

12. Clerk’s Report

The report was noted by Members.

13. Councillors’ agenda items for future meetings

There were no items declared.

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.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2115hrs.

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Chairman

7th February 2025