

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th July 2014 in the Community Room at Parbold Douglas School, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, WN8 7HS

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Schaffell and Cllr Murrin-Bailey.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Arnold declared a personal interest in Item 9.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 6th June 2014

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 Parish Council was requested to report to WLBC that the alleyway between Fairhurst Drive and The Common requires cleaning and weed-killer.

The Clerk confirmed, following a question raised during the previous week, that WLBC have responsibility for hedge cutting at Greenfield Avenue, behind 38 The Common and that WLBC's Derek Hill had agreed that this will be done in early autumn.

5. To finalise details for exploratory liaison meeting regarding Hoscarr Sewage Works to be held on 22nd July 2014 7.30pm Parbold WI Hall

The agenda was agreed and will be issued to all interested parties. The meeting will be run along similar lines to a parish council meeting. Cllr Holland was continuing to examine paperwork regarding odour control.

Cllr Butts asked that her apologies be recorded for both the WW1 Commemorative Event and this Hoscarr meeting.

6. To finalise arrangements for the World War 1 commemoration event

Cllr Wess confirmed arrangements for the event.

The meeting heard that, to date, 41 tickets had been issued to residents and refreshments had been booked for 11.30 am. Councillors planning to attend took tickets and tickets for the helpers were issued to Mrs Sanders.

The meeting considered Richard Houghton's kind offer to speak at the luncheon, but asked that the Clerk thank him and explain that the schedule was already completed with no extra time for additions at this late stage.

7. To confirm venue and day of week of meetings for 2014/5

It was resolved to return the meeting venue to Parbold Women's Institute for the winter months as this location is more convenient for members of the public to attend.

Proposed by Cllr Stewart, seconded by Cllr Wess: in favour, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Arnold. Against: Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Holland. A named, recorded vote was requested by Cllr Wess.

The meeting day was confirmed as agreed at the AGM as Friday but a change of all but the statutory meetings, to a Monday or Wednesday, will be considered at the November meeting.

8. Review following Chairman's meeting with Police

The Chairman reported a very successful meeting on a Saturday evening with Sgt Craig Appleton. The wide area covered by the local police is a concern, and resources are tight but the back-up services (such as the traffic-car and CID) associated with Skelmersdale Police Station, ensure full coverage when it is needed. A rising crime rate across all areas is noted. Most concerning is the increase in burglaries: 26 in 2012, 50 in 2013 and in 2014 already 43 reported burglaries, with only three suspects charged. It is important to note that burglary figures include shed break-ins as well as violent burglaries. The problem areas of Bramble Way, seat on the canal at the Rose of Parbold and the alleyway/car park behind the shops will be subject to more police surveillance. The police were also reminded of the issue of speeding vehicles on the Common, Tan House Lane and Lancaster Lane.

It was agreed to request information from the police to be included in the PCA newsletter, in particular to encourage residents to be more diligent and consider forming neighbourhood watch groups. The PCA newsletter could also be used to remind people not to advertise that they are going on holiday on social network sites or in general discussion. Clerk to ask the police how Councillors can assist with crime prevention measures such as setting up neighbourhood watch schemes and communication with residents etc. and to offer to meet to discuss this if required.

9. Alder Lane:

- **Notification of Vehicle Impact to Alder Lane Hedge and fencing**

The meeting heard that a vehicle had left the road, having taken the bridge too fast and the driver lost control, driving into the fence and hedge. It was understood that the driver had criminal conviction following the incident, possibly for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lancashire Constabulary require payment for information about the incident, so the Clerk was requested to enquire of the local police or magistrates' court.

It was resolved to write requesting recompense for the damage from the driver or details of their insurance for a claim to recoup loss.

Cllr Bithell was thanked for arranging the prompt removal of the damaged fence and foliage. He agreed also to erect orange netting to alert pitch users to their proximity to the busy road.

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

Cllr Murrin-Bailey forwarded a spread sheet of results, following initial dissemination. These findings revealed no outstanding support for any one direction for development at Alder Lane Playing Fields. The response sample was smaller than hoped and no real conclusions could be drawn. However, further breakdown of the results will be looked at when available.

In general terms the majority of current use by village residents was dog walking and visiting the annual Parbold Village Festival and there was no great support for installation of a Multi-Use Games Area.

- **Reminder of meeting with Parbold Wildlife Group - 9th July 2014**

The meeting is confirmed as 7.30pm in Parbold Village Hall. A pre-meeting on-site was rejected on this occasion but Councillors were asked to take a walk down along the Chapel Meadow before this meeting. Apologies were noted from Mrs Wess. Installation of a bench with arms was suggested as an item for a future meeting.

- **Update on pitches**

The meeting heard that Lancashire Turf had completed a weed and feed process on the pitches.

Cllr Wess reported an enquiry for use of the football field, with changing room facilities by an FA-affiliated adult men's team, requiring pitch use on Sundays between 12 and 20 sessions. There was insufficient notice of this proposal, and insufficient information to form a decision, so Cllr Wess was asked to inform them that a written formal proposal would be required for consideration.

- **Any Parbold Festival Issues**

Cllr Arnold, reported back from meeting with festival committee members to finalise use of the containers, etc. The Clerk was asked to send the letter of confirmation with the conditions previously stated and the addition that gate-keepers inform entrants that dogs be kept on leads.

10. Village Hall:

- **To consider request from PCA that a peppercorn rent replace the current agreement of annual rent at £1,600**

This proposal was discussed at length. Implementation would require a re-write of the current lease and management agreement. In the absence of a strategy or long-term policy, and information on the distribution of risk, this meeting, at this stage, cannot agree to a peppercorn rent. However, the Parish Council is not against such a proposal if a framework can be agreed. The PCA - Parish Council liaison committee will need to discuss this further to obtain such agreements.

- **To consider, at request of PCA, position of Parish Council Observer**

The meeting noted the relevant passage from the PCA constitution:

“11.General Committee a) The General Committee shall be appointed at each annual general meeting and shall consist of:

vi) The Parish Council to nominate an observer to the General Committee (who shall not be a member of the committee).”

It was resolved that Cllr Denise Butts continue as Parish Council nominated observer to the PCA General Committee.

In order to ensure that another Councillor substitute on occasions that she is unavailable, the Clerk will request notification of meeting dates.

In order to ensure adequate communication, authorised minutes of Parish Council meetings will be forwarded to PCA representatives on the Liaison Committee, (i.e. to four email addresses). Any issues arising from a Parish Council meeting will be notified to those four contacts as soon as practicable following the meeting.

Cllr Stewart will substitute for Cllr Butts at the next PCA meeting, which was believed to be Friday 18th July 2014.

- **To consider issue of non-hall-or-surgery-users parking on the car park**

The meeting noted the PCA's letter in which it is stated that the PCA General Committee would certainly prefer to decide the wording of these signs. It was therefore agreed to await the wording specified by the PCA before considering this matter further.

- **To note next PCA Liaison meeting date of 23rd July 2014**

The date of the meeting was noted with apologies from the Clerk already acknowledged and from Cllr Butts and Cllr Wess added. Cllr Arnold and Cllr Bithell will attend the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to clarify the comment in the PCA letter that states: "Chris Abel does represent the opinions of the general committee."

11. The Common:

- **Green BT Boxes update**

The Clerk met with Mick Scott from BT who insisted the boxes had been installed in the only place possible for Broadband provision for the village. He added that two more cabinets would be required alongside them. However, he had concerns about the quality of cabinet used and there may still be a chance of moving them. The Clerk was instructed to write to BT to complain again and to involve Rosie Cooper MP in the issue.

- **Alleyway at the rear of the shops**

The meeting noted the complaint of rat infestation in the alleyway at the back of the shops, concluded that this must be a result of storage of food and bins at the rear of the shops and therefore not an issue that can be met from public funds but one which must be dealt with by the commercial premises concerned.

The area had become overgrown again, so clearance will be considered at the next meeting.

12. To form a steering group to investigate an appropriate Speed Indicator Device for Parbold Village

Cllr Arnold, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Stewart & Cllr Wess will form a steering group to consider what SPID is most appropriate for the village. The Clerk will circulate information, which will be considered first and then a meeting arranged.

13. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

240614	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
280614	E A Broad	Salary (May 2014)	s.o.	£718.46
040714	Barry Rawsthorne	Grass cutting	2427	£448.00
040714	WL Scouts Mountaineering Group	tree clearing	2828	£120.00
040714	E A Broad	Stamps and tea for WW1 event	2429	£34.72
040714	Parbold WI	Room hire 15th May (daytime)	2430	£5.00
040714	Yates Playground	Play ground inspections	2431	£69.60*
040714	Inland Revenue	National insurance payments	2432	£39.54
040714	B Rawsthorne	Grass cutting (June)	2433	£402.00
040714	Yates Playgrounds	Inspections - May 2014	2434	£69.60

Cheque 2435 cancelled

040714	UK Host 4 U	website costs	2436	£47.99
040714	Lancashire Build	Repairs to bollard on The Common	2437	£210.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

14. To apprise Council of External Auditor's Initial findings regarding increasing the Asset Register value

It was agreed to increase the sum stated for the total assets held to include the new shipping container and Bramble Way car park refurbishment.

15. To note Planning and Planning Applications

2014/0418/FUL

Parbold Equestrian Centre 21 Bradshaw Lane Parbold Lancashire WN8 7NQ

Part replacement of existing steel frame structure with new building forming stables, classroom, office and reception facilities

Response: Parbold Parish Council has no objections to this proposal but requests that adequate parking provision for this business expansion is ensured.

16. Items raised by Councillors:

- **To consider maintenance of the shrubbery outside The Heys**

Enquiries as to maintenance responsibilities were continuing.

17. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Wess - asked that the next PCA newsletter piece request that drivers stop parking across residents driveways, that WLBC be informed that the bin men are not returning the bins to hoes but leaving them out in the street in a dangerous manner and LCC be informed that the pot holes at the top of Broadmead require attention.

Cllr Butts - added that the uneven tarmac along Greenfield Avenue requires LCC attention also.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

5th September 2014

Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold