

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 7th November 2014 in Parbold Women's Institute.

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Butts and Cllr Schaffel.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Arnold declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in Item 20 - Grass cutting contract.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 3rd October 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.

Paul Quirk addressed the meeting: - There have been two major issues at Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre, Hoscar, in the last month. The second issue, at around 4pm today, involved a spillage from a large skip. This is the third major failure in three months. Over the years these things were happening, but we knew nothing about it; just suffered the smell. Now we are being made aware of these issues, only because we have pushed so hard to get information. Nothing really has changed, we still suffer the odours. We have to keep the pressure on, to ensure finances are diverted towards odour control systems. It is concerning that these latest issues seem to be due to maintenance failures. What do the various bodies looking after our health and welfare actually do? Have WLBC been down there today, as this break-down alert came through? How long has this been going on without them being challenged to inform us? There could very well have been a number of issues we don't know about. They are only notifying us now because we are being pushy and they have no alternative. We should ask now they have discovered a problem, what are they doing to prevent more. A private company would've been prosecuted years ago. Other people know

they've had issues over the years and not done anything about it - who are they answerable to? It is still not entirely clear who was responsible for which bit. Are they really spending enough on odour control measures?

Cllr Bailey explained that there is a formula for how much United Utilities are allowed to profit and this prescribes that a certain amount must be spent on infrastructure.

It was suggested that the Parish Council approach the Environment Agency again and point out these things that have happened recently. Whilst understanding that the EA assume every item of equipment should be working and is maintained to the proper standard. We need to tell them it is not. These maintenance-style slips that we have now become aware of must be addressed. Previously, because we didn't know about it, United Utilities would just respond to things that went wrong, rather than firm up procedures making sure they didn't go wrong in the first place.

The Clerk confirmed that WLBC had commissioned a report to investigate what was the standard best practice procedure and investigate whether these best practice procedures were employed. Despite being told on 21st October, that it would be available within a matter of days, nothing has yet reached the Parish Council.

The WWTC staff had been as helpful as possible but they are fire-fighting and the problem needs to be escalated higher up. Paul Quirk, agreed on behalf of residents to write to United Utilities Managing Director or CEO and Rosie Cooper MP.

Cllr Wess then spoke as a member of the public to ask if signs can be erected at Alder Lane Playing Fields to inform dog owners that fines are being issued for dog fouling. She also raised an issue for WLBC regarding failure to empty a green bin fully. This matter is being addressed by WLBC.

5. Update on issues regarding Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre following the Exploratory Liaison Meeting on Tuesday 21st October 2014.

The minutes of the meeting were distributed and a suggested site visit date of Saturday 22nd November 2014 proposed.

Following discussion under the open forum section of the meeting, it was agreed that all parties were doing what they could but the result was no change for residents who were still experiencing unpleasant odours.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the WLBC report from Environmental Health, ensure that the Environment Agency was informed of the recent breakdowns and write to United Utilities CEO and copy in Rosie Cooper MP.

6. Items raised by residents:

- **Disability issues throughout the village**

Problems with accessibility of village facilities have recently been raised with an electronic wheelchair user describing problems; posting a letter (uneven ground, can't reach the post-

box), filling a doctor's prescription (chemist not accessible) and taking the train to Southport (booking office on one side of track and platform on the other). Whilst many of these issues can be overcome by home-delivery or assistance from others, many wheelchair users want to do these things by themselves.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will lobby Railtrack, and Lancashire County Council to look at the accessibility issues around the post-box and Railway Station, but that the shops on The Common could have cost implications for traders reducing feasibility of improvements there.

- **Lancaster Lane issues re: street cleaning and grass verge maintenance**

The issues raised were discussed. Most relate to responsibilities of LCC and WLBC and were forwarded to Officers and Councillors concerned. The meeting noted the frustration that cycling clubs use the public roads and dump empty wrappers and water bottles as they go through the village. It was felt that these clubs are not based in the village and it is difficult to establish who to complain to about this issue.

Grass cutting and litter-picking activities are expensive and as such have been reduced to a minimum by the higher councils, with frequency as low as twice-yearly along this stretch of road. Comment was made that should WLBC cut the grass on the verge, the stones would have to be removed first which could be counterproductive as they are intended to prevent vehicles parking there.

Road Safety issues, (installation of mirrors, pavement rather than grass verge) bordering this parish and Hilldale will be considered by LCC Highways.

7. Village Hall:

- **To consider appointing a building surveyor to produce a report with a 25 year forecast of building needs**

Unfortunately the assessor suggested had not returned with a price for the work and without this it was not possible to decide whether it would be affordable. There was concern that money spent on obtaining a report might be better spent on fixing some of the issues already raised, such as window maintenance. Borough Councillors present suggested that John Nelson may have a useful contact for this work as WLBC had recently conducted similar surveys of community halls.

- **Any update on green heating system**

Cllr Sue Holland agreed to join this small working group. Cllrs Schaffel and Holland will therefore meet with two PCA members, hopefully including Michael Bonsall, who has vast experience in grant funding, to progress this. It was noted that municipal energy group feed-in tariffs have just started for air-source heating making the system more economic, though it was not known if that was more efficient too.

8. Alder Lane:

- **Update on hedge and fencing**

Cllr Arnold declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in this matter.

Concern that the hazard warning netting remains but no repairs have begun was raised. The ownership issues of this stretch of road/field boundary continue however. The fencing was believed to have been erected by the Railway many, many years ago. LCC consider the fence unnecessary and will not repair or replace it. WLBC confirm that the land is not subject to the lease with the Parish Council. As it is not Parish Council property cost of repair is not recoverable under Parish Council insurance. The driver of the car has not responded to a request to make good the damage he caused.

It was resolved, by majority, to remove the fence and replant the hawthorn hedge to stand alone there. Cllr Stewart asked that it be noted that he preferred repair of the fencing and recovery of the costs from the driver.

- **To consider request for use of football field by the Cubs**

Cllr Bithell declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in this matter.

It was resolved to request payment at £10 per hour for the requested use.

- **To further consider request for benches at Chapel Lane Meadow**

It was resolved to attempt to obtain funding for benches at Chapel Meadow, but if funding cannot be obtained within six months, one bench at an approximate cost of £500 will be installed using parish funds. Suggested routes for funding were the LCC Parish Champion, WLBC capital funding or Villages in Partnership.

- **Consider provision of a Multi-Use Games Area at the Playing Fields**

Item deferred at request of Cllr Bithell; collating information obtained.

9. The Common:

- **Green BT Boxes update**

Permission for the one box on the corner of Tam House Lane/The Common was agreed last month. There was no information on the other three cabinets.

- **Potholes on the car park**

The potholes were now repaired.

10. To agree arrangements to meet with LCC officer to discuss the yellow lines on Mill Lane

The meeting noted the mixed priorities of providing more residential parking here whilst still meeting highway safety requirements. Questions of creating resident only parking, and separating up the sections of double yellow lines etc were mooted.

It was resolved that the Chairman meet with LCC Safety Officers to discuss the various options regarding the yellow lines on Mill Lane. Cllr Stewart requested to attend the site meeting also.

Cllr Sue Murrin-Bailey left the meeting at 8.45pm.

11. To consider any update from steering group investigating an appropriate Speed Indicator Device for Parbold Village

Research into suitable devices is continuing. A solar-powered, two-way system, that records data and needs only one fixing post will be considered. There will be a requirement to link the system through an electronic device, such as the parish-council laptop. Software expertise to ensure the laptop has sufficient facility to meet the system requirements, will need to be employed.

12. To consider proposal for a plaque and/or tree on the poppy garden at Parbold Douglas School

During discussions on how the Parish Council would mark the centenary of the start of World War One, Cllr Wess had been nominated to discuss with Our Lady & All Saints school and Cllr Blake, to liaise with Parbold Douglas Academy (PDA). At that time, PDA offered to host the luncheon, with a November setting-date, but the WI Hall in July was chosen as more accessible. In addition to the children's attendance at the luncheon, PDA had planted a poppy garden, and, as a way of community involvement, it was suggested a contribution of a brass plaque or something similar come from the Parish Council. There had since been a change of Head Teacher at PDA. Discussions centred on a plaque to be included in the poppy garden but the Chairman suggested instead planting a tree alongside the poppies. Cllr Blake informed this meeting that the school would prefer a small, rustic bench, similar to one seen in Hilldale Parish at a cost of around £100.

Concern was expressed that money would be spent on one school project rather than supporting both schools, and that a bench would not be accessible to the public, so may not be an appropriate project for public funds.

It was resolved that the Vice-Chairman and Cllr Blake discuss this further with PDA to establish what their expectations are, and to come up with a suggestion of a specific purpose, for discussion at the next meeting.

13. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

311014	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
311014	E A Broad	Salary (October 2014)	s.o.	£718.46

071114	E A Broad	Stamps and sundries	2460	£5.72
071114	Parbold WI	Meeting room costs 7th Nov 2014	2461	£22.00
071114	John Stewart	Pothole repairs car park	2462	£74.00
071114	P. Douglas Academy	meeting room 21st October 2014	2463	£30.00
071114	SLCC	Annual subscription Clerks' Society	2464	£81.00

Bank balance as at 31st October 2014

Current account: £175.56 High Interest account: £89,770.40
Total: £89,945.96

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

14. To set a date for meeting for the Finance Committee to consider budget for 2015/16

It was agreed that the Finance Committee (Cllrs Arnold, Bithell, Bailey, Butts, Stewart & Wess) will meet on Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 7:30pm in Parbold WI (rear office room)

15. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2014/1071/FUL
 18 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DA
 Extension and remodelling to house

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2014/1072/FUL
 20 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DA
 Extension and remodelling to house

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2014/1079/FUL
 36 Brandreth Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HD
 Single storey side and rear extension

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2014/1107/CON
 15 Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG
 Approval of details reserved by condition nos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 on planning permission 2011/0394/FUL relating to brickwork and roofing materials, bin store details, boundary treatment details, schedule for works affecting nesting birds, Tree Protection Method

Statement, Bat and Barn Owl mitigation proposals and surface water drainage scheme / percolation test / Surface Water Soakaway calculations.

This application was noted.

The meeting was informed that the Hoscar Solar Farm proposals would be on the agenda for the next WLC Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 13th November 2014.

The amended plans to 80 The Common were also noted.

16. To confirm items for Three Tier Forum to consider

The following request to the Three Tier Forum was agreed:-

Parbold Parish Council would like the forum to consider a request that higher tiers (County and Borough) have increased consultation with Parish Councils before working in their parishes.

In Parbold, this summer, LCC incorrectly informed BT Wayleaves that the section of parish owned land was "adopted highway". BT have had to remove cabinets they placed there when it came to light that it was parish owned and no land owner permission had been obtained. LCC erected bicycle racks on this section of land also, and the Parish Council was incensed as the bike racks obscured dog tie rings installed by the Parish Council, rendering them useless. These things happened because LCC staff believed the land was LCC owned - which was a mistake, but understandable mistake. HOWEVER, the problem would have come to light, and costs in installing these things totally avoided, had LCC consulted the Parish Council first.

If LCC and WLBC could tell Parish Councils before they do the work, we would know about it and, in each of these cases, could have informed them that the land was parish owned and avoided this costly episode.

17. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Mill Leat - consider action to tidy the area**

The Parish Council expressed concern that this art project area had been left to fall apart. It was resolved that Cllr Bake as Borough Council would request that the Borough council tidy the area up.

- **Maintenance of property owned by Railtrack - Station House and Cabin Signal Box**

Following concern that these two buildings are suffering lack of maintenance and are rapidly becoming an eye-sore in the village. The meeting noted that these properties were not separately listed on the Land Registry and appear to be Railtrack property. Letters had been received from Railtrack, noting the complaint an allocating a reference number: 141006-000337. Also the response from Rosie Cooper, MP, that she would request instigate an

investigation via Network Rail Chief Executive, David Higgins and respond when she has more information.

18. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Clr Wess: With reference to a national bee shortage; there are bits of green all over the village - can the Parish Council consider planting a wildflower garden as a home for bees.

Clr Bailey: Noted that the new Hygiene scores have been issued with one Parbold food establishment still scoring only 1 out of 5.

Clr Stewart: Asked that a place be booked for him to attend the Standards Board training on 22nd November 2014 at WLBC Offices. Clr Wess asked for confirmation that the training would be held in a fully accessible room, and if so, asked that a place be booked for her also.

Clr Bithell: Noted that at Redhill (Reigate, Surrey) Station, the barriers for road vehicles are closed as the train approaches the station. Whereas in Parbold the barrier can be closed a good 5 minutes before any train is even seen. Is there any way of standardizing, to see which station has it right in terms of road and rail safety and the competing need to avoid driver frustration?

Clr Holland: Intends to conduct an informal survey of the village pavements and car parking issue with a view to bringing a short report to the next meeting, to examine where the main problems lie.

Clr Blake: Has asked that the Borough Council conduct leaf sweeping along Lancaster Lane and notes that it will be done when all the leaf-fall complete.

19. 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

Resolved.

20. To determine grass cutting contract for 2015/16

Two tenders were considered and it was resolved to retain the services of Barry Rawsthorne for the grass cutting contract, and to request that Lancashire Turf conduct twice yearly weed and feed to the playing fields as a supplement.

Chairman - Clr Brian Arnold

5th December 2014