

## ***Parbold Parish Council***

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### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd March 2017 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Butts, Cllr Blake, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Wess.

#### **1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Holland and Cllr Stewart.

#### **2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared.

#### **3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 3rd February 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 by the members of the public present:

There is a white van parked on the land at the rear of the Parbold WI Hall that has been stationary there for nine to twelve months. It often attracts loitering around the van at night time and residents are highly concerned about this activity.

The house on the railway crossing is an absolute mess, the garden is over grown and the building itself in a very poor state of repair. It is believed to belong to Network Rail. The Parish Council were asked to contact WLBC Conservation Officer and write again to Network Rail.

Residents living on Brandreth Drive are again requesting double yellow lines along the section of road meeting Tan House Lane as cars frequently park there to visit the shops, or even to park all day as drivers continue their journey by train. Parking notices prepared by the parish council to request more considerate parking are available where cars have been

parked inconsiderately. The Parish Council may create a more official notice in an envelope to be placed on badly parked cars.

There is a lot of litter around the village particularly near the shops and much of it is actually a product of the shops, so would it be unreasonable to ask the shop keepers to brush outside their own pavement?

The pavements around the village are in a very poor state of repair. The areas will be reported to LCC on their website again.

Dog fouling is horrendous at the moment all over the village. Please remind people through the PCA newsletter again that dog owners must be responsible and pick it up.

There used to be a KEEP CLEAR sign in the road by Beacon Crossing as you turn in but over time it has worn away. LCC will be asked to re-write this in as it is difficult to enter and exit Beacon crossing without it. This is an area of sheltered accommodation and it is dangerous without it.

Brandreth Drive residents brought concerns about the development at 9 Tan House Lane. They have made complaint to WLBC Planning Department that the build was not following the plans and was too close to their fencing. They now ask Parbold Parish Council to complain on their behalf about the mud and mess left on the pavement and road outside the development. The Flood Group also has concerns that this is blocking drains along the road as the grids are already in need of clearing.

The meeting was notified of WLBC decision to remove the blue paper-banks from The Common Car Park. Parbold Parish Council attempted to make the same arrangements with the recycling company but Palm Recycling declined.

#### **5. To arrange a public meeting to update residents about Hoscar Sewage Works - issues of odour problems**

It was resolved to wait until the summer months for a public meeting as there have been few incidents of odour disturbance recently and the problems increase in better weather.

#### **6. Parbold Library update**

The application is in the hands of LCC who had asked for more detail of the financial projections. There has been some concern expressed that the new venture for the library could infringe on use of other halls as some were already experiencing a reduction in bookings.

#### **7. To hear update from Flood Action Group**

The following report was heard by the meeting:

United Utilities reported that the two outlet pipes at Northdene/Southdene are now back on a maintenance schedule, when asked why they had not been maintained and were blocked we were told that they weren't blocked they were always working. Ros Wess stated that when

members of the committee went down to check after the flood, they were completely seized up. We were assured that they are now back on a regular maintenance schedule. Paul Blakeley, (LCC), reported that the Section 19 investigation report is on the LCC website. Stage 2, which will identify a case for funding is going through the process! What we do not understand is why has it taken so long, we were flooded 14 months ago! Paul said that the delay was down to reorganisation and all the agencies involved being brought together to look into ground water and surface water flooding across Lancashire. LCC Lead Flood Authority, LCC Highways, West Lancashire Borough Council, United Utilities, Network Rail and also the cutbacks in staff due to funding cutbacks. We understand that LCC cover a very large area and many of these were flooded but at this rate it will be years before any work is carried out.

Paul stated that he had spoken to LCC Highways about the grids/gullies and was told that all those that have been reported have been cleared, Ros said that this was incorrect. He will come back with a cleaning regime. Ros gave him a list of those still outstanding, they have now been cleared. There is still a problem with The Heyes and Mill Lane but I have received an email this week assuring me that they will be cleared within the week.

Ros gave PC Chairman's apologies and asked on his behalf when and where are LCC going to put in more trash gates? Paul replied that LCC do not like doing this because of clearing etc and this under a policy review.

The question was asked again what are LCC as the Lead Flood Authority doing about Riparian ownership including their own and those of WLBC and private owners, and about residents building structures over the river.

Susan asked if LCC could produce a leaflet explaining owners rights and responsibilities and Paul will look into this. She further explained that some people did not know that this applied to them, and Julia said they could get some information on the EA website.

Ros showed Paul a copy of a letter from LCC dated 10 March 2016, sent to a resident, stating that the gully emptying cycle has been changed to once every 18 months. This is unacceptable in a high risk flood area, Paul will look into it.

Julia Molloy, (EA) reported that the survey from the Railway line up to the end of the Douglas in Parbold was completed and it has been agreed that that the willow trees on both sides of the river have been cut back to the roots.. This work has now been completed. Julia asked about the letter we had sent to Rosie Cooper about the difference between the flood warning gauge on the river and the information on the EA website. Ros Wess stated that this was done at the request of the committee and the extremely worried residents who live alongside the river who are asking for clarity. Parbold is a lot lower down than Croston and the residents need an accurate reading both for the gauge and the EA website. The alert was set at 1.92 but is now set at 2.93! Paul Blakeley, LCC suggested that the EA look at the information on the website.

Julia was reminded that the Group's report also asked that all silt and debris be removed from the river and the bank of the river on the Parbold side be built up to stop the river over topping and flooding properties again. We understand that funding has to be sought to do this and they need to apply to DEFRA but the longer they wait the longer it will take to get the work done.

Ros also asked why the name Parbold was not mentioned in EA River Douglas Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009?

Susan asked if Julia had found an answer to the question of the farmers digging ditches to help with flooding as they did in the past? Julia replied that the EA had attended a Farmers Catchment meeting on Monday 13th and they are looking at this as part of the wider picture. Ros stated that the group now have 87 volunteers but need help to ensure we do the right thing in case of a flood and that David Secrett had offered to lead this. Julia will send some

information via email and Paul will arrange for us to talk to the LCC Emergency Planning Team.

Ros asked about Dock Brook because at this time nothing has been done, Paul said they have to look for a viable solution, an initial look, then if major work is needed LCC or WLBC will apply to DEFRA for the funding, again it was pointed out that it is fourteen months and something needs to be done as soon as possible.

The group are attending a meeting at EA Headquarters on 14th March @ 13.30.

#### **8. To consider request for funding from Sing4Fun Choir**

Cllr Blake declared an interest and left the room for discussion of this item.

It was resolved to issue a Section 137 grant to the choir of £200.00

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

270217	E A Broad	Clerk's salary	s.o.	£741.83
030317	B Rawsthorpe	Grass cutting	2650	£65.00
030317	B Rawsthorpe	Grass cutting	2651	£60.00
030317	Best Kept Village	Entry fee	2652	£25.00
030317	Parbold WI	Room hire - 280217 & 030317	2653	£42.00

Includes £12 for the meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2017 of the new Parbold Heritage Group.

030317	Midstream	Clearance work at Chapel Meadow	2654	£210.00*
030317	CJ Lyon	Jet the drains at village hall	2655	£156.00
030317	John Stewart Homeland	Repair to flags at village hall	2656	£750.00
030317	Yates Playgrounds	Equipment and surfacing repairs	2657	£835.20*
Pandora Technologies		Speed Indicator Devices	2658	£10,875.60*
CA Traffic		Plates for fitting SPIDS to poles	2659	£331.20*
Mark Knowles Plumbing		Small boiler repair at village hall	2660	£72.00*
Sing 4 Fun	030317	Section 137 Grant	2661	£200.00
John Stewart	030317	Additional work at village hall inc trees	2662	£350.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

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

- **Consider proposal to use football fields to set up Parbold Junior Football Team**

The meeting discussed the email from Dominic Finnigan. It was agreed to encourage him to come and discuss the idea of forming a Parbold Football Team further and ask him to advertise to see how many players he could attract. It was resolved to offer a licence for field use for Sunday afternoons, 1:30 pm - 4 pm at the usual rates.

- **Consider capital project at Alder Lane, football pitch resurface, cctv, and fencing**

It was decided that the quotations coming forward are too expensive to cover all the items that we want. It was resolved that since the playing fields are now attracting football clubs it is sensible to concentrate the money on resurfacing the pitch to allow continued play there. It was agreed to organise resurfacing immediately after the Parbold Show in July 2017. The quotation from J A Alker was accepted as an estimate for this work.

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

Application Number: 2017/0149/FUL

Location: 4 Mill Leat Mews Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NH

Proposal: Two storey rear extension with rooflights. Alterations within the property

Response: There is concern that this proposal over develops the Mews and would not be in keeping with the surrounding properties.

Application Number: 2017/0100/FUL

Location: Blue Cedar Lancaster Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HQ

Proposal: proposed garden room to replace existing conservatory.

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2016/0866/FUL

Houseboat Green Matters, Parbold, Lancashire.

Private Stable block, change of use of land for keeping of horses

WLBC Planning Officer is recommending approval of this application though Parbold Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Holland would attend the Planning Committee meeting and voice the parish council concerns.

#### **12. Contribution to next PCA newsletter**

Having performed a financial review and budget for funding services next year, the Parish Council has decided to keep the same level of precept as in previous years. Costs have

escalated but the council has reserves that will be drawn up before raising the precept. It is anticipated that Borough and County Council precepts will be increased and we do not wish to add to the financial burden for our residents.

There has again been a recent increase in incidents of dog fouling. Please be aware that you can be fined if it is not picked up.

#### Community Litterpick

There has been a great response to the call for volunteers to arrange a community litter pick. If you wish to join in, please contact the Clerk and register your attendance. It is important that we know how many people we will have on the day so please drop an email or phone the Clerk first. We will meet at 9.45 am on Saturday, 22nd April 2017 on the village hall car park, intending to litter pick from 10 am until 12 noon. Please wear suitable shoes and clothing and thick gloves. Litter-pickers and bags will be provided. Those working alongside the road will require hi-viz jackets.

#### **13. Items raised by Councillors:-**

- **To organise Litter Picking Project**

The date of Saturday 22nd April 2017 10 am - 12 noon was chosen, meeting at the village hall and returning the rubbish to be collected by WLBC on the following Monday.

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

Cllr Wess - Consider increasing the number of parking spaces for the disabled on The Common car park.

Cllr Blake - Please inform people through the newsletter that WLBC bin men cannot return to clean the road as that would disturb their pick-up schedule. So on windy days unfortunately the litter may be worse, but WLBC will send out a clean-up team when it is particularly bad.

Cllr Butts - WLBC bin men are leaving the bins in the middle of the pavement again and prams can't - please can we ask that they are returned to the edge of the property.

**15. 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.

#### **16. Village Hall Issues:-**

- **Issues raised from PCA Liaison Group**

- **Update regarding PCA funding application for the heating system**

**Items not publically recorded due to privilege.**

### **17. Update on Bank account issues**

Councillors who agreed to be signatories on the account were asked to complete the bank forms and return them to the branch with ID s soon as possible so that the new account can be created.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

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*Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold*

*7th April 2017*