

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th October 2017 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

Present: Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Schaffell, Cllr Wess.

**1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Arnold, 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 8th September 2017**

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

Two members of the public attended to speak against the proposal for a monopole in the telephone exchange building at Tan House Lane. They raised concern for the health of those living near to such structures, it is intrusive and a blight on the pretty village of Parbold. As technology progresses the need for such structure diminishes and it would be a pity to be stuck with it when technology has moved on. Is there any reassurance that the location was chosen as the best rather than the cheapest, because this location is where people gather, students going to school, travellers waiting for bus and train services, and is the hub of the village where visitors come to attend festivals and events. Everyone needs to be protected from any ill effects caused by monopoles. The Parish Council was reminded of the occasion when the Victorian water trough was removed by LCC staff until a member of the public brought it to their attention that it was worthy of preservation. It could easily have been disposed of. On the premise that you don't know what you've got until its gone, the Parish Councillors were asked to preserve the visual amenity within the central hub of the village and object to the monopole spoiling this. One member of the public spoke in support of the monopole in the hope that it will improve broadband coverage. There are examples of monopoles being well hidden by landscaping, such as the one at Didsbury Cricket Club. It is hoped that the monopole will be open to all service providers and not just Vodophone BT. The second objector focussed on the health implications, citing studies showing reduced milk yield in cows grazing near a monopole and that serotonin and melatonin levels reduce in those living near to one. In 2007 Orange were forced to remove a monopole from a block of flats (London's Towers of Doom) because the cancer levels of those living in the flats was 20% higher than the national average. The Parbold residents requested that their concerns be written down in the Parish Council Minutes so that in 20 to 30 years time there is reference to them should events unfold in the manner that they fear.

New owners of the Old Post Office attended to present their proposals to convert this into a cafe, with a sale of alcohol and playing of recorded music licence. They explained their long experience in the food trade and their aspirations that the alcohol licence would support the purchase of craft ale in an afternoon or a glass of Prosecco with a celebratory cream tea and that the establishment would be nothing like a public house or off licence. The licence requires permission to play music to meet their expectation of recorded background music, not for musical entertainment that could be heard outside of the building.

**5. To discuss notification of intention to erect telecoms monopole at BT building at Tan House Lane**

It was agreed to write to Rosie Cooper MP and inform her of residents concerns asking her to ensure that the government regulations permitting structures such as these in the centre of rural, populated villages are protecting our residents.

It was resolved to try and arrange a public meeting with Clarke Telecom.

Item 13 was then brought forward to deal with Planning Matters whilst members of the public were present so that they were not detained through items of less concern to them.

- **ITEM 13 - To note Planning and Planning Applications**
- Ref. No: 2017/0975/OUT

Sisters Of Notre Dame Convent Lancaster Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HT

Outline - Conversion of Lancaster House SoNDdN Convent to care village including details of access, layout and scale.

Parish Council Response:

There is concern that the photographs of Lancaster Lane in the design and access statement are misleading. They show only two parked cars on the road and local knowledge is that there are frequently many parked cars along Lancaster Lane. It is also a very busy road with traffic passing through all the time. Tan House Lane is equally busy. The proposed development will increase the number of parked vehicles along both roads if inadequate parking provision within the development is made.

Therefore, provision of only 31 parking spaces within the development is of great concern. A retirement community of 71 flats differs from sheltered housing and registered care homes. Assisted living will include support staff who are available to offer help and assistance to residents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Where will they park? Also, many senior citizens are still driving well into their 90's, so many residents may require their own parking space. Bus services in this area cannot be relied upon as County Council budgets become reduced.

Although the Convent is elevated to the village and not itself in a flood risk area, a recent site visit revealed that the ground, (even on the sunny, summer day that we attended), was absolutely sodden in parts; some trickling of water was evident running off the established gardens into the rear gardens of Brandreth Drive.

The grounds are adjacent to Tan House Lane and back on to Brandreth Drive where there are flooding issues during heavy rain. Alderbrooke runs in between these two roads and their gardens already fill with water in heavy rain. Back land development has been approved adding to the threat of flooding and this development has the possibility of being a further threat. The development site is not confined to car park and hard surface but includes the hard surfacing the grass and trees forming the old orchard. This may impact on the ability of the lower land surrounding the site to absorb additional surface water, as it already struggles with the current levels of surface water. The Parish Council urges that drainage mitigation measures are taken so as not to impact on the neighbouring land. We understand that attenuation tanks and permeable surfacing will be employed where possible but these factors must be written into the planning permission so that they cannot be avoided.

There are some concerns about design, cladding and ensuring that this incorporates into the existing beautiful buildings. Also that some apartments appear to overlook properties in Brandreth Drive. At a detailed rather than outlined planning application, the Parish Council would ask that outdoor balconies are not permitted to infringe upon the privacy of surrounding existing homes.

As there are existing traffic and parking problems on Lancaster Lane, the Parish Council would request cooperation between this development and the schools at Parbold Douglas Academy and Our Lady & All Saints to come to some mutually beneficial arrangement to solve this.

- Ref. No: 2017/0954/

5 The Common Parbold Lancashire WN8 7HA

Alteration of the shop front.

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

- Ref. No: 2017/0959/FUL

13 Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG

Proposed demolition of existing rear extensions and detached garage, replaced with two storey rear and side extension, replacement flat roof to front elevation and external material alterations

Parish Council Response: No comment to make on this proposal.

Application for licence for sale of alcohol and recorded music for The Old Post Office, 5 Station Road, Parbold.

Parbold Parish Council has recently become aware of this application and wish to comment as follows:

The premises are close to supported accommodation for the elderly so consideration must be given to protection of these vulnerable neighbours. The application appears to include permission for recorded music, from 7am until 9pm which could be quite disturbing. Access to this site is poor - when the building was a Post Office drivers frequently stopped outside to nip in, it is hoped that the new owners can do something to discourage this, particularly if the sale of alcohol is permitted. It is possible to envisage passing trade, parking on the bend near the railway crossing there to pop into an Off Licence.

## **6. Update from Flood Action Group**

The following update was received from Cllr Wess:-

This has been a very busy and exciting time for the Flood Group. At our last meeting Paul Bond and James Newman from the Environment Agency (EA) and Alison Bennett, Groundwork (GW) were also in attendance. Paul asked the group if we would mind taking them on a walk of Dock Brook to show them the watercourse so that they see locations first hand. This would enable them to gain a better knowledge of our flood history and mechanisms which we agreed to do. Also to look at and decide on a site for the community-led Telemetry. Prior to the walk the village had had a lot of very heavy rain and Dock Brook was running quite high, luckily the day of the walk we had lovely sunshine. Paul/James and Alison took lots of photographs much better than looking at a map, their words not ours, Susan, David and myself were really pleased how the afternoon went. The more information we can share the better. We must also thank Jean and Frank Brunton and Mr and Mrs John Flannery for allowing us access to their back gardens.

Alison Beckett, GW explained that once the training of the flood wardens is completed and their certificates are issued GW will supply their protective clothing. No one can become a flood warden unless they have completed all the sections of the training. It was agreed that the training would take place on two half days in November, 10am to 1pm, dates to be decided. Paul, EA has a large holdall full with useful equipment which he will pass to the group on completion of the warden training.

Jenny Jones from the Emergency Planning Team at WLBC asked for permission to share our Emergency Plan with other parishes in West Lancashire. She will be speaking at the Parish Clerk's meeting on Friday about Community Plans. Jenny will be mentioning Parbold Flood Group as 'best practise' in relation to plans as we are the only group so far with a completed plan. Jenny won't share our whole plan with these groups (confidential information) but with our permission will be sharing our template in the hope that others may take it away and look to create their own plan. This is quite an accolade for the group as well as being the only group in the North of England to be offered the Warden Training, we must be doing something right!

We are still waiting to hear about the Community-led Telemetry but the EA are working with WLBC, LCC and other organisations from whom they need permission to place this on private land.

Whilst we are receiving a lot of help from the EA and GW we are rapidly approaching the winter and nothing has been done in the last 21 months to alleviate the serious flooding threat from Dock Brook. We do meet regularly with our local councils but as yet a survey of the brook has still not been carried out.

Thank you to Rosie Cooper MP who has received a letter dated 22nd September from LCC confirming that the 22 blocked gullies on Parbold Hill will be cleared within six weeks! We have only waited twelve months!

We owe a very big heartfelt thank you to Liz and Jeff Foster, for the last twenty one month's they have allowed us the use of their dining room for all of our meetings.

The Parish Council is anxious to assist with anything practical to support the group and reduce the risk of a repeat of the Boxing Day floods 2015. However, the roadside grids are being attended to now so the only outstanding work at this stage is to lobby for a survey of Dock Brook. Cllr Wess has a spreadsheet of the grids and gullies requiring attention and she will check that they have been attended to within six weeks.

## 7. Update from Parbold Heritage Group

Parbold Heritage Group thanks the Council for the kind gesture of paying room hire for the next four meetings. It will help enormously. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th October at 7pm and a speaker from the Canal & River Trust will attend to explain the process for funding. An application for £64k has been submitted. Karen Lawrenson from LCC will guest speak updating on assessment process & likely outcome which should be know by 29/11/17. Then there will be a demonstration & talk for Fender making for houseboats/canal boats - the rope like bumpers.

## 8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

210917	RBS	Bank charges		£5.39
270917	HMRC	National Insurance payments 3 mths	s.o.	£49.98
300917	E A Broad	Salary for September 2017	s.o.	£695.71
300917	NEST	pension (£7.44 Parish contribution)	d.d.	£61.10
061017	Parbold WI	Room hire 8th + 24th October 2017	2699	£45.50
061017	Parbold WI	Room hire 6th October 2017	2700	£32.50
061017	BDO	External audit report	2701	£276.00*
061017	Royal British Legion	Remembrances wreathes and donation	2702	£100.00
061017	Barry Rawsthorne	Grass cutting July 2017	2703	£639.00
061017	Fire Equipment Services	fire alarm - annual check	2704	£126.00*

\*contains VAT

Bank balance as at 30th September 2017

Current Account = £4.99      Reserve account =      £107,521.41      **TOTAL = £ 107,567.40**

The accounts were ratified and authorized for payment. A full bank reconciliation to 30th September 2017 will be supplied to Councillors administratively.

#### **9. To receive external auditor's report and address any issues raised**

The completed external audit was presented to the Council and the report noted. One area of concern was raised in relation to the alteration of the Asset Register figures due to the addition of the second interpretation board at Chapel Meadow.

#### **10. To agree presentation of wreaths at local Remembrance Services and donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

It was resolved to order two wreaths for presentation at the local churches. Cllr Arnold will present one at Christ Church and Cllr Blake at Our Lady's. A donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was agreed at £100.00

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

- **Update on grant funding for new heating systems**

One grant had been secured and a response on the second was awaited. The PCA accounts were received and the Clerk asked to circulate them on email.

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

- **Playing field maintenance update**

Very wet weather has hampered the weed and feed which will be done as soon as the weather improves.

- **Confirm meeting date with Parbold Wildlife Group**

The meeting will be held at Parbold Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th October 2017

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

Item brought forward to be dealt with after Item 5

#### **14. To confirm items for next newsletter (November edition)**

As winter approaches, please keep culverts on your land flowing freely and report any blockages you notice to the land owner or council. If your property is at risk of flooding make sure you have an emergency plan, are registered to receive warnings and in contact with the local Flood Action Group. We unfortunately need to manage our own flood risk.

Wet and windy weather has left our pavements very slippery, particularly along our routes to school. Lancashire County Council has been asked to clear these but budgets are incredibly tight at the County and it is not known when the work will be completed. If everybody could keep the section outside their home swept it would make an enormous difference, but please don't brush the leaves into grids. If you notice any blocked grids and cannot clear them yourself please use Lancashire County Council Report It system to get them logged for maintenance.

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/fault-search.aspx>

This can be used to report any road or pavement problems, including damaged surfaces and potholes.

Sparky, the missing ginger cat has returned home, after three weeks, clearly dehydrated and hungry but otherwise well. At a guess he was locked in somewhere. His owner thanks everyone who looked for him and supported her whilst he was missing. Total strangers have phoned with possible sightings and she believes she has now met every other ginger tomcat in the village too. She added what a great community Parbold Village has to help her in this way.

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

Councillors asked to discuss the newly installed SPIDs at a future meeting.

Cllr Wess left the meeting at 8.40pm.

Cllr Bailey left the meeting at 8:45pm.

#### **16. 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 the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda.**

Resolved.

#### **17. Consider projects for Community Infrastructure monies**

The meeting resolved to spend the CIL on refurbishment of the play areas at Burnside and Parbold Village Hall. Quotations will be obtained. Any proposal to put the money towards a zebra crossing or similar was rejected.

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

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*Chairman - Cllr B Arnold*

*3rd November 2017*