

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.45 pm on Friday 8th January 2016 in Parbold Village Hall, The Green, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

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

There were twelve members of the public present and Borough Councillor Whittington,

**1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Arnold and Cllr Schaffel.

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared.

**3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th December 2015**

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.**

There was a discussion involving all present about the floods on Boxing Day.

A member of the public pointed out that her household insurance required power-washing of garden furniture because the water was not clean and asked if the play area equipment required similar treatment. The Clerk responded that the area had been inspected the day after the flooding and no issues raised, however, the question will be asked of the play area inspection company to ensure it is safe.

**5. Update on Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre**

Paul Quirk provided an update on activity since last meeting on 6th October 2015. He had also met with Rosie Cooper MP who is fully aware of the issues and will continue to assist where possible, including six-monthly meetings with United Utilities. Lack of weekend staff at WLBC was raised, particularly when United Utilities, after stating they never plan work for weekends, has in fact, done major a major clean down of the inlet area over a weekend. A mismatch on the reporting records kept by WLBC and UU reveals again that a single reporting point is essential. There had been no odour problem reported over the last two months. WLBC confirmed that they had asked UU if the minutes of their regular meetings could be shared with the Parish Council and were awaiting a response; the minutes may contain commercial sensitive issues.

WLBC were also arranging for a repeat site visit by their consultant to review progress. The request to visit the Skelmersdale site needs to be followed up as soon as weather improves,

but currently many staff are dealing with flooding problems. A maintenance update has been received from United Utilities.

**6. To discuss the problem of flooding of the railway subway**

The Meeting heard that the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Arnold had met with representatives of United Utilities & Northern Rail and that they had agreed the water would be pumped away but this had not yet happened. Borough Councillor Blake told the meeting she had corresponded with Mr Andy Tallon of Northern Rail and was currently awaiting his follow-up. The matter had been reported to Northern Rail - Reference Number NR 466248. There were concerns in particular because two school-girls had been witnessed taking a chance by running across the rails when the barriers were down because they couldn't use the flooded subway.

It was resolved to write to Northern Rail to complain in the strongest terms and copy the letter to Rosie Cooper MP.

**7. To arrange Public Meeting to discuss major floods in Parbold**

Cllr Sue Holland's report was circulated and considered most helpful by the meeting.

It was agreed to form a small group of Parish Councillors to meet and discuss the way forward with residents who have been affected. The group established as Cllr Sue Holland, Cllr Ros Wess, Cllr John Stewart, Carol Mawdsely, Paul Quirk, Jonathan Banks and Emma O'Neill. If possible a meeting will take place on Monday 11th January 2016. This group will formulate and distribute a questionnaire to gather information about the event.

The Parish Council will then arrange a public meeting one evening in February if possible, with the preferred venue of Parbold WI Hall, inviting Environment Agency, WLBC, LCC, Northern Rail, United Utilities to attend. The Clerk was asked to add Rosie Cooper MP to the guest list.

**8. Village Hall Issues - update on fire doors and replacement windows**

It was resolved to spend £7,330 plus VAT as this quotation includes the small hall door as well but to request that the PCA pay the additional £1,475 to ensure the doors are brown on the outside and white on the inside to fit in with village hall decor.

Cllr Bailey updated the meeting that Southern Electric are processing payment of feed-in tariff from the solar panels.

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

301215	E A Broad	Salary (December 2015)	s.o.	£718.46
161215	B Rawsthorpe	Groundwork at Alder Lane	2556	£601.00
161215	John Stewart	Gravel drainage at Bramble Way car park	2557	£200.00
080116	PCA	Room hire village hall	2558	£25.50

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

The following cheques were cancelled:

021215	Fields in Trust	Annual subscription	2549	£25.00
080116	Fields in Trust	Annual subscription - total due £50	2559	£25.00

The Fields In Trust (FIT) annual subscription had doubled from £25 to £50 and the Parish Council resolved not to renew on this occasion and to cancel the above cheques.

**10. To propose scheme for WLBC Capital Grant**

It was resolved to apply for £5,000 towards a total spend of £10,000 on a scheme to create a better playing surface and improve facilities at Alder Lane Playing Fields, unless a suitable scheme to assist drainage is established before the application closing date.

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

Ref. No: 2015/1234/FUL - Two storey rear extension with covered terrace. Brierley House  
19C Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG

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

For information:-

Ref. No: 2015/1296/NMA Non-material amendments to planning permission 2014/0731/FUL  
- Alteration to single storey extension to lounge and alterations to bedroom windows above.  
Newstead Stoney Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7AF

For information: Neighbouring application Apply Bridge Biomass to Energy Application will be decided by committee at Lancashire County Council on 20th January 2016. Comments from Parbold Parish Council have been put to the Committee (regarding position of the proposed factory) It was agreed that Cllr Holland attend the meeting if require to speak on behalf of Parbold Parish Council.

**12. To discuss LCC reduction in library services and bus service**

A parish-run bus service was considered unfeasible. Assistance to a volunteer-led library service may be considered should closure be the only other option. Meanwhile the Parish Council will continue to encourage people to use the service and object to closure.

Cllr Murrin-Bailey left the meeting at 9.35 pm.

Additionally, the Parish Council will comment on the current consultation and ask if LCC can divulge to what extent per journey the bus service is underfunded as there may be a way of seeking out the shortfall to continue some form of service. The revenue could be generated locally by the users. Travellers currently spend money in Ormskirk and

Skelmersdale, but if they cannot get there it will have an impact on retail businesses. In addition there are concerns about depression and loneliness which can be exacerbated by a feeling of isolation and loss of independence created by no public transport system.

**13. Items raised by Councillors:**

- **Update on WLBC litterbins**

A list of locations for forty WLBC waste bins had now been obtained. When time allows, these will be checked for any maintenance requirements.

- **Consider maintenance at the dry dock near Mill Leat**

Cllr Stewart requested that this item be deferred. It was mentioned that the graving dock might make a useful flood balancing lake if engineered for collecting overflow of water.

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

Cllr Holland requested further discussion of flooding problems.

**15. 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**

**16. Update on Lengthsman Contract**

The following was clarified:

**Litter-picking Contract:**

Andrew Larkin, 01257 463444 larkin673@btinternet.com. 34 Greenfield Avenue, WN8 7DH

**Schedule of work:**

Litter-picking around The Common, shops, car park and roadside (front and back along Brandreth Drive) and around Parbold Village Hall (including car park and play area) for a period of four hours per week.

Litter-picking around Bramble Way car park for two hours per month.

Please inform the clerk by email or text if the paper-banks on The Common car park are full or if you see there is any fly-tipping on any of the parish council land (car parks or Alder Lane Playing Fields).

Rubbish can be deposited in the bins at the rear of the Village Hall.

Parish Council will provide a litter-picker, gloves and dog poo bags.

Parish Council will pay for hi-viz jacket, selected by Mr Larkin to ensure fit and suitability.

Rate of pay is £8 per hour. Payment of £144 every four weeks, or £146.67 every calendar month. Payment on receipt of invoice. Contractor, responsible for own tax arrangements.

**Insurance:**

To be covered by the parish council insurance Mr Larkin must be under a contract of service to the council and not work for anyone else.

**Gerri Sutherland - Cert CII** Zurich Town, Parish and Community Councils

The Clerk was asked to enquire if the PCA, in the spirit of combined working, could allow the lengthsman to put the little rubbish he collects into the bins at the village hall that they pay for emptying. Of course, if the amount increases the load so much that charges rise, the Parish Council will pay the additional amount.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm.

---

**Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold**

**5th February 2016**