

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 5th February 2016
in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey and Cllr Shaffel.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 8th January 2016

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 told the meeting that he now had a copy of the minutes of the WLBC and United Utilities monthly meetings, covering the last ten months.

Councillor Aaron Body, Up Holland Parish Council introduced a proposal for a parish run bus service to follow a similar route to the current 3A bus route

County Councillor Westley attended to explain the budget process currently progressing at Lancashire County Council. It was hoped that many issues of concern will be clarified following the next meeting on the 11th February 2016.

5. Flooding problems: Follow up from Flooding Road-Show & Finalise Arrangements for Public Meeting on 29th February 2016

It was agreed to formally request representatives of United Utilities, WLBC, LCC, Environment Agency, Railtrack and Rosie Cooper MP to attend this meeting.

It was resolved to share information from the questionnaires with LCC Flood Management Team headed by Rachael Crompton.

6. Update on problem of flooding of the railway subway

The underpass is frequently flooded, cleared and flooded again. It was resolved to seek assurance from Railtrack that the drains are adequate and clear.

7. Village Hall Issues - update on

- **fire doors**

As the PCA had declined to pay the extra £1,750.00 to ensure the doors match the colour of the hall, it was resolved to add this to the parish funding so that the project can be completed properly.

- **replacement windows**

Update deferred to next meeting.

- **heating system**

Following several complaints that the heating in the main hall was not working, a service was arranged and it was agreed to install a new programming board with a simple button operating system.

8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

300115	E A Broad	Salary (January 2016)	s.o.	£718.46
050216	Post Office Ltd	NI for 3 months	2560	£43.11
050216	Helping Hand Co Ltd	Litter picking kit	2561	£31.19*
050216	Yates Playgrounds	Inspections 260116		£69.60*
050216	Yates Playgrounds	Repairs done in November 2015		£357.60*
050216	Yates Playgrounds	Power-washing Burnside		£552.00*
		Total	2562	£979.20*
050216	Parbold WI	Room hire 050216	2563	£24.00
050216	Best Kept Village	Entry Fee	2564	£25.00

*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To confirm budget for 2016/7 and audit arrangements for 2015/6

It was resolved to set the precept request at £33,637.00 in the hope that the council tax support grant will increase the total amount received to £35,000 as the amount of money determined by the budget required to the general day-to-day running of this council over the period of one year.

The meeting heard that the Audit Commission is no longer in place to conduct annual audit however, the new system for parish councils with a precept over £25,000 remains very similar and this council resolved not to opt out. It was agreed to request Sandra Jones (Newburgh Parish Clerk) to conduct an internal audit, with the external audit being conducted by the Small Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd.

10. Update on Capital Grant applications

It was confirmed to apply for £5k towards a total £10k spend on work at Alder Lane Playing Fields to be used to upgrade the playing surface of the football field and to include fencing and cctv or similar security. More time will be requested to complete the speed indicator device scheme.

11. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2015/1234/FUL

Location: Brierley House, 19C Tan House Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HG,

Proposal: Two storey rear extension with terrace

Parish Council Response: The Parish Council has concerns that the roofing style is such that the relatively small extension actually appears overbearing and obtrusive to the neighbouring property. All development, particular garden infill should ensure adequate drainage provision.

Application Number: 2016/0058/FUL

Location: 4 Burnside, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7PD

Proposal: First floor side extension to detached dwelling, also new pitched roof to kitchen.

Parish Council Response: There is no objection to this proposal. However, the Parish Council wishes to point out that this housing estate suffered extensive flooding on Boxing Day 2015. This particular property is of lower risk as it is higher than many of the neighbouring properties. In view of this risk however, every effort should be made to retain as much grassed area as possible. Building and paving should be avoided where possible, or at least the loss of drainage land should be, in some other way, mitigated.

The Clerk was asked to direct Councillors to the current position of the Local Plan review process and, at the next opportunity, reiterate the Parish Council's that infill building should not be permitted due to the infrastructure and drainage problems in the village.

12. Update following LALC Area Committee meeting on LCC reductions in library services and bus service

The meeting heard the proposal presented by Up Holland Parish Council for a system of bus service to replace the 3a service. The written proposal was distributed and discussed. The intention to use volunteer drivers provided via Job Centre system of providing unemployed people with work experience was of interest. The lack of financial information and statistics was of concern. The meeting heard that Burscough and Newburgh Parish Councils had shown interest in the project. The proposal is to set up a limited company with steering committee taken from the parish councils to sit as directors. Some paid employees would be

required, an office, money may be generated from retailers in the area to be serviced by the buses and £25k per year for four years was promised by LCC.

The meeting resolved to support the proposal in principal but reserved joining the group until full details of required contribution are made clear. Currently, the proposal does not detail how ambitious the project will be. This Parish Council wishes to await the decisions of the 11th February 2016 budget meeting of LCC

The rumour of closure of Parbold Library was again discussed with a request that LCC be asked to specify whether the library is to be closed or remain open.

13. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Consider maintenance at the dry dock near Mill Leat and adjoining land**

Cllr Stewart presented to the meeting a proposal that the Parish Council consider how best to improve this area. WLBC own the dry dock and surrounds and may consider allowing the Parish Council to rent the area however then the liability should things go wrong would be high. Cllr Holland's excellent paper on the Boxing Day flood describes this area as possible site for overflow. However the graving dock is higher than the canal at this point so flooding into it may raise the water level of the canal. The Graving Dock is a listed structure but we ought to ask that it is re-graded as a Grade 2 listed building so that we can do something about it if it is not adequately maintained.

With regard to the Boxing Day flood, Cllr Stewart proposes that we require a Public Inquiry with a judge in charge to subpoena people to attend.

Cllr Stewart then informed the meeting that he has, personally, set up a flood charity called The Douglas Valley Flood and Distress Charity. He distributed a copy of the draft constitution and invited comment. There is an intention to work closely with Rufford Parish on this pursuit.

- **Cllr Stewart - proposal to address road safety issues**

Deferred to next meeting, awaiting further information.

- **Cllr Wess - a celebration to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday**

It was resolved that a mid-week, daytime event be planned to coincide with national celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. Cllr Wess will lead the organisation for this event, which may follow similar lines to the WWI commemoration event and include contribution from the two primary schools.

14. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Councillors will email the Clerk with any issues they wish to raise.

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

Resolved

16. To apprise Councillors of the play area repairs and painting

The play equipment repairs were complete, with power-washing of the equipment at Burnside following the flooding. Further enquiry will be made to ensure that the quotations for painting are all based on the written specification and the cheapest estimate will be pursued.

17. To determine appropriate system and costs for road speed cameras

It was resolved to devolve decision making in this instance to the Chairman and Clerk to chose a suitable system that can be installed within the remaining time for the project completion. The three units to be installed in the following positions:

- The Common - outside Parbold Village Hall and/or along the top section approaching Lancaster Lane.
- Tan House Lane - half way down
- Alder Lane - near The Wayfarer

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

Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold

4th March 2016