

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 1st July 2016 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

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

In recognition of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme the Chairman led a minute's silence.

**1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey. The Chairman apprised the meeting of the resignation of Cllr Murrin-Bailey and a casual vacancy was declared. The Clerk was asked to forward good wishes and thank her for her work on the council.

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared.

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

Members of the Flood Action Group attended to introduce themselves: Rab McDonald, Chairman and Jeff Smith Vice-Chairman spoke about the work they had done so far. Affiliated with the National Flood Forum, and with several connections locally and nationally with other related groups. There was some disappointment that local councils were not as co-operative as hoped, but those present suggested using local Borough and County Councillors as liaison to ensure council officers assist.

Two main medium term objectives were finding who has responsibility for the cleaning of the pipes attached to the road gullies - and the corroded flaps over the outlets from the Broadmead estate into the River Douglas. The group has a constitution, aims and objectives but not yet, a bank account.

The meeting heard that DEFRA funding would go to the flood authority ie Lancashire County Council, not a Flood Action Group. LCC, as the lead flood authority, will produce a report about the flooding this year, but this is a slow process with so many parts of Lancashire affected. County Councillor Westley has been in conversation with the report-writers to ensure that they listen to the accounts of residents, and not only what agencies have to say. He is more than happy to meet with the Flood Group.

Flooding in other areas of the parish - Lancaster Lane and on The Common was still a problem. The meeting heard that LCC staff confirmed the problem at Lancaster Lane is due to insufficient pipe-work and that the work is scheduled when funds are available.

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

Cllr Wess had produced a written report for the meeting. The Parish Council was asked to support residents who applied in April for Flood resilience Grants and are still waiting for the funding to come through. Also, to enquire why residents who were not flooded on this occasion but were in the past cannot access the flood resilience grant. The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council cannot ask WLBC without details of the individual cases. Cllr Blake, as Borough Councillor will take this issue on board.

Cllr Arnold and Cllr Westley agreed to meet with the Flood Action Group.

The Parish Council want to help the Flood Action Group achieve some of the practical aims. It was suggested that quotes be obtained to see how much it would cost to repair the flaps, clear the gullies, jet wash the pipes to remove silt and introduce additional measures. The Parish Council will maintain pressure on the flood authority to obtain the report in a reasonable time and the various agencies where they have responsibility to keep the water flowing.

The Flood Action Group need to look at the detail of what is required, so there is a clarity of basic objectives. However, it was appreciated that the experts working in the flood authority are unable to do this quickly, so volunteers with a flood action group cannot be expected to do so, they are also still dealing with living with portable toilets, skips and uninhabitable homes.

Whilst the Parish Council can lobby county and borough councils, all are short of money and maintenance has been non-existence. The funding options appear to be from DEFRA and payable to the lead flood authority, LCC. The Parish Council will lobby to ensure that Parbold is not forgotten by the Flood Authority and gets a fair share of DEFRA funding.

With regard to Lancaster Lane, LCC will be asked how much funding is envisaged as necessary to supply the new piping. However, this information may not be available as the extent of the work has not been assessed. As it involves road-works, only the highway authority (LCC) has responsibility and permission to do this work.

It was noted that the drains and gullies along The Common were cleaned out but are again full of debris and cleaning out needs doing again. A lot of these areas would be alleviated if residents cleaned the section of road outside their homes and removed leaves, flowers and grit as it finds its way into the drains blocking them.

There is still a severe risk of recurrence with summer rain fall expected to be quite heavy. It is essential to keep Dock Brook clear, and although the railway authorities

were not co-operative, they have done some work on the drainage beneath the track. Where Alder Brook comes under the railway is not big enough to take a heavy volume of water and it is full of stones, so this needs urgent attention. A longer term plan to identify areas along the brook that could be flooded to store excess water might be pursued with funding.

The Flood Action Group Chairman thanked the Parish Council for taking the matter so seriously.

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

230616	Willo Deli Ltd	Catering for Queen's luncheon	2592	£249.60
240616	Argus Fire & Security	Intruder alarm after new windows	2593	£145.44
270616	E A Broad	Clerk's salary	s.o.	£741.83
010716	Parbold WI	Room hire for 010716	2594	£30.00
010716	Cash (for Cllr Wess)	Reimbursement for Queen's lunch	2595	£11.20
010716	B Rawsthorne	Grass cutting (June 2016)	2596	£552.00
010716	Parbold WI	Room hire for Queens Luncheon	2597	£28.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

#### **7. To note internal audit report, implement recommendations and amend the Fixed Asset Column on the Audit Return**

The internal auditor's report was presented to Council with agreement to implement the recommendations made. The figure written on the audit papers representing fixed assets owned by the Council was amended from £1,175,961 to £1,17,980 and approved for submission to the External Auditor.

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

- **To respond to noise complaints from Greenfield Avenue resident**

The emailed complaints about noise from the village hall and the PCA letter responding to these complaints were distributed.

The Clerk was instructed to respond to the resident, that the Parish Council does not run the activities at the village hall and his complaints should be addressed to the Parbold Community Association, with referral to WLBC Environmental Health if appropriate.

The Clerk was also asked to request again that the PCA remind hall users to open the doors in the event of emergency only. Whilst at the car park end of the hall, a limited amount of use for access could be envisaged, they are still emergency doors for use in the event of fire, not for ventilation and the doors at the play ground end of

the hall, which are in the close vicinity of numbers 1 and 3 Greenfield Avenue, should not be opened at all. The meeting noted the PCA's assertion that the hall requires ventilation following installation of the new doors but note also the recent, seemingly contradictory complaints that the hall is too cold.

At the present time no councillor was available to attend additional liaison meeting, though Cllr Butts will continue to attend PCA meetings as liaison between them and the Parish Council.

- **To consider play area tree and hedge maintenance issues raised by Greenfield Avenue resident**

The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident that the trees had recently been cut and there was no intention at present to cut them again until the end of the growing season (around October). If the resident wishes they can then be cut beneath the height of the fencing. Any additional cuts cannot be funded from the public purse, so would have to be paid for by the resident if they are done at their request.

- **Update on painting the play equipment**

It was resolved to await the ROSPA report, due in August 2016 before deciding whether to repaint the play area equipment.

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

- **Playing Field pitches**

Great concern was voiced about the Parbold Show being on the playing fields following such a prolonged period of heavy rain. It was resolved to mitigate any risk to the playing surface and the drains beneath, by insisting that no heavy vehicles go onto the pitches and that the marquees are lifted into place from the car park rather than the delivery vehicle driven onto the grass.

The Clerk was instructed to request a copy of the organizer's insurance clearly showing that any playing field damage will be recompensed upon a claim.

- **Capital Grant Scheme for football pitch maintenance, fencing and cctv**

The meeting noted the agreement with WLBC for funding towards this project and a timescale for completion, with quotations will be made available at the next meeting.

#### **10. Parbold Library - update following expression of interest**

The information pack was received one hour before the meeting so there was insufficient time to read through and discuss in any detail. However it was discussed in general terms.

It was noted that the brook at the side of the library is also part of the land that would be transferred.

It was agreed that any transfer of service or land would require a detailed business plan to be drawn up and the next stage would be to get together a working group of volunteers who could take this project forward. A notice will be put on the notice-board to call for volunteers to work as an independent charity.

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

Proposal: Alterations and extension to Grade II Listed dwelling and felling of trees. Application Number: 2016/0296/FUL Location: Manor Cottage, Miry Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7TA,

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Alterations and extension to Grade II Listed dwelling and felling of trees. Application Number: 2016/0297/LBC Location: Manor Cottage, Miry Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7TA

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council objects to this proposal because the development cannot be done without losing the historical integrity of this building of archaeological significance. There are significant surrounding woodlands and a bat survey ought to be undertaken. Any trees should not be disturbed between March and August because of nesting birds.

Application Number 2016/0274/FUL Scarrig, Parbold Hill

Proposal: erection of two storey side extension with garage below including access ramp railings and balustrade.

Parish Council Response: The amendment to this application is noted, however, there remain concerns that this property may be substantially altered and development should not be detrimental to the surrounding greenbelt, conservation area.

Reference number: 2016/0616/FUL - 9 Tan House Lane

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and erection of attached garage to front. Two storey extension to rear, single storey side extension, internal alterations to provide larger kitchen/utility area and other alterations to front and side of dwelling.

Parish Council Comments: Parbold Parish Council strongly objects to this proposal. The garage referred to has in fact already been demolished, so part of the application is, in fact, retrospective. Removal of this garage provides access for building behind the property which is opposed.

The original application was refused as it conflicts with Policy EN2 Dev Plan 2012/2027 - para 118 - Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.

The danger to pedestrians especially school children still exists if this development goes ahead, this is a 20mph road with heavy traffic. On Brandreth Drive, properties abutting this area have recently had their gardens flooded (Sunday 11th June 2016) and the water clearly comes from the land at 9 Tan House Lane; to add further development to a flood risk area is obviously foolhardy.

**12. To consider road side grass verge maintenance**

It was resolved to write to homes on Lancaster Lane to inform residents that the grass verges may not be cut in future and request volunteers to do this instead.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the publican at the Railway public house to request that the trees on the grass verge at the rear of their land be pruned.

**13. Items raised by Councillors:**

- **Speed Indicator Devices**

The project is making progress.

- **Items for inclusion in the next newsletter**

Information about the reduction in grass verge cutting and a request for volunteers to form a business plan for Parbold Library. Also thank the group of volunteers who put hanging baskets on Parbold Station.

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

Cllr Blake - parking on Lancaster Lane, servicing the schools is again problematic, it was agreed to put this issue on the agenda in September.

The next meeting will be on the second Friday of September (9th) to accommodate the Parbold Street Festival during the first week. Apologies were offered by Cllr Wess and Cllr Arnold.

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

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Cllr Brian Arnold - Chairman

9th September 2016