

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parbold Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 9th September 2016 in Parbold Village Hall, The Green, Parbold, WN8 7DN.**

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

**1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Schaffel

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared

**3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 1st July 2016**

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

**4. To Co-opt new Member of the Council, hear acceptance of office and declaration**

Sarah Carruthers was co-opted as a new member of the council. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

**5. 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, as a local resident commented on the Parbold Street Festival congratulating Parbold Unlimited for running such a successful event for local residents and the children of the village. He felt that Parbold Unlimited didn't get sufficient recognition for their work and had little support from the Parish Council. It was pointed out that there had been no request for funding, only a request for a letter of support. This year's event was put on without the Arts Council grant obtained for the first year and it was anticipated that funding will be required for September 2017 event.

County Councillor David Westley updated the meeting on flooding issues around Broadmead estate. LCC were not responsible for the failing non-return valves as they belong to the company owning the freehold of the ground there. However, an engineering report suggests that solving that issue would not, by itself, solve the problem. They are positioned too low down to be effective so there is a fundamental design problem and it isn't possible to say who is to blame for that.

The Council asked if here is anything they can do to get some work completed before winter, to avoid repetition of the flooding last winter. LCC have issued a work order for repairing the pipe around 5 weeks ago. No proactive cleaning and only

remedial works are done otherwise. The gullies and grids on The Common have been reported but not cleaned out yet.

Cllr Westley added that he had written to thank LCC for road works being done and, at the same time, referred to the anticipated Flood Report highlighting that an increased budget will be required to deal with the recommendations..

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

The group has drawn up a list of residents who have particular needs should flooding occur so that extra assistance can be provided..

It was suggested that "Aquaforce" or "Aquaflow", tubing that inflates to 2 ft high be investigated as if sufficient could be bought, perhaps 3 or 4 hundred yards around the bank of the River Douglas, could be used for home protection.

The meeting heard that the Environment Agency had installed a flooding mechanism, with a pumping station manned by volunteers at Eccleston. Croston have organised water meadows but they have the space to do this. A new flood plain for Dock Brook should be considered. Though it is appreciated that the route of Dock Brook offers places for flooding organising the flooding could create a problem elsewhere. Specialist engineering opinion is needed and then organisation of legal responsibilities for installation of any structures and assistance from the landowners.

County Councillor Westley agreed to talk with Rachel Crompton LCC to continue dialogue with Network Rail to alleviate flooding problems from the railway line.

The Flood Action Group have sent out a report to Rosie Cooper MP because the group have no funding to do anything more. It was agreed that a copy will be sent to the Parish Council in around a week or so.

The Parish Council agreed to fund the group if there is any quantifiable secretarial, administrative costs. It was noted that the Environment Agency would fund any action if the Flood Authority (LCC) does it.

It was agreed that Dock Brook needs attention and the Parish Council agreed to write to LCC and WLBC to ask that it is kept clear of debris to reduce flood risk. Also the Clerk was asked to add the question of whether the surrounding extensive wetland area could be deliberately flooded by inserting some structure to feed heavy rainfall there rather than overflow from the brook towards housing.

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

270716	E A Broad	Clerk's salary	s.o.	£741.83
300816	E A Broad	Clerk's salary	s.o.	£741.83
090916	B Rawsthorpe	Grass cutting (July 2016)	2599	£1,282.00
090916	BDO	External Audit	2600	£240.00

090916	OPSTA	Annual subscription	2601	£10.00
090916	Community Futures	Annual subscription	2602	£30.00
090916	Eccleston FC	Return deposit for keys	2603	£25.00
090916	ROSPA	Annual play area safety check	2604	£163.80*
090916	B Rawsthorne	Grass cutting (August 2016)	2605	£ 398.00
090916	Post Office Counters	National Insurance payments (x3)	2606	£48.78
090916	PCA	Room hire for 9th Sept 2016	2607	£ 34.00

Recent deposit: SSE Energy supply £176.88 ( 3 months solar panel feed in tariff)

**Balance as at 31st August 2016**

**Current Account: £51.06      Business High Interest Account: £94,230.26**

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment

**8. To note external audit report, implementing any recommendations**

The External Audit report a received with no areas of concern raised.

**9. Village Hall Issues:-**

An application for funding for heating/ventilation in the main hall is being made to the Flood Resilience Fund as Parbold is an area subject to flooding and the village hall could be used in extreme emergency as a meeting point.

The resident's concern about the hedgerow was again discussed, with the conclusion that the hedgerow could be cut down below the fencing if the residents agree, so that there is absolutely no encroachment or growth into gardens. However, this may increase noise from the play area and possible encourage items being thrown over The Council asked the Clerk to invite the resident to suggest what they prefer.

It was resolved to organise an October liaison meeting it PCA Members.

**10. Alder Lane Issues:-**

- **Playing Field pitches - progress of WLBC Protection Order**

The meeting heard that WLBC had not considered Alder Lane Playing Fields for a dog exclusion order as the Portfolio Holder was unaware that the Parish Council felt there was a need for one. Cllr Whittington informed the Clerk that the list had been drawn up in Council meeting. The Clerk requested that the Portfolio Holder consider the site for a Dog Order and it was agreed that it could be added to consultation for a Dog Order requiring that dogs be kept on a lead if crossing the Playing Fields.

WLBC explained that the areas where we are trying to completely exclude dogs are generally small completely fenced areas for children that contain play equipment. Excluding dogs from these areas is appropriate due to the potential risks and inconvenience associated with fouling and the removal of the potential for children being scared and/or bitten. These areas will generally be a part of a larger area where dogs can be exercised without restrictions.

The restriction being proposed for larger areas is that dogs will be required to be kept on a lead. These areas have specific areas nearby where dogs can be exercised without restriction. However, WLBC is a little concerned about the lack of alternative suitable space nearby. The guidance from the Home Office specifically states that under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, owners of dogs are required to provide for the welfare needs of their animals. It also requires that Councils should be aware of the publicly accessible parks and other public places in their areas which dog walkers can use to exercise their dogs without restrictions. Some dogs need to run and need sufficient space for this to be undertaken properly.

The Clerk was asked to point out that Alder Lane Playing Fields are not appropriate for the running of dogs, and that there are open areas close by as well as the footpath, there is a large meadow to one side of the pitches.

Cllr Wess left the meeting at 9pm.

- **Capital Grant Scheme update**

**Eccleston said it was too expensive**

- **update on condition of fields after festival**

Following the Parbold Show the football field has been left in poor state in terms of deeps ruts cause by permitting HGV access. The water in the changing rooms was left running and the keys has still not been returned to the Chairman. The gate was left unlocked and the chain securing it was missing. There are signs of damage to the bolt on the gate that were not evident before.

It was agreed to give a little more time for reinstatement but football season had begun and one team had rejected use of the field already.

The Clerk was asked to invite Steve Morgan to the next parish council meeting so that the issues could be discussed in full.

As there is capital funding to use on this field, contractors will be contacted to supply quotations for repair.

- **Confirmation of ownership of second Interpretation Board**

It was resolved that the Parish Council will pay the invoice for provision of the interpretation board which will become the property of the parish council and be

added to the asset register. The money collected to purchase the board will be transferred from Parbold Wildlife Group to the Parish Council.

### **11. Play Areas:**

- **Receive annual ROSPA report and implement any recommendations**

The reports were distributed to Councillors and contents noted.

### **12. Parbold Library - update following submission of expression of interest**

The application form had been completed and submitted and was currently under consideration by Lancashire County Council.

There were gaps in knowledge and unfortunately whilst there are many wanting to keep the library, no-one really has the time to personally devote to running it.

The Parish Council resolved to assist and support any group or individual proposing a suitable business plan.

It was agreed to request that the building be registered as a community asset with WLBC.

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

Reference Number: 2016/0833/FUL

Location: 27 Lindley Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7ED

Proposal: First floor extension to the property comprising the raising of the eaves. single storey side extension.

Parish Council Response no objection

Reference Number: 2016/0825/FUL

Location: Bowling Green Barn Broadhey Lane High Moor Wroughtington Wigan Lancashire WN6 9BD

Proposal: Single storey extension to be used as a garden room.

Parish Council Response: All existing windows are wood they say they may use aluminium coated in anthracite grey for the extension, as this is green belt I would ask that they put in wood.

Reference Number: 2016/0733/FUL

Location: 26 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DA

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear and side extension to garden room, kitchen, utility and porch

Parish Council Response: no objection.

Reference Number: 2016/0719/FUL

Location: 59 Brandreth Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HB

Proposal: Single Storey rear extension

Parish Council Response: no objection.

The following decisions were noted:

Reference Number: 2016/0714/FUL

Location: 2 Tan House Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HG

Planning permission granted for single storey kitchen extension on the gable wall of the property

Reference Number: 2016/0234/FUL

Location: 9 Tan House Lane

Planning permission granted for four houses on the land at the rear of the property decided by committee in meeting on 28th July despite the Parish Council Objection presented in meeting and the objections from neighbours.

Parish Council objection:

1. The application site lies towards the foot of the hillside descending from Parbold Hill towards the village. Water runs down the hillside, and in storm conditions (such as Boxing Day 2015) there is a great deal of surface water which flows above ground. The open garden ground between Tan House Lane and Alderbrook Drive has an important function in allowing surface water to soak away. The Environment Agency has identified a water route (a potential stream) which runs through it. Even with the current extent of open ground, there is often an excess of surface water which floods gardens in Alderbrook Drive and on both sides of Brandreth Drive at its lower end. Around ten properties here were significantly flooded last December, and three properties in June. The surface water sewer system is inadequate in flood conditions.

If the proposed houses are built, a great deal of the site would be built over with hard surfaces - roofs, paving and roads - increasing the amount and speed of runoff, and reducing the amount of ground able to absorb rainwater coming down the hill. Flooding could be expected to be significantly worse, and more frequent.

The current infrastructure cannot cope with the amount of water now. The Parish Council do not share United Utilities confidence that the system will manage when grass is replaced with four houses. even if soak-away measures are introduced.

2. The proposal includes a roadway which would pass behind houses in Tan House Lane, and would form a junction onto Tan House Lane between Nos.7 and 9. The junction would be quite close to the existing junction of Brandreth Drive between No.5 (the Vicarage) and No.1. Tan House Lane is relatively narrow in this lower stretch, and has a footway only on one side. The footway forms the route from the village to Parbold Douglas Primary School on Lancaster Lane, and in the morning and afternoon is busy with families, small children and pushchairs. The new junction would interrupt the footway, close to the existing junction with Brandreth Drive, making another crossing point to be negotiated.



Cars frequently park on this stretch of TanHouse Lane, for drivers to visit the shops on The Common, where the car park is often full. The proposed junction would create potential conflict with vehicle movements on TanHouse Lane, at a point where visibility is reduced by parked cars, and the road is at its narrowest. The new junction would encourage drivers to park their cars on the pavement, which is unsafe for pedestrians. Highway safety would be reduced, and inconvenience increased by the scheme, which would bring additional traffic including delivery vehicles crossing the footway.

3. The proposed new service road would pass very closely alongside the existing house at No.9, and round the back of it: so that the house would be surrounded by roads on 3 sides. This would be disturbing to residents: a classic worst feature of backhand development. The existing house at No.7 would also be exposed on the full length of its side garden to noise and disturbance from all the traffic movements into and out of the development. Existing houses at Nos.11 and 13 would also receive some noise and disturbance at the rear. At present, these are pleasantly peaceful (stylish, detached) properties, among the best in the village. The quality of their environment would be severely reduced by this scheme.

4. A number of previously existing mature trees on the site have already been felled to expose it for development. The proposal threatens others. Bats have been identified on the site and the application has ignored procedural requirements with regard to these protected species (other objectors will deal with this legal matter). The undeveloped land with its trees and ground cover is a valuable oasis and corridor for wildlife, which would be severely reduced and damaged by the proposed development.

#### **14. Items raised by Councillors:**

- **Speed Indicator Devices**

The subcommittee will be meeting to finalise the installation of one or two fixed units because mobile units will require supervision by volunteers and there were none available.

- **Lancaster Lane parking at school times**

The meeting heard that the sign reminding drivers not to park dangerously had been effective, though one had been stolen.

Consideration will be given to erecting a permanent sign if the land owners agree. The wall to the convent might be a convenient place for such a sign.

The clerk was asked to request that PCSO Dave Benson attend occasionally if at all possible as a police presence does deter poor parking.

- **Items for inclusion in the next newsletter (October)**

This September the Council welcomed new member Sarah Carruthers filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Sue Murrin-Bailey, who is thanked for all her work on the Council.

Concern for the future of the library, service and building, increased as LCC considered closure. If there are any individuals or groups with ideas for community use, the Parish Council would like to hear from you. The Council can support volunteers to continue the service or replace with a similar community based scheme.

Now back at school, can drivers please take care around Lancaster Lane and Tan House Lane. If taking children to Parbold Douglas, please consider walking and leave the car at home, but if you must drive, do not block local driveways, park on sharp bends, corners or illegally.

Direct rail links to Piccadilly and Manchester Airport are now under threat and residents are urged to support the petition below objecting to the removal of this service.

**<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/defend-rail-services-in-to-manchester-piccadilly>**

Also. a lot of work has gone on at Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre, Hoscar because of complaints received about the odour in Parbold. So please continue to report any odour so that their records are correct and they can use this as evidence to bid for company money for odour reduction:

**<http://unitedutilities.odour.sgizmo.com/s3/>**

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

Cllr Blake - canal moorings at Chapel Lane

Cllr Holland - Houseboat Green Matters is on the electoral register with sheds and a wind turbine - not compatible with a non-residential mooring. Fencing around playing fields for December meeting. Sends apologies for next meeting.

Cllr Bithell - invite Steve Morgan to next meeting. Invite 2 or 3 specific proposals on the flooding with quotes for drainage, brook cleaning, anything that might help the flood action group - work needs doing in November

Cllr Stewart sends apologies for the next two meetings because he is attending the Historical Society meetings.

**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.**

Unanimously agreed.

#### **16. To discuss banking issues, including signatories to the accounts and proposals that banks may charge fees on credit balances**



The meeting noted bank advice that interest rates will drop and interest may even be charged on accounts held in credit. The Council resolved to support the local bank and branch as far as possible and to only consider changing banks if the charges are actually applied. The bank advises that notice will be given before implementing any bank charges. It was resolved to add members as signatories to the account on the bank mandate.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

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**Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold**

**7th October 2016**

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