

# *Parbold Parish Council*

*Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB (Hons), MA, CiLCA  
1 Pinewood, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UZ  
Tel: 01695 557678 Mob: 07973 340254  
e-mail: parboldpc.clerk@yahoo.com*

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council which will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd February 2017 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA**

Present: Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Butts, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Holland, Cllr Schaffel.

Cllr Bithell took the Chair and opened the meeting by reading an extract from an email from Parbold Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Brian Arnold, in relation to the tragic sudden loss of their teenage grandson. The email thanked residents and friends for their condolences and explained that the family are deeply touched by the support they have received from the community of Parbold.

A minutes silence was then observed in remembrance of Louis Simpson.

## **1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Arnold, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Blake, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Wess,

## **2. To receive declarations of interest**

Cllr Bithell declared an interest in Item 8 - Parbold Scouts

## **3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2017**

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

## **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.**

County Councillor Westley was asked if the Conservatives take control of LCC in the next election, will Parbold Library be re-opened. He confirmed that there was an intention to reopen libraries that had been closed but it would not be possible to do so if the building had already been transferred or there was an expression of interest in the building being processed or considered.

Albert Newton, representative of Appley Bridge Football Club and Chairman of the mid Lancashire Junior Football League expressed condolences for the family of Louis Simpson,

who was well known in the league as an Ecclestone player. The League were planning a minutes applause at the start of every match in the county league playing this coming weekend.

Mr Newton requested consideration of a long licence for play at Alder lane Playing Fields, It is an adequate and convenient location and having a team playing there long term would be good for the area as the whole. The licence just offered covers the next 16 months but a licence for five years or so would allow more long term planning. This would enable both the football club and the Parish Council to fulfil a useful guaranteed substantial income and allow more children to play local football. The dates of licence should suit the Football Association and County league times beginning 1st July - 30th June for a five year period to benefit all concerned. Appley Bridge have some local youngsters from Parbold. They have a total of ten junior teams. They shared the playing field with Ecclestone Club last year and accepted their responsibilities and didn't create any problems. The aim really is to have a field licence akin to the one Shevington Sharks have.

#### **5. To hear update on Hoscar Sewage Works - issues of odour problems**

Paul Quirk gave an update following his site visit, accompanied by Cllr Arnold. Some issues continue, with a breakdown recently creating an odour problem in the village. The Skelmersdale site was also visited and there seemed to be fewer odour problems in spite of no obvious cleaning system in place, as vegetation was growing in the tanks. The driving force at Hoscar remains the water quality as the end of the process but with continuous complaint about odour, the staff can use this to bid for more investment in odour control. The plan is to continue to keep close liaison, with assistance from Rosie Cooper MP when required and encourage residents to use the reporting system so that records of the problem are accurately maintained.

#### **6. Parbold Library update**

Parbold Parish Council have submitted an expression in interest. Parbold Unltd drafted a Business Plan that was circulated in advance of this meeting.

The Chairman kept the meeting open to allow discussion with Stephen Morgan of Parbold Unltd and a number of issues were discussed.

It was resolved to continue to the next stage the application for transfer of the asset from LCC to Parbold Parish Council, supported by the management plan produced by the group that will eventually form Myth Makers. The ultimate aim is that a fully repairing lease with a condition of Trustee membership and representation on the Board, with notice of any management change and other general caveats to be discussed. Whilst there is still much to be discussed, this meeting agreed to take this a stage further with LCC. The Clerk was asked to keep County Councillor David Westley informed of progress.

Item 11 - Alder Lane Issues - brought forward.

#### **Item 11 - Alder Lane Issues:-**

- **To consider Appley Bridge Football Club request to use the football pitch**

It was resolved to offer a field licence for Sundays 11am - 1 pm from the 3rd February 2017 - 15th May 2018 for the sum of £300. The field will require resurfacing or upgrading work of some description to be done between June and August and will be used for the Parbold Village Show in July. The full terms and conditions of the licence are recorded separately.

**7. To hear update from Flood Action Group**

Deferred to next meeting.

**8. To consider applications for funding Parbold Scouts**

Cllr Bithell declared an interest in this item and it was moved to the end of the meeting for discussion.

**9. To receive minutes of the budget meeting, implement recommendations, confirm audit arrangements and set level of precept for 2017/18**

The Minutes and budget figures were distributed. The internal audit and financial risk assessment documentation discussed at the budget meeting was accepted.

It was resolved to keep the precept level the same as last year's at £ 33,360, which will, with the Capital Grant Support Grant of £1,557 added very slightly exceeds the requirement of £35,000.

It was resolved to request Sandra Jones, Clerk at Newburgh Parish Council Clerk to complete the internal audit.

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

300117	E A Broad	Clerk's salary	s.o.	£741.83
030217	Eurooffice	Stationery including ink and paper	2643	£134.52*
030217	Parbold WI	Room hire - 030217	2644	£30.00
030217	PCA	Room hire - 200217 budget	2645	£25.50
030217	PCA	Gas safety inspection/certificate	2646	£200.00
030217	E A Broad	Stamps and travel expenses (£7.68 + Garstang for meeting - 70 miles@ 40 p per mile)	2647	£35.68

Includes VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

**11. Alder Lane Issues:-**

- **To consider Appley Bridge Football Club request to use the football pitch**

Discussed above.

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

- **Distribution of notes from PCA Liaison Meeting 16th January 2017**
- **Update regarding the heating system to the main large hall**

It was resolved to agree to be third party contributor for PCA applications for funding on projects for the heating system at Parbold Village Hall. There was concern expressed about how much of a contribution in monetary terms this will amount to, but the Parish Council wishes to assist, not frustrate, applications.

The matter of the room hire for the Flower Club and Douglas Music Society events will not be revisited as it was a goodwill gesture taken at the PCA's discretion that the Parish Council were not party to. However the Parish Council will consider offsetting the additional cost of electricity when the mobile heaters were on hire if electricity supply invoices can be produced to show the amount of the increased cost.

## **13. To confirm project for WLBC Capital Grant Funding**

It was resolved to complete the application form for £5,000 towards a total spend of £10,000 on refurbishment and new equipment at Burnside Play Area.

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

Application Number: 2016/1142/FUL

80 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7EA

Erection of new wall and gates to the front of the property, and alterations and re-skinning to the existing house.

Cllr Bithell declared an interest as a neighbour to the property and took no part in the discussion.

Parbold Parish Council object to this application. We have been told that this is an 'Arts and Crafts' house. If so, its characteristic clay tile roof should not be changed to unsympathetic slate, nor should its chimneys be removed. The removal of the existing hedge and its substitution by an over-dominant wall and high, solid gates would not preserve or enhance the Conservation Area, which features hedges, trees and green verges. The character of the house and surroundings, and of the Conservation Area, would be diminished and harmed by this proposal. At the very least the wall should be set back and an appropriate hedge planted in front of it to soften the mass of the proposed wall; and any gates should be see-through and not solid.

The letter from Mr & Mrs Haigh, Licensees at The Railway Hotel was distributed to Members. The Clerk was instructed to respond and to amend the comments made to West Lancashire Borough Council regarding the height of water in the car park on Boxing Day 2015.

## **15. To consider response to LCC Consultation: Proposed Budget Options**

The document was received and noted.

## **16. Contribution to next PCA newsletter**

The following was agreed:

Parbold Parish Council is your council, elected by the people of Parbold to form a tier of government to act on your behalf on issues that affect the village. They answer consultations from West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council and in doing so represent your best interest, so please ensure they know your views by joining in and coming along to the monthly meetings held usually in the WI Hall on the first Friday of each month, except August.

In the last year the Parish Council has concentrated finances on the Village Hall installing new doors and windows to regenerate and support the wonderful work inside the hall that Parbold Community Association organise.

But is there some way that you can see that the Council could help improve the area around you? We are keen to hear of ideas to enhance the village for residents and visitors alike.

And can you help? Can you volunteer to support one of the groups we already have or perhaps form a new group? There are lots of volunteering opportunities in this village and the Parish Council can help setting up or providing small grant funding for existing groups. Please contact the Clerk for details.

## **17. Items raised by Councillors:-**

- **To review response to Litter Picking Project**

Deferred until the next meeting to allow more time for volunteers to make contact.

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

Councillors will inform the Clerk by email if there are any items for inclusion on a future agenda.

Cllr Holland wondered if anything could be done to help quieten the noise from air conditioning unit on the roof of McColls. It may be a matter for WLBC Environmental Health to consider if it is causing a disturbance.

### **Item 8 To consider applications for funding Parbold Scouts**

Item 8 was returned to and Cllr Bithell left the room for discussion.

It was resolved to pay £250.00 to Parbold Scouts as a Section 137 grant.

Cllr Bithell returned to the Chair.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:15 pm

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*Cllr Brian Arnold - Chairman*

*3rd March 2017*