

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 7.30 pm on Friday 5th April 2019 in Parbold WI Hall.

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Gill, Cllr Holland, Cllr Stopford, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Quirk

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Butts and Cllr Carruthers.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Arnold declared an interest in Planning Applications 2019/0145/FUL & 2019/0228/FUL

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 1st March 2019

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

4. Receipt of Chairman's Annual Report of the Council Year 2018/19

Over the last year there have been changes in the council membership. Councillor Rob Bailey resigned in October 2018 after very long service during which he served as Chairman and Vice Chairman and contributed his particular expertise in local government matters. Paul Quirk, who has spent so much time and effort on behalf of residents regarding the odour problems coming from the Hoscar Sewage Works, was then co-opted onto the Council so that all ten seats are filled.

A major success story was the re-opening of Parbold Library as the Parish Council were instrumental in keeping this facility, following County Councillor Paul Greenall's election and our constant lobbying. Thankfully, the Parish Council registering an interest in the building with LCC forced the County to keep the building in good order so that re-opening was quite straight-forward. We are grateful for the volunteers working in the library and encourage people to use the array of services being provided there.

The precept was again kept at the same level following the budgetary process, allocating the Community Infrastructure Levy payments towards the play areas at Burnside and the village hall. So far, the money has paid for new, maintenance-free benches, litter bins, surfacing under the equipment at the village hall and resurfacing the tarmac pathway leading to the Burnside site. Unfortunately, not all the expected CIL monies have been received but it is understood that these payments are dependent upon the build completion and there have been delays.

At the village hall the decision was taken to install cctv to add to the current burglar alarm system to protect users and the building itself. The new heating system for the small hall was installed using an environment body grant and £3,850 of parish funds, acting as third party contributor. The PCA are very happy with the system which is said to be ideal for the room, so the decision was taken to attempt another similar scheme for the large hall. In December 2018, the budget included an up to £50k spend to support a scheme costing in the region of £110k for a specialised, heating and air conditioning system that can be of equal use for evening concerts and daytime keep-fit or Mum and baby groups. It is hoped that, once installed, the fire doors will remain shut during daytime events so as not to disturb neighbours. The application for the additional £60k is underway and progressing to date, however there is no guarantee that it will be successful as it has to go through a bidding system.

During the year the Council has considered individual planning applications, commenting where it was appropriate to do so.

A total of £800 grant funding was awarded as follows:-

Parbold Village Festival Committee	£250
Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal	£100
Friends of Parbold Library	£50
Community Carol Group	£200
Sing 4 Fun	£200

with a further £50 donated to Parbold WI to assist with the costs of lighting the Christmas Tree, £400 to Parbold Unlimited for erecting Christmas lights on the LCC street lights and £423 on behalf of Parbold Scouts for a Third Part Contribution for Grantscape (Whitemoss) funding.

Remembrance Sunday was marked by the usual presentation of Poppy Wreaths at local Church services.

The Council continues close liaison with United Utilities staff at Hoscar Sewage Works and WLBC Environmental Health officer regarding the odour problem affecting the village. It is a frustrating issue but at least the workers can be under no illusion that we are not affected and cannot be ignored.

Network Rail have continued their review of level crossings, completing their work at Station Road and testing the ground at Bramble Way - Chapel Lane for their proposal to extend Bramble Way and put a footbridge over Chapel Lane replacing the level crossing there. We continue to oppose this proposal but are finding objecting to a proposal based on safety grounds is difficult. We will continue to work closely with WLBC (owners of the rugby pitch and car-park, leased to the parish council) and Network Rail to protect the playing fields and Chapel Lane Meadow (Biological Heritage Site). We are also lobbying Network Rail and the new owners of Station House to renovate their buildings that are falling into disrepair.

We are acting on the comments made by the Best Kept Village's judges and tidying up where possible. New bins and benches are installed along The Common, including a World War

One commemorative bench at the library, which was bought with grant funding obtained from WLBC by competitive bid.

There are a number of groups that the Parish Council would like to thank:

- Parbold Tree Wardens continue to do sterling work with the tidying and planting of flower borders and Parbold Wildlife Group expertly oversee the management of Chapel Meadow BHS.
- The PCA for management of the village hall and production of the newsletters.
- Parbold Heritage Group who are working hard to bring in funding to support the regeneration of Parbold Dry Dock area.
- Parbold Unlimited - Steve Morgan and David Reid for the running of the various festivals throughout the year and the Christmas festive lighting.
- and the library staff and volunteers.

Also, to Cllr Paul Quirk who has spent a lot of time revitalising the parish council website to improve lines of communication and forming a new Mission Statement to help focus future council activities.

Vice Chairman, Cllr Charles Bithell thanked Cllr Arnold on behalf of the whole council for the work he, personally, puts into the Council, ensuring that things get done.

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.

No issues raised.

6. Receipt of planned activities at Alder Lane Playing Fields for Sunday 14th July 2019 following the Parbold Village Festival Show

The following proposal was put to the meeting.

Parbold Festival Committee / Parbold UnLimited

Proposal: A Family Fun Day Sunday Sunday 14th July

Parbold UnLimited in Partnership with the Parbold Festival Committee would like to organise an event to take place on the Sunday of the annual Village Show.

This event would not be a commercial event but run as a fund raiser for the Festival and the Parbold UnLimited Community Fund. Any funds raised would go towards the cost to the Festival Committee in running the Show and to Community events/projects organised by Parbold UnLimited.

For example; The creation of a new storage facility alongside of the Village Hall. Working with the Parish Council to clear the existing site, purchase and site a container facility for use by both Parbold UnLimited and the Festival Committee.

There are obviously other activities which could be supported; the arts and performance aspects of the Ukulele and street festivals, annual Xmas tree etc., further supported by Parbold UnLimited additional fundraising activities.

The Event; Entertainment: Main Tent

1. Up to 4 church groups from nearby communities have expressed an interest in producing a 'Celebration' of Gospel music from each group. Performing in the main tent. An activity that would bring local communities together. Activity would start at approx. 12.30pm
2. 'Singing for Fun' would perform a set at approx 2.30pm
3. A new Junior 'Singing for Fun' of under 18 youth would also perform at approx. 3.30pm
4. We are also looking to utilise some time slots in the program for 2 – 3 local groups to showcase their talent.

Show Tent

1. We have 6 Ukulele entrants for the 'Battle of The Bands' to take place in the Show tent on the opposite side of the field. This would commence at 12 noon and be completed by 5pm. The winner will then perform at the concerts which take place during the Parbulele Ukulele Festival in August.

The intention is that each of these activities taking place in both tents would be low key, melodious, and require little if any amplification. All musical activities would finish by 5pm.

Children's activities:

1. bouncy castles, slides, games etc., looking to retain the small childrens rides/carousel from the Saturday tbc.

Catering:

1. Bar facility in the main tent, provided by the Wayfarer as per the Saturday
2. BBQ provided by Parbold UnLimited

Stalls:

There would be no commercial stalls selling product. A charity fundraising element / stalls (3 max) could also be included. Interest so far; MS Therapy Centre Wigan, Rainbow House all tbc.

Rugby Field:

we have been approached by the users of the rugby pitch, Shevington Sharks as to the possibility of using the second field for a junior (under 14's) Rugby 7's tournament as a fund raiser for their youth development program. We are awaiting their final proposal for consideration. We would ensure that should this be approved it will be authorised by the appropriate authority plus have full insurance cover in place.

Insurance:

As part of the Village Show weekend it would be covered by the Event Insurance annually taken out which covers the whole weekend. This is normally put in place April and the PC would have full sight of the necessary certificates. In addition Parbold UnLimited also has full Public Liability Insurance in place. Activities and Catering suppliers also carry their own insurance verified by the Festival Committee.

Car parking:

As per the Show arrangements; there would be no 'on site' parking. We would look to use the Equestrian Centre fields which would generate further funds for their registered charity. Bramble Way, Alder lane would also be 'coned' off as a no parking area. Appropriate signage would also be used plus local police authority would be advised of the event as per normal for the whole weekend.

Toilets;

Additional toilets would be hired to cover the potential increase in footfall

Clean Up;

The fields would be cleaned of all rubbish, waste etc by Monday 15th July

Estimates of income and expenditure were given.

ALL funds generated would be used for Community Benefit and not for commercial gain. There is no element of 'sub letting' by the Festival Committee. Full accounts of the event would be kept and issued to the Council.

This is the latest update. Further updates to follow to keep the PC up to date with all activity.

Stephen Morgan, Sec Parbold Festival Committee, Sec Parbold UnLimited

It was resolved to agree this programme of activity and to ask for insurance details in writing closer to the date.

7. Update on odour nuisance from Hoscar Sewage Works

Hoscar staff had informed the parish council that work was being undertaken on the inlet valve that may give rise to odour problems in Parbold, however none were detected and there was no increase in complaint that we are aware of.

8. Issues on The Common:

- **Consider white lining on the car park in front of the shops**

It was agreed that the contractors who had completed the Burnside tarmac pathway would be consulted about white lining as well as filling potholes. LCC had also been asked.

- **Report problems of uneven tarmac and kerbstones along the footway near the Post Box**

Similarly, this will be considered if funds allow, however, the matter had been reported to LCC as Highway Authority and responsible for roadside pavements and footways. Cllr Blake in her capacity as Ward Borough Councillor had also enquired, but it is understood that this may be low priority for County funding.

- **Log responses from Network Rail regarding flooding of the underpass at Parbold Level Crossing, Signal Box & Station House maintenance**

Rosie Cooper's response to these issues was distributed. A helpful contact method for reporting the flooding at the underpass was obtained and will be distributed in the next newsletter. It was understood that the problem is ultimately due to a collapsed drain on neighbouring land, though the landowner's identity was not known.

The Arch Company confirm that the Station House property was included in the Network Rail Commercial Estate sale. There are plans in place to de-vegetate the premises to the front and rear to improve the aesthetics of the local area. In terms of plans to the Assets long term strategy, this is dealt with by the Asset Management team.

9. Alder Lane Issues:-

- **Any update on Network Rail's proposals for Chapel Lane level crossing**

A meeting will be arranged with Network Rail and WLBC to discuss their findings following the groundwork investigations. The Chairman of Parbold Wildlife Group will be invited to attend to ensure adequate consideration is given to Chapel Meadow Biological Heritage Site.

- **Follow up on condition of the football pitch**

The restoration work was nearing completion, weather conditions had hampered this to date. It was agreed that the contractors add fertilising the field as follows:-

Fertilising the field 200kg . 10.. 15..10 £250.. 00

Over-seeding using a Vredo Disc seeder with 100kg triple rye grass £ 550..00

The following advice was noted: For long term improvement and to prolong the life of the drainage system a sand topdress of Eaton Hall or Chelford 45 sand should be applied annually at a rate of 60 to 90 tonnes.

10. Village Hall Issues:-

- **Consider hedgerow encroachment into neighbouring gardens**

Having attended the property at 10 The Green both Cllr Blake and Cllr Arnold were of the opinion that the over grown trees are planted within the doctor's surgery land. The Clerk had looked from the play area and no trees on parish council owned land were over grown. The Clerk was instructed to pass the matter back to the land owner.

- **Notification of general maintenance issues**

The front door requires attention with an additional lock so that this can be secured from the inside of the building.

The rear of the hall with the shed was under discussion. It was agreed that the gate will be replaced once a suitable contractor is found, and the section of grass will be removed and tarmaced. The Clerk was asked to contact Mayo's Ulms Walton for a quotation for a gate.

A request to put an advertising-board out beneath the notice-board at the Village Hall on days that the flower club meets was agreed as long as it remains close to the notice-board so as not to interfere with driver's sight lines.

11. Parbold Hill Issues:-

- **Respond to complaints about the parked white van advertising on the roadside**

WLBC Enforcement Officer responded to the enquiry as follows:-

Further to your correspondence regarding the above and the Farmers Arms directional sign attached to highway street furniture.

I have visited the Parbold Hill site and noted that a motor vehicle with Farmers Arms livery is parked on land at Parbold Hill. The parking of the vehicle at this location does not breach the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

In respect of the Farmers Arm directional sign attached to street furniture, I note that you have reported the matter to Lancashire County Council Highways who are the appropriate authority for determining whether this breaches advertisement legislation.

I trust that this clarifies matters from an LPA perspective.

- **Consider LCC response to HGV parking on Parbold Viewing Point**

Lancashire County Council responded to the complaint about HGV's parking at the Viewing Point as follows:-

About the problems faced by residents relating to the use of the lay-by at Parbold Hill by lorry drivers. I am very sorry to hear that residents have experienced threatening and anti-social behaviour.

The lay-by is part of the adopted highway network, and is not directly associated with the viewing point. This means that the area is available for use by all classes of vehicles including heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). Naturally, we expect motorists to adhere to the regulations and guidance set out by the Highway Code. Furthermore, we would expect motorists to exercise consideration for local residents and businesses.

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) enforces strict rules on driving hours for HGVs. This means that breaks are mandatory. We would seek to encourage drivers to use off-road parking where possible. However, there is no restriction we can implement to prohibit use of this lay-by by HGVs.

Any vehicles using the lay-by in a hazardous or obstructive manner should be reported directly to the Police on their non-emergency number: 101. Public nuisance by way of litter

or use as unofficial toilet facilities should be reported to West Lancashire Borough Council's Environmental Enforcement Team via telephone on: 01695 577177.

I hope the problems are resolved, but unfortunately we cannot support the use of parking restrictions as a means to control this behaviour.

12. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

050419	Parbold WI Hall	room hire		2820	£32.50
050419	Wrightington Windows	Village Hall cleaning		2821	£25.00
050419	Barry Rawsthorne	Grass cutting contract		2822	£383.00
230419	RBS	Bank charge		d.d.	£5.95
280419	E A Broad	salary April 2019	tbc itro	s.o.	£867.26
280419	NEST	pension payments	tbc itro	d.d.	£100

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment

A bank reconciliation was provided to Councillors showing an end-of-year, carry-forward figure of £113,600.63

13. To confirm internal auditor for audit of accounts 2018/19

It was resolved to ask Sandra Jones, Clerk to Newborough Parish Council to conduct the internal audit procedure.

14. To confirm movement of parish council bank account under the Banking Switch Scheme

The banking switch scheme was underway.

15. To note Planning and Planning Applications

The Chairman Cllr Brian Arnold declared an interest as owner of a property and former owner of a second property on the planning list. He chose to leave the room and took no part in discuss for any of the planning applications this month. Cllr Bithell, took the Chair for this item only.

Reference Number: 2019/0127/FUL

Location: 56 Alder Lane, Parbold, WN8 7JH

Proposal: Remove bow windows to extend to front align with existing porch/garage. Change of porch flat roof to pitched tile and incorporate into front extension.

Parish Council Response: no objection to this application.

Reference Number: 2019/0145/FUL
Location: 11 Brookfield, Parbold, WN8 7JJ
Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension with external alterations to the existing property including new front porch and detached garage following demolition of existing attached garage

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council discussed this application in meeting. Cllr Brian Arnold declared an interest and left the room whilst the following response was formed.

Parish Council Response: No objection in principle to the extension of this property. We note the neighbours' concerns over the proposed garage. As we have been unable to view the site from the neighbours' property at No. 15, we cannot reliably judge the likely impact of the proposed garage upon No 15. Accordingly, we rely on the planning authority to assess the impact.

Reference Number: 2019/0228/FUL
Location: 4 Alder Lane, Parbold, WN8 7NL
Proposal: Single storey side and front extension

Parish Council Response: no objection to this application.

Reference Number: 2019/0263/FUL
Location: 24 Alder Lane, Parbold, WN8 7NN
Proposal: Gates to side of house

Parish Council Response: no objection to this application.

16. Progress of project to improve footpath from Parbold to Newburgh School

Whilst the consultations are not conclusive yet, a great deal of progress to improve the route has already been made. Meetings with Canal & River Trust representatives has encouraged that they will schedule in a programme of work to put right their section of the footpath. However, they were taken back at the size of the project and much of their work now is dependent upon volunteers so it may still take time.

17. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Blake: Old Station House, Best Kept Village competition.

Cllr Stopford: BKV and possibility of cleaning signposts and street signs, litter-pick.

Cllr Bithell: Provisionally set Saturday 11th May 2019 at 10am for a litter-pick.

Cllr Holland: Can we organise a brainstorming session for ideas about the use of the land at Alder Lane.

Cllr Quirk: Can we return to the issue of the notice-board doors?

Cllr Blake: Has confirmation that the car park at the side of the canal (opposite the Windmill) is unregistered land. Local belief is that it was Canal and River Trust but they did not register it and cannot be held liable for the state of the car park. Equally it is not owned by Parbold Parish Council. The government have set aside £3million to improve village halls - can we apply for a grant from them, maybe to support the heating project?

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

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Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold

10th May 2019