

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 1st November 2019 in Parbold WI Hall.

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Gill, Cllr Holland, Cllr Stopford, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Quirk.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bithell, Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts. An extended leave of absence for Cllr Butts was agreed in view of illness, this will be reviewed in February 2020.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th October 2019

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.

David Reid from Parbold Unlimited attended to raise two issues:

1. A request for financial assistance to cover the LCC costs of attached and detaching the Christmas lights from the LCC owned lampposts.

2. The storage garage at the rear of the village hall now houses some festival equipment but it is in a poor state of repair. Parbold Unlimited would like to refurbish the building, create a pitched roof, insulation, electricity supply and make it secure and watertight.

1. The Parish Council advised that the request for financial assistance with the Christmas lighting will be considered on the next agenda and, as with all such requests, a copy of accounts must accompany a written request for funding with an explanation of the project the funding is to support. Evidence such as a copy of the paid LCC invoice for the work is required for the audit process.

2. The garage at the rear of the village hall was purchased by Parbold Community Association and not the Parish Council. It is on land subject to a lease between the PPC and PCA and so not negotiable by the Parish Council. In the past the PCA had plans for this area to create a changing area for artists, musicians and those using the sports facilities of the hall but this can only be pursued when finance permits.

There was reported more disturbance at Parbold Village Hall last Saturday night (26th October 2019) as hall users described someone outside banging on the doors to gain access. The police were not notified at the time.

5. Update following meeting at Hoscar Sewage Works (Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre)

The meeting was cancelled by United Utilities due to staff illness, but fortunately two network people were still available to talk with Cllr Quirk about possible leachate going in at Appley Bridge and whether this could cause an odour in Parbold. The network staff were able to explain the route taken and dilution work done along the way so that there could be no odour issue, even if leachate were discharged into the system. The meeting will be re-scheduled and a provisional date of 3rd December was now being worked towards. WLBC will be there as well and it is proposed to ask to take a look at the site, in particular the settlement tanks, as these have been a visually obvious source of odour in the past. The issue of dead sheep found on the farmland above the piping was discussed, it was suggested that the land agent be asked if this piping is in good working order.

6. Receipt of responses from LCC and HSE about the flooding of the railway subway beneath the Station Road

The Health & Safety Executive had responded that the issue of the flooded subway was not within their remit and suggested the local authority may be responsible. Rosie Cooper MP had written to LCC who responded that the issue was not their remit but may be Network Rail. The latest information from Network Rail, an email on the 2nd October 2019, suggested that their investigations had located a drain blocked by development on neighbouring land and that they were actively seeking a legal remedy. The Parish Council remains sceptical as this issue has now been troublesome for a period of at least four years.

7. To consider a donation to Community Carol Group for Christmas service

It was resolved to issue a grant of £100 to the Community Carol Group.

8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

281019	E A Broad	salary October 2019	s.o.	£818.63
281019	NEST Pension	(£27.89 from parish, rest is employee contribution)		£94.83
011119	Wrightington Windows	Cleaning at village hall	2974	£25.00
011119	Community Carol Group (if agreed)	s 137 donation	2875	£100.00
011119	SLCC	Membership fee	2876	£96.55

(Society of Local Council Clerks annual subscription costs £175 split as follows: Parbold £96.55, Lathom South £48.28, Dalton £30.17)

011119	PWI	Room hire	2877	£38.50
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The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To set date for budget meeting for Financial Year 2020/2021

* ask Cllr Bithell when he is available first please. 19th clashes with other meeting (PWG)

10. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2019/0982/FUL

Location: Friars Wood Lancaster Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire

Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling with associated landscaping and access route.

Parish Council response: No comment on this application.

Application Number: 2019/1037/FUL

Location: 63 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7EA

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory and one storey extension comprising of kitchen, dining and utility room. Two story extension to provide master bedroom with ensuite. New hip and gable roof to existing. Additional single storey side extension. All to the rear of the property not visible from the highway

Parish Council response: No objection to this application.

The following appeal was noted:

PROPOSAL: Construction of a new single storey dwelling. LOCATION: Land Adjacent To 76A The Common Parbold

11. To receive notes from the meeting on 29th October 2019 with Parbold Wildlife Group (if available)

The notes were distributed, noting that a new management agreement will be available in draft form from January 2019; it is currently being prepared by Ben Hargreaves from the Wildlife Trust. A budget of £850 was agreed for the coming financial year for maintenance of the meadow, to include the cutting of the meadow and the clearance work undertaken by Midstream.

12. To receive judge's comments from Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition and address any issues raised

The following report was noted:

1st Visit 17th June, 2nd Visit 8th July 2019

1) Overall Impression

Parbold is a large village with a wide range of shops and businesses. There were many public buildings which were mostly kept in good order. Most private properties were well kept. The Meadow Walk at the back of the playing fields was a nice feature.

2) Outstanding Features

The Church had beautifully kept pathways, benches and grass and was only let down from full marks by the area at the bottom of the cellar steps. To improve for next year the gates and sign could also do with a little attention.

The school building was well kept but the grounds were below par due to the extensive works being done.

The Windmill Pub building was in good order, but the weeds, rubbish and litter around the pub let it down, especially at the front.

The Village Hall was in good order.

Alder Lane Playing Fields lacked enough different amenities to score highly. The car park was mostly immaculate and a real credit to the village but was let down by the redundant containers (labelled toilets) which were surrounded by weeds, and some poor signage.

The children's play area was adequate but had litter around.

The Old Post House was well kept, both at the front and the back and an asset to the village.

The Parish Council Notice Board was very good, but the surrounds were very weedy especially around the nearby tree and its guard.

The War Memorial and bench was in good order.

The Jubilee Gardens were a nice feature, but needed some weeding and cigarette stubs removing.

Other very positive points :

The Courtyard with 4 businesses was excellent and the Pure shop and The Gallery were also excellent.

The notice board scored highly for content but low for surround due to weeds.

3) Areas of Improvement

Some street furniture was in need of attention, including the telephone box, the nearby litter bin and some benches and notice boards.

Some shops and business frontages could be improved by sweeping and weeding.

There was some graffiti which needs removing.

Weeds need to be removed by the Council notice board.

Lancaster Lane was in need of a litter pick.

The Electricity Board would tidy up the sub-station if asked.

4) Village Map

Very well drawn and clear, but it could be made simpler by marking the Outstanding Features with the corresponding number on the form instead of a letter. Route very good

Two Highly Commended certificates were issued: Our Lady & All Saints RC Church and The Old Post House cafe.

It was agreed to thank residents for their efforts and congratulate the owners of businesses that had scored highly. Sadly, the Electricity Board had ignored requests to tidy the sub-stations in the village. Other borough and county council issues will again be reported to the elected representatives and officers.

13. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Carruthers - Write to Rosie Cooper MP again about the flooded underpass.

Cllr Stopford - Our Lancashire proposals for uniformed volunteers to tackle problems in the villages. See website: ourlancashire.org.uk

Flooding from Parbold Douglas Academy on the next agenda please. Cllr Gill gave the brief update that the target date is February half-term to connect drainage on the school grounds to the main drain.

Next agenda will have a request for financial assistance to Parbold Women's Institute.

14. 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 (contracts for services and terms & conditions of employment), the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda

Resolved.

15. To confirm all particulars regarding the heating project for the large hall at Parbold Village Hall, including timescale, project management and agreement of quotations obtained by the PCA

Following the meeting with the PCA the particulars were distributed and agreed, including the quotations presented. There were some concerns about the wooden flooring, as the contractor did not appreciate that there had been issues following its installation. The quotation prepared here appears to be a like-for-like wooden floor to be placed on existing foundations. In view of the issues with the floor over the years it may be that the existing foundations require attention, that may cost more. Indeed the contractor stated at the meeting that his quotation did not include removal and replacing skirting boards and Councillors would have thought that this was essential to ensure correct laying of the new flooring. Another issue raised was the siting of the external fans on the car park where they may be vulnerable to vandalism and a source of noise for neighbours.

It was agreed to write to the PCA explaining these concerns and to ensure they are absolutely aware of the very tight budget and necessity to complete the project with no more than £50,000 from the parish council accounts. In particular the parish council want to be sure the foundation is sufficient for the flooring before committing to it, so want a sample of flooring to be removed for inspection first. It was agreed that the letter to the PC be copied to John Book, Project Manager also.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Cllr Brian Arnold
Chairman

6th December 2019