

Parbold Parish Council

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Under the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020, and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this Meeting of the Parish Council took place at **7.30 pm on Friday 2nd October 2020** by Zoom conferencing.

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Gill, Cllr Holland, Cllr Schaffel & Cllr Stopford.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Bithell and Cllr Carruthers.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Public Participation:

- **Two items were raised by members of the public:**
- **Consider provision for teenagers in the village**

Q. I have lived in Parbold for 24 years. Recently a post was posted in the Parbold group on Facebook. It was in regards of a group of teenagers 'wearing hoodies' hanging out in the park next to the village hall.

I would like to ask is there any upcoming plans which aims at the younger generation, in terms of areas where they can hang out and not be basically scrutinised for there appearance because they 'look like they up to no good'.

There is nothing available for these kids, the football field can only give these kids a small amount of enjoyment. I remember around 10 years ago when i was a young teenager myself, there was talk of building a skate park. At the time is was so happy and really looking forward to it, but it never happened.. maybe it was just a rumour but it was a rumour that would have given people enjoyment. Even a basketball course, just something new for the kids.

Maybe that would help these kids from hanging around areas that residents find uncomfortable and unhappy.

I understand funding plays a huge part in all of this, but I just ask to consider the younger generation.

A. The particular incident that gave rise to this enquiry has been referred to the police so was not debated.

There was discussion about the mooted skate park and MUGA projects that were discontinued many years ago now due to safety concerns. The only location for the Parish Council is Alder Lane Playing Fields which is a remote area, not safely reached from the village due to the very busy road, so not ideal to encourage children to visit alone. Not overlooked, so should accident occur, emergency services might be difficult to reach promptly. Similar facilities in the local area have seen a decline in legitimate use as, without training children and teens don't form teams and play basket ball etc. and instead these areas become a focal point for drug dealing. Parbold Voice of the Youth and the party gaming bus set up by Parbold Elim Church were successful but heavily dependant upon volunteer youth workers who have since moved on. With current Covid restrictions in place the Parish Council cannot currently address this issue further but will return to it. The ideal focus would be to involve young people in the decision making. Projects need expert youth workers, police and Borough Council involvement and are not simply capital in nature. It needs a plan to be sustainable. The Parish Council play areas will have more money spent on them in the coming year but these are areas where parental supervision is recommended and they are aimed at a younger age group. In ordinary times, the village has a range of interest groups and sports catered for that older children could enjoy but there remain some who do not want supervision or organised activities and merely want to hang around.

- **Consider registering the public house The Railway as an Asset of Community Value**

Q. Please can the subject of the Railway be raised with the Parish Council. The pub appears to have closed and is in the process of being sold. It is of concern that the village may lose this unique cornerstone of the community unchallenged. I would urge Parbold Parish Council to apply for Asset of Community Value (<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/your-community/assets-of-community-value.aspx>) status for the premises as this may give the community a chance to invest in itself before an organisation from outside of the village sweeps it up. A great example of a community pub can be found here, <http://www.raveninn.co.uk/>

A. The Parish Council are not in a position to take on a community pub in addition to current commitments and will not apply to register The Railway public house as an asset of community value. This does not prevent a community group forming to do this.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th September 2020

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman when possible.

5. Alder Lane Issues:-

- **Update on antisocial behaviour on the car park at the end of Bramble Way and scheme for cctv**

The new CCTV system is operating well though there is a need to complete the linking up for remote use. It has already put off a group of youngsters who arrived by car and on seeing the CCTV turned and left.

- **Update on Notice-board refurbishment, already agreed**

White Hills Notice Boards will be replacing the header-board with a black logo matching the notice board on The Common and arranging for the wood to be stripped back and re-oiled.

6. Play Areas:-

- **To ratify repairs and consider a new item of play equipment at Burnside Play Area**

It was resolved to:

Paint all equipment	£ 1,900
Put wet pour under all old equipment at Burnside	£ 6,960
Install a new rotating swing see-saw with wet pour	£ 7,865
TOTAL	£ 16,725

£3,890.81 of Community Infrastructure Levy will be used with the rest coming from Parish Council reserves.

7. To consider donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

It was resolved to issue a donation of £250 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The higher amount was proposed as acknowledgement of how difficult fund raising will be this year. Councillors will take part in presentation of poppies (using last year's Poppy wreaths) if socially distanced ceremonies can be accommodated in November.

8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

18092020	RBS	Bank charges	d.d.	£3.50
27092020	E A Broad	salary	s.o.	£858.79
29092020	NEST Pension (£30.17 from parish, rest is employee contribution)			£102.59
02102020	E A Broad	Back pay (£48.06) and stamps (£16.92)	2940	£64.98
02102020	Wrightington Windows Cleaning	village hall windows	2941	£25.00
02102020	Barry Rawsthorne	grass cutting contract	2942	£863.00
02102020	British Legion	Donation to the Poppy Appeal	2943	£250.00
02102020	Angel Security	CCTV at Alder Lane Playing Fields	2944	£5,008.80*
02102020	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	2945	£480.00*

02102020 T & V P Wade Weed wiping at Chapel Meadow 2946 £144.00*

*includes VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To conclude arrangements for the Socially-Distanced Community Litterpick - 9:30 am on Saturday 10th October 2020, meet at Village Hall Car Park

Cllr Bithell has a list of volunteers and will co-ordinate the event. WLBC has been asked to collect the filled bags from the village hall car park on Monday 12th October 2020.

10. To arrange gardening group to clear over grown vegetation at The Heys

It was resolved to wait until negotiations are complete before agreeing to tidy up the vegetation at The Heys, as responsibility for this remains with the land owner.

11. To note Planning and Planning Applications, including response from WLBC regarding Planning Enforcement

No Planning Applications requiring comment this month.

LCC/2019/0028 - Parbold Hill Landfill application: Decision deferred. Members of the Committee to do a site-visit before next meeting.

The following application was noted:

Application Number 2020/0830/CON

Location: Railway Hotel, 1 Station Road,

Approval of conditions (below) relating to planning application number 2019/0763/FUL Residential development to include four number self-contained apartments, with associated car parking and external works.

Condition 3. Drainage strategy

Condition 4. Tree protection measures

Condition 5. Acoustic assessment

Condition 6. Construction traffic management plan

Condition 10. Electric vehicle charging points

Condition 11. External Lighting

Condition 12. Landscaping Scheme

Condition 13. Finished Levels

Condition 14. Surfacing materials

12. West Lancashire Borough Council consultations:

- **Standards Board - National Review of Ethical Standards: Consultation on Standards complaints submitted by the Parish Clerk -** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-report>

It was agreed to defer this to allow further gathering of information. Any response will be circulated by email before submitting it.

- **Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee –
Suggestions for additions to Work Programme - deadline 19th October 2020**

The Parish Council welcomed the invitation to contribute but have no specific additions to the work programme, other than to continue to survey the areas that need attention. Particularly weeding and sweeping of public alleyways, such as the one between Fairhurst Drive and The Common. Flooding issues in Parbold remain of high concern and leaf clearance seems to be done less frequently than in the past. A sharing of road sweeping schedules would be helpful. The Committee may be in a position to ensure that WLBC keeps on top of the maintenance of culverts in the parish (such as Dock Brook) for which they have responsibility. Other issues of concern to Parbold residents include lack of enforcement against dog fouling, littering and insufficient staff to deal with planning enforcement.

- **CIL Funding for infrastructure projects – WLBC options and shortlisted projects**

It was resolved to endorse the provision of £385,000 towards improving the canal towpath between Parbold and Appley Bridge, though it would be nice to extend the route down the other way to Newburgh. Ask if it possible to see a breakdown of costs on this project? Also, to note that although these are all worthy causes, parishes where there has been little development such as Parbold, have far less money to enhance their play provision.

13. Village Hall Issues:-

- **To note that Play Area disturbance on Sunday 27th September 2020 has been reported to the police**

Antisocial behaviour captured on CCTV around the village hall included some criminal activity so this footage has been forwarded to PC Gordon Davies.

- **To note repairs to front door and roof soffit at rear**

The front door has been difficult to lock, so the installation contractor has visited to re-align it. The guttering and hole in the soffit will be repaired and painted in the next few weeks.

- **Further consideration of ivy removal and clearance of vegetation in the courtyard at the back**

The Council thanked Cllr Bithell for cutting the base of the ivy to kill it off and hopefully make this easier to remove. The quotation of £550 plus £200 for a skip was accepted and the contractor will be asked to remove the ivy and clear all the foliage around the courtyard and off the wall.

14. To agree draft newsletter article for PCA Newsletter

A big thank you to all who helped with the Community Litter pick in October. If you wish to continue your own regular litter pick of the public land around your home, but need litter picking equipment please let us know and we can help.

Parish Council meetings are continuing on Zoom conferencing at the moment, so please contact the Clerk with any issues of concern so that these can be addressed.

We have problems of antisocial behaviour around the play areas and Bramble Way Car Park and we do remind people that cctv covers these areas so please be aware that the police have become involved in some instances. These are not areas that should be used by unsupervised children. The playground equipment is designed for younger children with supervision recommended at all times should accident or incident occur. In the region of £2,000 worth of damage has been caused by vandalism of the swing seats at both Burnside and the Village Hall so the Parish Council will use the cctv to identify perpetrators in the future and charges may be laid. The Parish Council is mindful that groups gather because there is 'nothing to do' and indeed Covid restrictions have prevented many activities, but this cannot be an excuse to damage things for other, younger children so that there is nothing to do for them either.

The Parish Council is always prepared to listen to ideas, please let us know what you would like to see. Wherever possible, we will support projects and groups able to provide activities and entertainment for our younger residents.

Finally, a plea. Whilst the great autumn tidy-up is going on could you take a look at the pavement/public borders of your property and just tidy up any leaves, conkers, anything that blocks drains and gutters? We all know that these areas are the responsibly of the Borough and County Councils but budget restraints mean they are not getting around to them as often as we would like and to keep everywhere looking nice a quick sweep would be appreciated. If you notice any blocked grids, please google - Report It (LCC) online to help prevent serious flooding. If you are shielding, or unable to do this but want someone to look on your behalf, please let us know.

15. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Schaffel - would it be possible to install an electronic lockable gate to the play area that is linked with the fire alarm and would automatically open in the event of an emergency?

Cllr Gill - can we encourage home owners to clear the area around their homes of leaves, conkers, anything that blocks drains and gutters?

Cllr Blake - would it be possible to install some benches alongside the Alder Lane Playing Fields for spectators to sit?

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

Cllr Brian Arnold
Chairman

6th November 2020