

# 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 9th April 2021** by Zoom conferencing (meeting ID 864 6278 1978 Passcode: 705253).

**Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Gill, Cllr Long, Cllr Stopford, Cllr Schaffel.**

Borough Councillor David Whittington in attendance.

The Chairman led a two minute silence in respect following the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

## MINUTES

### 1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Holland

### 2. To receive declarations of interest

None received.

### 3. Public Participation:

**Any item raised by a member of the public via email will be discussed at this point.**

Maggi Huyton of Parbold Wildlife Group requested permission to erect notices at Chapel Meadow advising visitors how best to care for the meadow and prevent dogs causing damage or disturbing ground nesting birds. It was agreed to discuss the matter under Alder Lane issues at Item 7.

### 4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 5th March 2021

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record and will be signed as soon as practicable by the Chairman.

### 5. To conclude arrangements for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 7th May 2021

As the legislation states that meetings ‘after 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021’ must be physical meetings held in public, the AGM planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> May will be held by Zoom.

## **6. To hear update on Parbold Hill infill site application (2019/0028/LCC)**

The meeting noted that LCC will reconsider the decision to grant permission and that the Environment Agency will be considering the environmental permit. This only happened because of the dedication of the people on the Stop Parbold Landfill group. It is expected that a permit of variation will be applied for – a process overseen by the Environment Agency. This permit of variation will be recorded as of high public interest, giving residents and Parish Councils an opportunity to consider and comment on it.

## **7. Alder Lane Issues:-**

- **To note return of sports use for the playing fields**

As Lockdown eases, the football and rugby teams will return to the playing fields. The Football Foundation grants system had been criticised as placing onerous requirements on parish councils and is better accessed by football clubs who are able to answer their questions and enact the requirements.

It was noted that the whole area is very busy with visitors at the present time.

- **Parbold Wildlife Group request to put up notices.**

Over the last couple of months we have noticed a big increase in the number of dog walkers on there, many with dogs off leads. This has caused several issues including:

- damage to the paths, particularly around the benches,
- damage to the meadow itself - grass worn away and 'paths' across it where people throw and retrieve balls etc, holes from dogs digging (and possibly some from metal detectors!), and trampled plants.
- a big increase in dog fouling, with mess either not cleaned up at all or left in bags on the meadow
- some den building and damage to the pond in the woodland area - this may be youths rather than dog walkers!

Since the next 2-3 months are crucial for ground nesting birds and new plants, including the orchids on the meadow, we would like to remind people to respect it as the nature site it is. In addition to notices, members of the group will visit more frequently and talk to people about these issues if we can. We will also place a notice on our Facebook page and on the Parbold Village page, as well as in the newsletter.

It was resolved to permit the Parbold Wildlife Group to erect notices to educate visitors and take action they feel necessary to protect the Biological Heritage Site at Chapel Meadow.

## **8. Village Hall Matters**

- **To conclude heating project with the payment of the retention fee**

The payment was agreed. However, the parish council is very disappointed that the Project Manager had not included an attenuator within the scheme in the first place since he was informed of the concert use for the main hall, which required a quiet system.

**9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented and receive end of financial year accounts for 2020/21**

180321	RBS	Bank charges	d.d.	£7.50
210321	O2	CCTV contract	d.d.	£21.60*
270321	E A Broad	salary – March 2021	s.o.	£906.85
280321	NEST Pension (£30.17 from council rest from clerk)		s.o.	£102.59
090421	Wrightington Windows	Village hall cleaning	2979	£20.00
090421	J W Moore & Co	Green heat scheme – retention	2980	£2,244.26*

\*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

The end of year accounts were presented, in draft form, before submission to the Internal Auditor.

The risk assessment documentation and asset register were agreed.

**10. To note Planning and Planning Applications**

Application Number: 2021/0204/FUL

Location: Sun Cottage Mill Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NW

Proposal: New entrance to east elevation. White rendered first floor facade with new full height window. Extension to the rear (West) of the property. Conservatory and existing extension on the West elevation

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2021/0246/FUL

Location: 12 Lathom Avenue, WN8 7DT

Proposal: Two storey rear extension. Part ground floor rear extension. New entrance Porch

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2021/0233/FUL

Location: Former Railway Hotel 1 Station Road Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NU

Proposal: Change of use of former public house from sui generis to Class E (retail) external alterations, demolition of existing extension, erection of new extension, development of 4 no. apartments, formation of new access to Broadmead and associated works

The Chairman closed the meeting for open discussion on this item to include Borough Councillor Whittington.

Development of the public house into a viable business is welcomed by the parish council and the specific proposals here represent considerable investment that can only improve the current site. The main concern centres around implications of traffic on this corner location, abutting a level crossing, where there are many pedestrian movements (including school age children) and a busy, established housing estate whose drivers will struggle to exit on occasion. There will inevitably be queuing traffic when the level crossing barrier is down. The movement of delivery lorries, particularly turning large vehicles could be considerably hazardous and perhaps planning conditions could address this. The Parish Council objected to housing on this site in the past and the flats planned to be built alongside the garden of the first home on Broadmead still present an issue of overshadowing. It is understood that these will be lower than the current housing, will shield the view of the retail section and car park and will be pulled forwards as far as possible to give distance to the neighbours' gardens. Any lighting across the back of the flats should be kept to a minimum and not light up the gardens of existing homes. The embankment itself is in poor state of repair and it is understood this will be improved as part of this project. This is an area of previous flooding and the car park and new apartments will have a drainage scheme including holding tanks. Currently there is no mitigation for surface water so this should improve risk. On the whole therefore, the Parish Council support this proposal for the site.

The grassed area with protected trees on the right as you enter the estate is owned by the public house and will become part of the development. There are plans to permit the memorial bench, (installed by a resident with permission of the pub landlord) to remain, along with the grit bin (LCC) and dog waste bin (WLBC) as community land.

Borough Councillor Whittington asked if the application should be 'called in' ie, referred to WLBC Planning Committee for decision rather than that decision be delegated to a council officer?

Whilst the Parish Council supports development at the site the traffic issues cannot be ignored. There are already long queues getting off the estate, with parked cars, (legally and illegally) so this could be a very dangerous junction, trying to get past the double yellow lines. There are residents who have objections based also on the change of use, from public house to supermarket, creating more of a town than a village atmosphere. Therefore, on balance, the Parish Council would prefer to call it in so that residents have the opportunity to air their views.

#### **11. To ratify risk assessment for litterpick on 10th April 2021**

The paperwork was approved for use.

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

Cllr Stopford – The consultation on the strategic CIL (money WLBC gets from developers) was discussed. It was noted that some of the canal towpath renovations would be completed with CIL funding though may be more could be spent on this. The schemes within the system - at proposal stage but not allocated include:-

- 34. New allotments in Parbold
- 59. New changing facilities at Bramble Way
- 121. Car parking resurfacing canal side Parbold opposite Windmill
- 140. Improvements to railway station facilities
- 168. Towpath improvements from Bridge 42 - 37 - 3 and a half miles
- 96 Towpath improvements Alder Lane - Culvert Lane, Newburgh - 1.5 kms

Bramble Way Car Park along the canal side needs a lot of attention, all the way down to the next bridge really. Could we look at some ideas on what we want to do with it? The residents have tidied it up nearest the houses and the rest lets it down. Perhaps we could get a price to tidy it up a bit? This would not be CIL funding however.

CIL money – could we add more to the play areas?

Cllr Bithell – can we find any update on the WLBC Local Plan?

Cllr Carruthers – noted the response from the Enforcement team at WLBC regarding Parbold Dog Groomers but the place is definitely up and running and discharging effluent into the brook. Perhaps we can ask the Environment Agency if this is an issue?

Cllr Long – Broadmead Play area has a deep rut in front of the bench that needs filling. The new groundsman will be asked to fill the hole.

The meeting heard that there has been more graffiti in the play area, voluntarily cleaned up by residents. There are some teens attending and staying late there. Parents drive them in. There are often big speakers with loud music playing. Residents are encouraged to tell the police when this is happening and have it logged as antisocial behaviour.

There has been similar noise disturbance at the Village Hall play area. The Chairman attended one evening and the children there had travelled in from Appley Bridge. The Clerk was reminded that another meeting with the PCA ought to be arranged in April/May.

**13. 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, the public and the press, leave the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda. Any members of the public viewing the proceedings will now be removed from the Zoom meeting.**

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

Chairman

7th May 2021