

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 held at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd September 2021 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DL

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Gill, Cllr Holland, Cllr Long, Cllr Shaffel, Cllr Stopford.

In attendance: County Councillor Rob Bailey, David Pryer (as Member of Parbold Show Committee) and member of the public.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Carruthers.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. 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 Pryer of Parbold Village Show Committee attended to raise issues related to the upcoming Parbold Party event on 4th September 2021.

County Councillor Bailey provided an update on County issues including a number of gully cleaning and resurfacing areas. He invited Parish Councillors to attend the next County Hall event for parish and town councils which will be held mid-November. Details to follow.

Cllr Blake raised the issue that the level crossing is difficult to negotiate using disability equipment. One gentleman had fallen and the matter reported to LCC Highways.

(Please note items raised by Members of the Public are not agenda items and cannot be addressed at the time of meeting or recorded in full in the Minutes, which are purely a record of decisions taken).

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 2nd July 2021

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

5. To note progress on the Traffic Order for Parbold Hill

The following response was ratified:-

Response to consultation:

Ref: LSG4/894.12911/AFR

Parbold Parish Council comments on Traffic Restriction Orders:

Alder Ln, Hall Ln, Parbold Hill and Sparrow Hill, Parbold, and Crow Orchard Rd, Wrightington, West Lancashire, Red Route Clearway (894.12911)

Parbold Hill, Parbold, West Lancashire, Bus Stop Clearway (No1) (894.13706)

Parbold Hill, Parbold, West Lancashire, Bus Stop Clearway (No2) (894.13707)

There is concern that enforcing a ‘clear way’ on the stretch of the road past Fairy Glen will simply lead to visiting drivers parking completely across the footway and verge, rather than partially as they do now. In that event their parking would be even more dangerous for pedestrians, forcing them out into the road, with the added danger of an awkward step down off the high verge. Unless the suggested restriction can keep the footway free from blockages and from the movement of cars on and off, it would not bring any benefit.

The layby on top of Parbold Hill is part of the highway and within the area concerned but the problems highlighted by the parish council over many years have not been addressed at all.

Cars reversing from the parking spaces onto this National Speed Limit road continue to create a great hazard and the failure to consider restricting the layby from overnight parking – whilst imposing such a restriction at Fairy Glen car park, means lorries park here over night with drivers leaving litter, including human waste at this site for day-trippers to find next morning. The noise of lorries parking here also causes disturbance for the homes nearest to it.

The Parish Council feel that an opportunity to properly resolve the issues along this road has been missed and would like to see this order include a no overnight parking condition for the lay by.

Can you please clarify if this order would prevent vehicles such as wedding cars and hearses parking on the road outside Christ Church, Douglas-in-Parbold? Councillors are aware that some longer vehicles cannot easily access the car park, due to the required swing. Also, it is not easy to carry a coffin from the car park to the church front door. As a result, many do park on the road. Would this order still allow for this practice?

6. To record residents’ concerns about parking problems, in general and also over the Parbulele weekend

The meeting noted that the field allocated for parking was waterlogged exacerbating parking issues around the village.

The Chairman pointed out that the land at Mill Leat is WLBC, not parish council land and so there was no control that the parish could affect here. For events to take place however Borough Council approval has to be sought in advance. Anyone with complaints should therefore direct them to the Borough Council – whichever department issues the public licence – so that they are aware that events are not going without incident and the Borough can then make the organisers of those events plan properly.

Cllr Bithell commented it would be good to have our own traffic wardens. Discussion expanded to cover traffic problems on Lancaster Lane when the schools are open. It was understood that LCC plan to bring traffic warden services ‘in-house’, so it is hoped this will be a more efficient service.

7. To consider request for funding to assist Parbold Women’s Institute Hall

The information from Parbold WI was distributed to all Councillors in advance of this meeting. However, there are unforeseen calls on parish funds for the Village Hall, following re-opening after the pandemic. Last year’s expensive heating system, increased costs such as recruitment/training of a new clerk, new contracts for cctv and websites etc, without an increase in precept mean that parish reserve are comparatively low. For these reasons, it was resolved to meet with the Women’s Institute members to better understand their plans and negotiate further.

8. Village Hall Matters

- **To apprise Councillors of the current lease obligations and consider the issue of payment for general annual maintenance of heating systems**

The lease and management agreement had been distributed to all councillors. A meeting will be arranged to determine how to resolve the issue of payment of maintenance contracts. It was noted that the lease and management agreement have not been reviewed in recent years. Once land registration of the village hall is complete, any lease will have to also be registered to be within the legalities.

9. Alder Lane Issues

- **Consider seating at the playing fields**

It was resolved not to install playing field seating as supporters tend to stand quite happily and there was no wish to encourage loitering in this area unsupervised.

It was pointed out that the two older benches on the Chapel Meadow Biological Heritage Site, (originally removed from play areas and sited there rather than being discarded) have reached the end of their natural life and are in a poor state of repair. It was agreed to apply for grant funding for seating at the meadow to replace these old seats. The clerk to obtain quotations for benches matching the parish council benches in situ. Councillors to research funding opportunities to pay for them.

- **To agree treatment of trees along Bramble Way verge**

It was resolved, by majority vote, to accept the Tree Kings quotation for maintenance of these trees.

10. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

210721	RBS	Bank charges	d.d.	£1.05
210721	O2	Contract for cctv Bramble Way	d.d.	£21.90*
210721	K Darlington	White lines village hall carpark	3003	£696.00*
270721	E A Broad	salary	s.o.	£893.44
280721	NEST Pension (£30.17 from parish, rest is employee contribution)			£99.36
290721	Wrightington Windows	Village hall cleaning	3004	£20.00
020821	Argus Fire & Security	Village hall intruder alarm service	3005	£132.00*
020821	Laurence Davis	Grass cutting contract	3006	£1767.00
020821	KC Computers	New laptop and software	3007	£668.00*
130821	Parbold Tree Wardens	Weed killer for Jubilee Gdns	3008	£7.49
210821	RBS	Bank charges	d.d.	£1.05
210821	O2	Contract for cctv Bramble Way	d.d.	£21.90*
260821	Wrightington Windows	Village Hall cleaning	3009	£20.00
260821	T & VP Wade & Sons	Chapel Meadow cut/remove grass	3010	£600.00*
260821	Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA annual inspection play areas	3011	£164.40*
260821	Woodvale Developments (UK) Ltd	plans village hall	3012	£159.96*
260821	P K F Littlejohn	External audit of accounts fee	3013	£360.00*
260821	Land Registry	Land transfer fee for The Heys	3014	£40.00
270821	E A Broad	salary August 2021	s.o.	£893.44
280821	NEST Pension (£30.17 from parish, rest is employee contribution)			£99.36
030921	PCA	Room hire	3015	£34.00
030921	T Grimshaw	Temporary clerk	3016	£42.15
030921	L Davis	Grass cutting contract + extra work	3017	£1887.00

*contain VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

11. To receive conclusion of external audit documentation with no issues raised by the Auditors

The following External Auditors report had been received:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit is now publicised.

12. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Ref. No: 2021/0800/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective application for the laying of hard standing and proposed construction of garden wall.

Location: 20 Station Road Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NU

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council objects to the agreement of this retrospective application, only because the issue of drainage has not been adequately addressed. There is an appreciation that this hard standing keeps vehicles off the road and that is to be commended. However, the material used in the construction of this hard standing has unsatisfactory drainage and could lead to flooding problems. Should drainage mitigation be implemented, there would be no problem.

Ref. No: 2021/0870/FUL

Proposal: Removal of mock tudor woodwork and rendering on the upper storey of the south (front) and west facing walls of the property, to match the red brick walls of the lower half of the south and west facing

Location: The Coach House Miry Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7TA

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2021/0878/FUL

Proposal: Double side extension and single rear extension

Location: 73 Fairhurst Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DP

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council objects to this proposal because it leaves insufficient parking space to accommodate the size of house. Parking space that was allocated within the design of the original home is being used for accommodation, forcing car parking onto the public road.

Ref. No: 2021/0928/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Location: The Sycamores 2 Brandreth Delph Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7AQ

Parish Council Response: No comment on this application.

Ref. No: 2021/0962/FUL

Proposal: Variation of Condition No 2,3 of Planning Permission 2015/0441 relating to approved drawings/parking provision.

Location: 8 Station Road Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NU

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

13. Update on Councillor raised issues:-

- **The Arch Company property at Railway House, Station Road: poorly maintained building set on dangerous land**

Rosie Cooper MP had written to the Arch Company to request that they respond to the parish council concerns.

- **Parbold Dog Groomers - concerns about discharge into brook**

There was no update from WLBC or the Environment Agency on this issue.

- **Mill Lane – Parking problems**

It was understood that the residents were still considering whether a residents' only zone would work, and whether their situation qualified for one. The matter is very much up to the residents and LCC but the Parish Council will assist in whatever way possible if implementation of such parking restrictions is pursued by the residents.

14. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Bithell: Been made aware funding available if you have Quality Parish Council status.

Cllr Butts: - Stones have come up to the surface on the Chapel Lane pathway. It is uncertain whose responsibility this is. The bench on Jubilee Garden is looking dry and splitting in places. Clerk to see when it was last refurbished and consider obtaining a quotation from the supplier to maintain it. A similar bench is sited on the canal bank carpark – the Chairman agreed to take a look to see if that also needs attention. Benches at Miry Lane and Wood Lane are also in need of painting or replacing with recycled plastic so that no further maintenance would be required. Perhaps a schedule for checking this road side furniture with a regular maintenance programme might be agreed for the future? There are pot holes in the car park at the front of the shops that require attention. Cllr Bithell suggested the parish approach LCC to do this but this is parish owned land, not part of the highway and outside their jurisdiction.

Cllr Stopford: reported a serious water breach between Parbold Hill and Christ Church Parbold-in-Douglas. There was water gushing down the Parbold Hill, coming out of a manhole. The matter was reported to LCC.

15. 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.

Resolved.

16. Update on Land Registration issues

The meeting noted that documents had been produced and signed for transfer of the land at The Heys, and for the sections of land at the Village Hall that required registration with the Land Registry. This matter is in hand.

17. To conclude arrangements for recruiting a new Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer

The decision to place an advert in the PCA Newsletter, WLBC job recruitment pages, 'Parbold Village Group' Facebook page, Parbold Online and the West Lancs CVS website was ratified. The Parish Council were made aware of the issues interrupting publication of the PCA Newsletter.

It was resolved to place an advert in the Champion and with the SLCC Recruitment service, having considered the schedule of costs for these services.

Cllr Bithell's draft of a new advert was accepted with a closing date of 24th September and the offer of 16 to 20 hours paid employment.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

*Cllr Charles Bithell
Chairman*

1st October 2021