

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd December 2021 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DL

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Gill, Cllr Long, Cllr Holland, Cllr Carruthers.

Two members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bithell, Cllr Stopford and County Councillor Bailey

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.

It was asked whether the contribution made by the Parish Council of £100 towards this year's Carols around the Christmas Tree event needed to be returned now that the event had been cancelled. It was resolved that the contribution would roll over into 2022 and be used at the event next December instead.

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

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

5. To renovate the two wooden benches at the Jubilee Gardens and on the canal bank

It was previously resolved to remove the two old wooden benches at Chapel Meadow and replace them by renovating a wooden one from the canal car park and by purchasing a new Glasdon Phoenix bench. The wooden bench in the Jubilee Gardens will also be refurbished. The two wooden benches for renovation will be collected on 15th December.

There has also been a request by a member of the public to put a plaque on one of the benches at the top of Parbold Hill. As the Parish Council do not own these benches advice was given to contact the WLBC Rangers who have responsibility for these benches.

6. To apprise the council of CIL funding and consider projects it might support

It had been previously agreed to utilise funds from the Capital Grant to purchase a cantilever swing for the Burnside playground. There will be a shortfall of approximately £2000 after the grant has been used and it was resolved to utilise the remainder of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to help meet this. The final cost of the purchase and installation of the swing has yet to be confirmed.

7. To set a date for a budget meeting for Financial Year 2022-2023

It was agreed that members of the Finance Committee (Cllr Arnold, Cllr Butts, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Gill, Cllr Carruthers) meet to look at setting a budget for the financial year 2022-2023. A date in January 2022 will be confirmed. Following this meeting, the decision will be put to full Council to either keep the precept at the level it currently is or raise it by anything up to 3% inflation.

8. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

151121	Laurence Davis Hedge Removal Burnside Park	3044	£200.00
171121	E Joule External Hard Drive	3045	£36.95*
281121	E Joule Salary	3046	£720.29
281121	O2 Contract for CCTV Bramble Way	d.d.	£21.90*
281121	RBS Bank charges	d.d.	tbc
301121	Classic Garden Bench Renovation	3047	£360.00*

*contain VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

With regard to the amendments to the RBS account it was resolved that the Authorised Signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 1.3 (RBS Authorised Signatory amendment application) be changed in accordance with the section Authorised Signatories and the current mandate will continue as amended.

9. To discuss further cutting of the hedges at Burnside playground

A hedge dividing Burnside playground and private dwelling houses was overgrowing onto the playground and it was previously resolved to have it cut back. An approximately 4 metre width was reduced along part of the hedge to approximately 2 metres wide to prevent further ingrowth. It was resolved that it is not necessary at this stage to do any further work on the hedge, but that it will be monitored over coming months to assess whether it needs to be reduced further.

10. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Ref. No: 2021/1239/FUL

Proposal: Single storey extension to and alterations of a bungalow

Location: Lanvale, Lancaster Lane, Parbold Wigan Lancashire

Parish Council Response: No objection in principle: however, in deciding this application the LPA will wish to be satisfied that there would be no harmful impact upon adjacent trees and hedges; and that there would be no harmful overshadowing or overbearing effects upon the adjacent residential property at Beauvale, taking into account matters of slope and orientation which can only be properly appreciated by inspection on site.

Ref. No: 2021/1356/NMA

Proposal: Further application for a colour change to fascia boards and soffits, windows to rear extension and central panelling, following approval for extension.

Location: 12 Lathom Avenue, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire WN8 7DT

Parish Council Response: No objection

11. Update on Councillor raised issues:-

- **Leaves blown onto road when hand held garden blowers are used to clear driveways/gardens**
It was agreed that this would be a suitable newsletter item for next autumn.
- **Overgrown hedges near telephone exchange**
Councillor Holland had raised that the hedges around BT's telephone exchange had become overgrown and were encroaching on the pavement along the Common and on the corner of Tanhouse lane. CBRE were contacted, who undertake ground maintenance for BT sites, and the hedges have now been cut back.
- **The condition of the railway station dwelling**
Councillor Carruthers raised the issue of the neglected condition of the house adjoining Parbold railway station. The owners of the property have been contacted and the Site Manager arranged for a team to conduct a safety inspection of the railings and wall on 24th November. He has also been asked to tidy up the vegetation at the front and side of the property.
- **Drainage issues at RBS.**
This has been deferred to the next parish council meeting
- **Overgrown hedges on Station road**

Councillor Blake had raised the issue of overhanging and overgrown trees and bushes on Station road that are blocking light to neighbouring properties and encroaching on the pavement, making pedestrian access difficult. Letters have been delivered to no. 30 and 32 Station Road, asking the residents to remove overgrown and overhanging trees and bushes. There has been a response from the owner of no. 30, who is liaising with the WLBC Arboricultural Officer regarding the removal of the trees. No response at this stage from the occupier of no. 32.

- **Potholes in The Common shop car park**
This has been deferred to the next parish council meeting.

12. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

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.

- Councillor Blake raised the request of a local family to make a donation toward the new bench being ordered by the Parish Council, to include a commemorative plaque.
- Councillor Blake also raised an issue regarding vehicles parking along Lindley Drive, close to the junction with The Common. This makes entry and egress from Lindley drive difficult and may be causing an obstruction.
- A complaint has been received about the unsightliness of vehicles parked on the site of the old car sales business.
- A query has been raised about the use of the WI frontage for a food outlet van
- Consideration may be given to commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022

13. Update on Land Registration issues

With regard to registering the land adjacent to the Heys, Parbold the documents have all been submitted and a result is expected within 6 to 8 weeks.

14. To discuss whether to move to internet banking with either the current banking provider or another bank

Efforts have been made previously to find a more suitable bank that meets the needs of the Parish Council and allows for internet banking. With this in mind information regarding Unity Trust bank was distributed to all Councillors in advance of this meeting. Key points to consider are:

- Fit for purpose of a parish council
- Online transactions with BACS payments
- Simpler authorisation process

- Immediate access to accounts
- Safe and secure banking

It was resolved to apply to move the Parish Council accounts to Unity Trust bank and progress will be reported back to the next meeting.

15. Employer pension contributions for Clerk

All employers are now required by law to provide a workplace pension for certain staff and pay contributions towards it. However, employees have the choice to opt out of this scheme if they so choose.

This is the case in this instance –the Clerk has chosen to opt out of the scheme and this has been recorded by letter.

16. To discuss the location of future meetings

Consideration was given to possible locations for future meetings of the Parish Council. It was resolved to continue to use the Village Hall as it provides more room for attendees and has Wifi available.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

Cllr Brian Arnold
Chairman

3rd December 2021