

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 1st September 2023 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

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

5 members of the public in attendance.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Carruthers and Cllr Long.

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.

A member of the public gave a very interesting story about the origins of the Parbold Bottle, back in 1832, which had been reported in the Preston Chronicle. The article talked of the Bottle as a beacon, commemorating in part King William IV and mentioned Charles Dickinson of Parbold Hall. There are currently two grant applications submitted for the erection of signage to the Bottle from the top of Parbold Hill.

Representatives from the Friends of Parbold Station noted an item on the Agenda relating to renewing the subscription to the Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association (OPSTA). The representatives reminded

Council members that OPSTA have no jurisdiction over Parbold railway station, although acknowledging that OPTSA work hard to protect and campaign for railway services, including the Southport to Manchester line. The question of why the Parish Council support OPSTA and not the Friends of Parbold Railway station was raised. The representatives stated that they do receive support from Northern Rail plus access to grants, and the Chairman invited them to contact the Parish Council if they have a future project that needs support.

A member of the public raised an issue of a large planter outside the new shop “Sorrel and Sage” on Station Road next door to the Chinese takeaway. It prevents parking in front of this shop and apparently causes a problem when drivers believe there is a space to park then realise last minute that there is not – one driver almost had a collision. It was unclear whether the land in front of these shops is privately owned and therefore not under the jurisdiction of the Highways dept.

The Parish Council was asked to remind doctors and staff working at Parbold surgery not to use the village hall car parking spaces nearest to the surgery and hall. These spaces are much better used by less mobile visitors to both buildings. On a number of occasions since the work on the surgery has been completed it appears that there are very few cars parked in the surgery car park and a number taking up the nearest spaces in the main village hall car park. Work is underway to replant the area outside The Heys, using donated plants and bulbs combined with new shrubs.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th July 2023

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

5. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

100723	Fire Equipment Services - fire alarm test	BACS	£126.00
150723	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
100723	Olia Decorating – cabins	BACS	£325.00
190723	O2 CCTV	D/D	£26.76
250723	WLBC Election Recharges	BACS	£314.29
280723	B Joule – salary	S/O	£815.66
310723	Laurence Davis groundworks	BACS	£1767.00

010823	Argus Fire – intruder alarm test	BACS	£138.00
070823	Office supplies – large envelopes, ink	BACS	£31.50
090823	Brian Gold – digital services	BACS	£60.00
090823	Playsafety – playground inspections	BACS	£184.20
150823	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
160823	PKF Littlejohn – external audit	BACS	£378.00
190823	O2 CCTV	D/D	£26.76
280823	B Joule – salary	S/O	£815.66
310823	Laurence Davis groundworks	BACS	£1707.00
310823	Wrightington Windows	BACS	£20.00
310823	J W Moores – servicing heating system	BACS	£1670.40

Signatories – please note that following authorisation at this meeting the requests for BACS payment will mirror this list.

6. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application No: 2023/0557/LDP

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single storey garage/workshop

Site Location: Abbotswood, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, Wigan

Comments: The Parish Council has no objection to this application

Application No: 2023/0649/FUL

Proposal: Change of use application for previously approved proposal (2020/0463/FUL) for Scarisbrick House, which is now under construction. The change of use is for the approved first floor residential dwelling to instead become a 'Continuation or Extra Capacity for the Bar Restaurant'.

Location: Scarisbrick House, 4 The Common, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire.

Comments: The description of the proposed development ('continuation or extra capacity for Bar/Restaurant') would result in extension of the bar/restaurant use into the first floor area currently approved as residential. The proposal is very similar to the previous proposal for a 'function room' and would have very similar harmful effects upon the amenity of residential neighbours opposite in and beyond this part of The Common, and in Fairhurst's Drive. (A Councillor actually received a complaint from a neighbour in Fairhurst's Drive about noise and disturbance on the night of Saturday 2 September). The Parish Council objects to this planning application. The approved residential use should be maintained.

Application No: 2023/0652/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and rear dormer.

Location: 61 Brandreth Drive, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HB.

Comments: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

Application No. 2023/0660/FUL

Proposal: Single-storey extension to rear and sides.

Location: Bracken Lodge, The Delph, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire.

Comments: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

Application No: 2023/0600/FUL

Proposal: Conversion and extension of garage to form annexe ancillary to main house; single storey rear utility room extension to main house.

Location: 1A Bradshaw Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NQ.

Comments: This proposed development would not be physically linked to the main house, and would rely upon a planning condition to prevent it from being used/sold away from the main property as an entirely separate unit of accommodation. The utility room extension has no internal access from the main house; it would be directly opposite the entrance to the proposed unit, and could be used simply to expand the accommodation, possibly to include use as a kitchen. WLBC is no doubt aware of these possibilities and will bear them in mind in dealing with the application. The Parish Council would object to the creation of a separate dwelling with substandard external space, but otherwise has no objection in principle provided the use is genuinely ancillary (e.g. 'granny annexe').

7. Village issues

- **To receive an update on the recent flooding issues**

Cllr Stopford gave an update on the most recent episode of flooding in July. Heavy rainfall caused the flood prevention scheme outside Wigan to overtop and this, combined with a high tide, caused the Douglas river to flow into the Burnside area. Although this did not cause as much damage as previous floods it was still a very distressing event for residents. Parish and Borough Councillors attended to help and liaised with LCC and United Utilities. Residents have found that the Gov.uk

flood warning system can be an effective warning as it shows the height level of the river at various points in real time. However, the Parish Council will still work toward the prevention of flooding in the first instance, along with support when such an event occurs.

- **To consider the renewal of the subscription to OPSTA**

It was agreed that the Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association does sterling work to campaign for the retention, improvement and development of railway links, including Southport to Manchester. It was resolved to pay the subscription of £10 to cover the next 12 months.

- **To consider the RoSPA reports from the Burnside and Village Hall playground inspections**

The annual inspection of playground equipment at Burnside and the Village Hall revealed several areas of general wear and tear to monitor and advice on the maintenance of the equipment and surfaces. It was resolved to act upon the advice of the Inspectors and request that the work be undertaken where necessary.

- **To consider the proposed amendments to the planning application for the Convent site**

Amendments to the current planning application for the development have been circulated to Council members for consideration. It was resolved that no objection will be made to the amendments.

- **To consider the report of a faulty heating part in the village hall heating system.**

There is some confusion over the various servicing requirements for the village hall heating system. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting pending a breakdown of costs.

8. Alder Lane issues

- **To receive an update on the progress of both the Capital grant and the Grantscape grant in relation to Chapel Meadow**

Work is due to start soon on upgrading the paths around Chapel Meadow. This is being funded by a Capital grant supported by the Parish Council. The grant was sourced last year and it has needed to wait until autumn to minimise damage to the meadow during the works.

The Grantscape grant to improve Chapel Meadow was approved in principle and in order to receive the funds of £10,500.00 several criteria now have to be satisfied. The Clerk is working with Parbold Wildlife Group to prepare the information needed and will submit in due course. The grant is for repairs to the path from Bramble Way car park, new fencing alongside the canal and a comprehensive tree survey on Chapel Meadow with implementation of any recommendations. This will require a third party contribution (CTP) of £1172.00 from the Parish Council to cover ancillary costs and it was resolved to support this.

9. Update on Councillor raised issues:

- **To discuss the moderate remaining length of the Village Hall lease**
Following the recent meeting of the PCA and PC it was agreed that this item will be deferred to a suitable future date.
- **The condition of the station house**
Cllr Carruthers has finally had a response from the Arch Company, stating that they will clear the vegetation and repair the fence.
- **Land at The Heys**
Cllr Holland and Cllr Arnold have done sterling work on the planning and preparation of the ground for planting, there was a lot of Mare's Tail to be cleared prior to the new surface going down. A planting plan has now been prepared, utilising new and donated shrubs and bulbs.

10. Clerk's Report

The report was duly noted.

11. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

- Cllr Bailey reported that details of Borough and Parish Councillors were no longer displayed on the Parish Council noticeboards. He will send the Clerk a copy of the Borough Councillors details and both will be displayed on the noticeboards as well as the website.
- Cllr Arnold reported that there has been representation from Parbold Women's Institute regarding the condition of the fence between the WI building and the shops car park. It is requested that consideration be given to the replacement of this fence in the near future.

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.

12. To consider the new solar panel application proposals from the PCA

It was the general agreement that there is currently insufficient comparable data to make a final decision on whether or not to support this application. It was acknowledged that the current 1 year energy tariff was very high and that a more competitive quote may be sought when the tariff ends in January 2024.

There is another round of Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) grant applications beginning in October and it was resolved to ask the PCA to consider postponing the application until a full cost benefit analysis can be obtained and perhaps a better idea of the cost of a new tariff. The Parish Council still remain supportive of the PCA but need a clearer picture before committing a significant sum as a third part contributor to this project.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2130hrs.

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Chairman

1st September 2023