

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd November 2023 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

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

1 member of the public in attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a two minute silence was held in remembrance of the armed forces personnel who volunteered, served, fought and died for our freedom.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Butts and 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.

The Parish Council were asked to supply provisional meeting dates for 2024 in order to reserve the village hall meeting room. It was stressed that these may be subject to change and will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2024.

There was also notification of closures of the village hall car park on Wednesday 6th December for “Carols around the Tree” and on Wednesday 13th December for a short time for the Rotary Club’s “Santa’s Sleigh”.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 6th October 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 or already paid

061023	SLCC membership	BACS	£177.00
061023	T and V Wade	BACS	£720.00
101023	Laurence Davis – shops car park	BACS	£100.00
151023	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
191023	O2 CCTV	D/D	£26.76
281023	B Joule – salary	S/O	£815.66
301023	Grantscape – CTP payment	BACS	£1172.00

Payments noted at the meeting:

311023	Laurence Davis – extra grass cutting	BACS	£883.50
311023	B Joule – back pay for NALC pay award	BACS	£384.00

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

Reference: 2023/0842/FUL

Proposal: Two storey side extension, a single storey extension to the rear and a loft conversion.

Location: 34 Beech Avenue, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NS.

Response Deadline: 10 November 2023

Comments: The Parish Council resolved to offer no objection to this application.

7. Village issues

- **To discuss the display of festive lighting on streetlights through the village**

There has been a change of process for the attachment of festive lights to lamp posts within the borough, with a contractor now being used to install and remove the lights. With the increased cost of this service and the cost of buying the strings of lights, it was resolved to leave the display this year and reconsider in 2024.

- **To discuss the arrangements for the village Christmas Tree**

The Parish Council will be providing the village Christmas Tree this year and a tree has been procured locally which will be installed outside the W.I. building as usual. It was resolved to buy new festive lighting for the tree, and provide cables and safety fencing around the base.

- **To receive an update on the servicing of the village hall heating system**

Councillors have been working to establish a clearer picture of the different heating systems within the village hall and the maintenance requirements. It was resolved to meet with heating engineers again as it is necessary to streamline the servicing, repair and maintenance requirements.

8. Alder Lane issues

- **To receive an update on the annual meeting between the Parish Council and Parbold Wildlife Fund**

The Parish Council received an annual report from the Parbold Wildlife Group, which outlined the current site condition, practical management of the meadow, adherence to the Management Plan's objectives and the funding situation. Councillors had met with the Group at their annual meeting where they had submitted proposed capital and management plans to the Parish Council. It was resolved to agree these plans and support the sterling work done by the Group to maintain the meadow for the benefit of the community.

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

The Grantscape contract has been received and the agreed plans can now be implemented. This means that the fencing alongside the canal can be installed and Midstream are clearing the brambles and undergrowth in preparation. The £10,500.00 grant has been apportioned as follows:

Fencing	£1500.00
Path to meadow	£5000.00
Tree survey/works	£4000.00

There can be some flexibility within this, as long as Grantscape are provided with rationale. The contractors working on the improvement to the canal towpaths have also put down a rough stone track over the path running from Bramble Way car park to the rear of the compound. Although this is a good start the path is still unsuitable for visitors using mobility aids and will require further improvements to create a suitable path.

9. Update on Councillor raised issues:

- **To receive an update on the condition of the house adjoining the railway station**

The persistence of one Councillor has paid off and the overgrowth of shrubs into the carriageway has finally been cut back. Work has also commenced on repairing the fence at the front of the property.

- **To receive an update on the gully cleaning and weed spraying schedule for the village**

Cllr Bailey reports that some gully cleaning is underway within the village, as leaves can block the gullies and lead to flooding. He will monitor this over the next few weeks.

- **To receive an update on the response to the flooding of the underpass at the level crossing in Parbold**

The flooding has been reported to the Network Rail emergency line and it is understood that operatives came out to assess the situation. Enquiries will continue to establish why the underpass floods so regularly and what can be done to remedy this occurrence.

10. Clerk's Report

The report was duly noted.

11. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

- Cllr Holland reported that planting is underway on the small piece of land adjacent to The Heys. A variety of bulbs have been planted thanks to a kind donation by a Parbold resident and further planting is planned to enhance this area and encourage wildlife.
- It was requested that updates are provided to the Parish Council on the proposed development of the Convent buildings and land, and also on the progress of the Railway Hotel conversion.
- The Chairman was delighted to announce that Cllr May Blake has been presented with Honorary Alderman status, which is the highest recognition of excellent service that can be given to former Borough Councillors. In a special ceremony Cllr May was officially presented with the Honorary Alderman Scroll and a Council Shield, and during her presentation she was described as "outgoing, friendly and whose love of her community is clear and very much reciprocated. She is respected and held in high esteem by all sides of the Chamber for her long service and hard work. May seemed to know everyone and formed close relationships with Parbold Parish Council, the Church and several other local organisations within the community. May was a thoroughly reliable councillor; she was always hard working, tireless and cared for others. Being elected an Alderman is the highest honour that this Council can bestow on a former Councillor, and the criteria is that they gave eminent service. May Blake certainly did give eminent and distinguished service during her 28 years as a Councillor." The Parish Council would like to extend their congratulations to Cllr Blake for her well-deserved recognition of many years of service to the community of Parbold.

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.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2100hrs.

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Chairman

3rd November 2023

