

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Friday 26th January 2024 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Butts, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Stopford, Cllr Long, Cllr Blake, Cllr Holland, Cllr Schaffel and Cllr Carruthers

No members of the public in attendance.

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.

- **1. To discuss the request from the PCA for a financial contribution to their solar panels project, subject of an FEL grant.**

The Chairman thanked members for attending this extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council and gave an overview of the circumstances leading up to the meeting.

The PCA have been successful in securing a grant for the installation of additional solar panels, in order to offset the village hall energy costs. The PCA had asked the Parish Council to provide financial support for this project and the purpose of this meeting was to decide upon what, if any, support would be provided.

On the previous day a meeting had taken place with a contractor whom the PCA had pre-selected as being the most suitable, and who met the grant provider's specifications. Councillors had had the opportunity to question the

contractor and gain a more technical understanding of what the new solar panel system would provide, and how it would integrate into the existing system. A summary of the meeting was circulated to Councillors prior to this extraordinary meeting.

The question of whether the project would provide value for money was discussed at length. Over the previous year the village hall energy costs were prohibitive, mainly due to a high energy tariff. A more competitive tariff has already been sourced and this would significantly reduce the bills; the Parish Council then discussed whether the proposed project would give additional benefit and be worth the investment in the long run.

It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council support the project and would cover the cost of the 3rd party contribution of £4312.00. The PCA had already begun a community fund raising effort to pay the match funding costs of £9794.00 which the Parish Council found very commendable and it was unanimously resolved that, should there be a shortfall in the fund raising, the Parish Council would make up the difference.

Finally, it was resolved that the Parish Council would advance the PCA the deposit amount of £1833.00 in order to open an account with Octopus Energy. An agreement to repay the deposit would be forthcoming in due course.

During the meeting with the contractor it had been suggested that the current solar panels be checked to assess their efficiency and the Parish Council could consider whether to agree to any replacements or upgrades. This work could then be undertaken at the same time as the new installation. The contractor agreed to provide a quote for this additional work.

It was suggested that a meeting with the PCA and their Accountant would be beneficial, to look at financial planning over the next year. It was also believed that the new systems would provide better scrutiny of energy use, thus allowing the PCA to compare usage against hire costs etc. If the PCA are agreeable then this meeting will be arranged forthwith.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2000hrs.

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Chairman

26th January 2024