

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd May 2024 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DL

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chair), Cllr Gill, (Vice Chair), Cllr Blake, Cllr Long, Cllr Butts, Cllr Schaffel

5 members of the public in attendance.

1. To elect Chairman and receive declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Arnold was duly elected as Chairman and read out his declaration of acceptance of office which was witnessed, signed and dated.

2. To elect Vice Chairman and receive declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Gill was duly elected as Vice Chairman and read out his declaration of acceptance of office which was witnessed, signed and dated.

3. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Holland, Cllr Stopford and Cllr Carruthers.

4. To receive declarations of interest, including updating Register of Financial Interest forms

None declared.

5. 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 representative from the Stop Parbold Landfill Group updated Members on the current situation with West Quarry in Appley Bridge. It is felt that there is a significant risk following the clearing of vegetation and dismantling of gas monitoring apparatus. This has a knock on effect for the Parbold Quarry site as there is now seemingly no monitoring of leachate; it is reported that well heads have been left open and essential infrastructure has been removed.

It was requested that the Parish Council make representations to the Planning Inspectorate to register concerns and ensure that they are heard. The representative was thanked for his input and was informed that this will be further discussed later in the meeting.

- A representative from the Parbold Community Association raised the previous agreement for the Parish Council to help fund the fee for an Architect to draw up plans for an extension to the rear of the village hall. He outlined the timescale for a possible grant that would be available but expressions of interest would need to be lodged by 31st May. The Chairman reminded Members that the agreement had been temporarily shelved following the match funding of the recent solar panel project. A meeting had also been requested with the PCA and their Accountant to make informed financial plans for the village hall over the next few years but no date had been set to date.

Cllr Bailey joined the meeting at this point.

6. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 5th April 2024.

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

7. To decide frequency of Meetings and determine the four Statutory Meetings and amend Standing Orders, if necessary, accordingly

The following dates were agreed:

Friday 7th June
Friday 12th July
Friday 6th September (Statutory meeting)
Friday 4th October
Friday 1st November (Statutory meeting)
Friday 6th December
Friday 3rd January 2025
Friday 7th February 2025
Friday 7th March 2025 (Statutory meeting)
Friday 4th April
Friday 2nd May (Statutory meeting)

8. To confirm membership of committees, sub-committees and representation on outside bodies

The following membership was agreed:

Finance Committee – Cllr Arnold, Cllr Butts, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Gill

Planning Committee – Cllr Arnold, Cllr Holland, Cllr Gill, Cllr Long

**Liaison with PCA Subcommittee to the Amenities Committee
Composition** –Cllr Arnold, Cllr Butts,, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Stopford

PCA Observer – Cllr Butts

Peter Lathom Charity & Richard Durning Trust Board – Cllr Blake

Peter Lathom Charity - Cllr Carruthers

9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented or paid since the last meeting

150424	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
190424	O2 CCTV	D/D	£26.76
220424	Laurence Davis	BACS	£200.00
280424	B Joule – salary	S/O	£855.84
280424	Chairman’s Allowance	BACS	£200.00
280424	HMRC tax	D/D	£162.01
280424	Best Kept Village competition	BACS	£25.00
010524	Wrightington Windows	BACS	£20.00

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

10. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application No: 2024/0296/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective application: Increasing the height of a boundary fence.

Location: The White House, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire.

Comments: The Parish Council offers no objection

Application No: 2024/0239/ADV

Proposal: 6 x advertisements to market forthcoming residential development.

Location: Sisters Of Notre Dame Convent, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire.

Comments: The Parish Council offers no objection

Application No: 2024/0299/PNP

Proposal: Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for details - Erection of polytunnels

Site Location: Wayfarer Restaurant, 1 - 5 Alder Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire.

Comments: The Parish Council offers no objection

11. To discuss the quote for annual insurance cover

It was resolved to accept the renewal quote from the current insurance provider. There was a slight increase in the premium which was considered to be acceptable. The insurers have been informed of the new solar panel installation and are happy with the safety measures put in place.

12. Village issues

- **To discuss the heating system service reminder for the village hall small room – Worcester boiler plan**

It was resolved to accept the proposed boiler plan for the village hall, which offers a call out service that would prove useful in an emergency.

- **To discuss quotes for a replacement seesaw on Burnside play area**

Several quotes had been sought for a replacement seesaw. This item of equipment seems to be a popular choice for children and had become worn after much use. It was resolved to replace it with a similar model, and the more robust seesaw was chosen.

- **To receive an update on the situation affecting Parbold Quarry**

Following on from the update given earlier, it was noted that due to the very tight timescale between the Parish Council becoming aware of the situation at the West Quarry in Appley Bridge and the closure of the comments window Cllr Holland submitted a representation on behalf of the Council prior to this meeting. It is hoped that this will alert the Planning Inspectorate to the common thread passing through all development proposals involving the quarries and through making this representation the Parish Council have set down a marker to appear at any future Public Inquiry held into the appeal.

13. Alder Lane issues

- **To discuss quotes for the replacement of the Footpath map on Mill lane**

A suitable quote had been sourced for the replacement from a local firm, on a vinyl based paper that is more water resistant. It was resolved to accept this quote and renew the map on this paper.

- **To discuss quotes for the Bottle sign**

A further quote had been sourced from a local supplier using a polycarbonate material which it was felt would need less maintenance than wood. It was requested that a visual representation be circulated to ensure that this would be suitable, although the description and price were favourable.

14. To review Standing Orders

The current Standing Orders document was circulated to Members for review. It was resolved to accept the document with no changes.

15. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was duly noted.

16. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

- Cllr Bailey raised the matter of the resurfacing of the canal towpath finishing short of the anticipated distance. The most used section – between the Alder lane bridge and the Mill bridge – has not been resurfaced, much to the dismay of villagers and the Parish Council. This work has been undertaken by the Canal and Rivers Trust following a grant from West Lancashire District Council. Cllr Bailey will make enquiries as to why this has not been completed and will update Members at the next meeting.
- Cllr Blake raised a question of whether the Parish Council may consider a grant to improve the safety of the Christ Church grounds, currently used by churchgoers and users of the Hut on the Hill.

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.

17. To decide upon a s137 grant to a local community group

The accounts of the Friends of Parbold Library had been circulated to Members for their consideration, following the request for a grant to help with the cost of new tables for the library. It was resolved to make a s137 grant of £200.00.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2055hrs.

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Chairman

3rd May 2024

