

Parbold Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 4th April 2025 in Parbold Village Hall, The Common, WN8 7DN

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

10 members of the public in attendance.

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.

Two members of the war memorial support group that are looking to install a war memorial within Parbold gave an update on the progress made by the group to secure funding and a suitable location. This member stated that there are 96 names of local people who gave their lives in the world wars for the freedom of others, and it is felt that this should be recognised. The group are asking the parish council for support on this project.

A representative of the Stop Parbold Landfill group gave an update on the situation with the court cases which followed a long investigation into practices by the owners of Parbold and Appley Bridge West Quarry. They

were found guilty of not adhering to the permits and fines were issued by the court along with costs. However, the representative asked that the Clerk write to LCC again regarding the planning application relating to this site, which is still open, asking to close it. The Chairman thanked the representative for keeping the Parish Council informed.

This representative also raised the condition of the Mill Lane conservation area. He has concerns over the gradual degradation of the area, where inappropriate windows and doors have been allowed, and vehicles parked in the front areas of the cottages which he feels has consequences for the character of the conservation area.

A member of the public made a suggestion about the strip of land outside The Heys, owned by the Parish Council. She thought that it could be maintained with the help of the Parbold Swallows and Amazons group, along with advice from the Parbold Wildlife Group. This could encourage the young people to have a feeling of belonging to the village and to enjoy improving the area. This would need to be managed by the Swallows and Amazons leaders with regard to health and safety. It was asked that this be considered at the next meeting.

A member of the public reminded Members of the poor water situation on Fairhurst Drive and Greenfield Avenue. The Chairman assured the member of the public that it would be raised at the upcoming meeting with United Utilities on 8th April.

The Upholland Parish Clerk updated the Council on the litter bin situation in her parish and the intended response from Upholland Parish Council.

Borough Cllr Jukes stated that she had contacted the Licensing dept following a complaint about the Windmill PH. A review is underway and residents now have 4 weeks to respond to the Licensing Dept. Cllr Jukes said that she has also met with Cllr Arnold to arrange clearance of blocked gullies.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th March 2025.

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

120325	Office supplies – ink cartridges	BACS	£9.92
120325	Boiler Care – village hall	D/D	£19.25
150325	Vision Link	D/D	£24.00
150325	O2 CCTV	D/D	£28.07
280325	B Joule – salary	S/O	£920.48
280325	Wrightington Windows	BACS	£20.00
280325	Best Kept Village competition	BACS	£25.00
280325	Laurence Davis groundworks	BACS	£350.00
310325	Bank charges	D/D	£6.00
310325	Yates Playgrounds quarterly inspection	BACS	£69.60

6. Councillor co-option – to consider any applications received for the two vacant seats provided no election has been called

The Election Officer at WLBC had confirmed that there had been no requests to call an election, therefore the co-option process could be undertaken at this meeting. Two candidates came forward and their appointment was confirmed by ballot. The two new Councillors are Borough Councillor Katie Jukes and Mr. Dan McCafferty and they were welcomed onto the Parish Council by the Chairman.

7. To note Planning and Planning Applications

None forward

8. Village issues

- **To consider the outcome of the recent WLBC meeting where a new sustainable budget was set out for 2025-26**

Members discussed the recent announcement from WLBC that from 1st May the parish council will be charged to have certain litter bins emptied within the parish, at a rate of £5 per bin per time. There are 7 bins within the village that have been provided by the parish council, and these are the ones that will incur a charge. These bins were

purchased by the parish council over time, mainly to replace bins previously provided by WLBC that had fallen into disrepair. It was resolved to push back on this directive as the Parish Council had not been notified of this prior to setting the budget and precept request for 2025-26.

- **To further consider the support for a war memorial to be sited within the village**

Cllr Arnold gave an update to members on enquiries made so far, on a suitable location for a memorial within the village. There may be a number of factors to consider if the PC or other group wish to install a memorial on land not owned by the Parish Council. The meeting was briefly closed at 2030hrs in order to obtain clarification from the memorial group members and re-opened at 2037hrs. It was established that the memorial stone would measure approximately 4' x 2' and would have a small inscription, rather than the names of the fallen. There would be no cost for the stone and inscription as that has already be covered by donations. It was resolved to support this project and liaise with the group to take this forward.

9. Alder Lane matters

- **To receive an update from the Parbold Village show committee**

An update had been provided prior to the meeting. The deadline for stallholder applications was 31st March and the committee will now process them. Cllr Bailey has secured permission in principal to use the leachate compound for stallholder parking during the show, in order to keep vehicles off the field as much as possible. However, there are provisos which will need further discussion with the show committee. As Cllr McCafferty is also the show committee Chair he offered to be the point of contact for the parish council.

10. To review the following policies:

- **draft Statement of Internal Control**

This document had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and it was resolved to adopt this statement.

- **draft Financial Regulations**

This item was deferred to the next meeting, as there may be copyright issues with the draft document.

11. To consider the approval of the final bank reconciliation for 2024-25

The bank reconciliation had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and it was resolved to accept this document as a true record of the Council's financial position.

12. Updates on Councillor raised issues

- **To consider taking over the management of village-based CCTV cameras from WLBC**

Cllr Bailey had raised concern about the borough council monitored CCTV camera being switched off in Parbold. He reminded Members of the deterrent value of such cameras, which improves community safety and trust. Cllr Bailey will continue to pursue this issue and will report back to the next meeting.

13. Clerk's Report

The report was noted by Members.

14. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Blake drew Members' attention to the recent articles in a number of national and regional newspapers which proclaimed Parbold as one of the best places to live in the north west. The Times highlighted the history, convenience, culture and community spirit. Cllr Blake asked for this to be added to the Parbold Newsletter.

Cllr Jukes asked for the updates on flooding issues within the village to be included on the next Agenda.

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, if any.

15. To consider the position of Chairperson prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting in May

Cllr Arnold requested that some thought be given to the position of Chairperson prior to the next meeting, in order to save time as there will be much to get through at the May meeting.

16. To consider a proposal from the recent meeting with the Parbold Community Association (PCA) regarding development plans

Minutes from the meeting with the PCA had been circulated to Members prior to this meeting. Cllr Schaffel declared an interest in this item as his relative is connected to the project. It was suggested that should the parish council support the development project then there should be a firm projection of sufficient income generation to warrant the financial outlay. Also, that the project should not be overly ambitious, as any additional or unforeseen costs may fall back on the parish council to cover. It was resolved to cover the cost of an architect 50:50 with the PCA/Douglas Music. The PCA will source a suitable firm for approval by the parish council and make the arrangements. It was also resolved to set up a working group to progress this project.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2105hrs.

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Chairman

4th April 2025