

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd September 2010 at Parbold Women's Institute.

Prior to opening the meeting the Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public present.

John Blanchard raised the issue that Parbold had a long history of cricket players unable to play cricket in the village and having to travel to Hesketh Bank and Newburgh – Parbold were one of the original 1890 members of the Southport & District League and one of only two teams that didn't have a cricket pitch. The new playing field appears tailor-made for a cricket pitch and Mr Blanchard asks that the Parish Council consider this area for cricket.

The Chairman responded that the Parish Council would welcome the formation of a Parbold Cricket Club but that the playing field was currently unsupported by any facilities and it could only be on a turn up and play basis for the time-being.

Mr Blanchard noted that Shevington Sharks Amateur Rugby League team had requested use of the fields which seemed unfair as they were not Parbold residents. It was explained that the pitch was ready for play and required a team ready to start immediately, to keep rabbits at bay and that any team with an appropriate development plan that will not drain Parish Council resources would be considered. There is a desire on the Parish Council part to accommodate as many different sports as possible, but the financial demands of a maintaining a cricket pitch for the exclusive use of cricket may be prohibitive.

Mr Blanchard agreed to explore the concept of forming a cricket team and let the Parish Clerk have the details so that the Parish Council can consider the idea further.

There was then open discussion with Chief Inspector Dean Holden who explained that in terms of policing during the last 18 months performance indicators show Lancashire to be performing extremely well. The new government's concept of The Big Society is introducing a new set of indicators, led by what communities want. There may be directly elected Commissioners who will determine priorities for policing in the future.

Following the Pilkington case, the focus has turned to anti-social behaviour. Whilst serious crime is out there, it tends to be that people are more worried about what is happening outside their front door; rowdy behaviour etc. New targets will be set, led by what communities want. Commissioners – with elected members setting agenda and targets driven by what communities want rather than Home Office led.

He explained that during PC Hackney's absence he did not have the manpower to dedicate a replacement officer to Parbold but that the area was well covered with other officers having a default mode to Parbold whenever they were quiet in their own areas. When PC Hackney was on light duties his focus of work was still as Rural Beat Officer and considering schemes such as the smartwater initiative.

In terms of future funding the position nationally will be difficult and the position for Lancashire was still a little uncertain with £45 million to save out of a £ 300 million budget. This will definitely reduce service levels, hopefully only in backroom roles but the position of rural PCSO's will be vulnerable. He is not saying it will happen in Parbold but it would be remiss not to warn of the possibility. The current structure combines dedicated staff, well

supported by the community safety partnership that continues to achieve targets and delivers what the community wants, so the hope is that, despite financial constraints, this will continue.

It was confirmed that PC Hackney now resumed full duties.

Cllr Bithell asked whether a move of authority from central government to local community would give a parish council any influence on how the money is spent.

The idea is to develop a Police & Crime Commissioner who would be responsible for gathering information from the residents and set the budget. However, the general public are totally unaware of the police work in terms of protective services, which includes the monitoring of repeat offenders, high risk offenders, sex offenders, convicted drug dealers, conspiracy and high level acquisitive crime investigations. These do not register on the target structure but they take a lot of time and therefore money.

He confirmed that breaches of asbos were returned to the courts very quickly but that asbos are a last resort, his officers spending a good deal of time with people trying to get them to modify their own behaviour without resort to an order.

There was further discussion about Community Payback and the good relationship between police and probation in creating effective integrated offender management. The level of tolerance around anti-social behaviour was discussed, noting that in some areas the level of tolerance is quite high but in others rather low. The importance being ensuring that those vulnerable and scared are assisted. Disturbances around public houses were also discussed with the public being encouraged to report any bad behaviour. Cllr Mrs Raju asked that police drive through the village at closing time, but it was acknowledged that police are needed in the town centres on Friday and Saturday evenings. It was always possible though for the local policing team to restructure their duties if there was a particular identified problem.

Cllr Bithell asked what can the Parish Council do to help the police? It was explained that many councils financially support or give part-funding towards the provision of a PCSO and this might be something to consider in the future.

Cllr Mrs Harry wished to record thanks to PCSO Dave Benson.

At 8:15pm the Chairman opened the meeting

Present: Cllr Bailey (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Arnold, Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Harry, Cllr Mrs Middleton, Cllr Mrs Raju.

1 To hear declaration of acceptance of office and adherence to the Code of Conduct for new Councillor

Cllr Mrs Rachel Middleton read out her acceptance of office and declarations, which were witnessed and signed.

2 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Wess.

3 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Mrs Butts - personal interest in village hall matters as Parish Council appointed observer to the PCA General Committee

Cllr Bailey – personal interest in any items relating to his position as a member of West Lancashire Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Peter Lathom’s Charity Board of Trustees, Richard Durning Trust and WLBC Standards Board and Items 14 and 15.

Cllr Mrs Raju – personal and prejudicial interest in Alder Lane Recreation and Leisure Support Association

Cllr Mrs Middleton – personal interest as a member of Parbold Wildlife Group

4 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 2nd July 2010

Resolution (34/10): Following amendment, the minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Butts, all in favour.

5 Any Item of Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chairman

None

6 To consider candidates for position of Parish Councillor on WLBC Standards Board

Resolution (35/10): That Jacky Citerella be selected as Parish Council representative on the WLBC Standards Board.

7 To consider applications for funding from:-

(i) Village Carol Concert organisers request for £150

The Clerk was requested to obtain more information in terms of a financial report from last year’s event before considering this application. The Clerk was also asked to request why the concert was being held so early in December and whether the group had a bank account.

(ii) Crossroads, Care West Lancashire

Resolution (36/10): It was agreed to donate £50 to Crossroads, Care West Lancashire by way of s137 LGA 1972. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Raju, seconded by Cllr Bailey, all in favour.

8 To ratify accounts and authorise payment

060710	UK Hosting Systems	Website costs (first invoice)	2064	£58.73*
200710	Parbold W I	room hire costs	2065	£30.00
200710	UK Hostings Systems	Website costs (second invoice)	2066	105.75*
200710	Parbold W I	room hire costs	2067	£30.00
280710	David Secrett	Gardening & Cleaning	s.o.	£128.00
290710	E A Broad	Salary (July 2010)	s.o.	£ 660.74
300710	Sherwoods	Grasscutting (July 2010)	s.o.	£ 1,119.07*
180810	Argus Security	village Hall alarm system	2068	£117.50*
180810	Itsa Goal	Goalposts for Alder Lane	2069	£786.08*
280810	David Secrett	Gardening & Cleaning	s.o.	£128.00
290810	E A Broad	Salary (August 2010)	s.o.	£ 660.74
300810	Sherwoods	Grasscutting (August 2010)	s.o.	£ 1,119.07*
030910	Lancs CTP	New councillors course	2070	£30.00
030910	M Abel	Tree Wardens – bushes at vh	2071	£7.48
030910	Waterworths	Footpath project	2072	£21,678.75*
030910	Waterworths	Sand for playing fields	2073	£235.00*
030910	OPSTA	subscription	2074	£10.00
030910	Inland Revenue	Tax and NI – 2 months	2075	£176.78
030910	Crossroads WL Care	Section 137 donation	2076	£50.00

*contain VAT

Resolution (37/10): That the accounts presented be ratified and authorised for payment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Butts, seconded by Cllr Bithell, seven in favour, one abstention.

9 To agree to produce a twice-yearly Parish Council Newsletter

Resolution (38/10): That the Parish Council issue a twice yearly newsletter for delivery to all households. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Butts, seven in favour, one abstention.

Councillors were asked to give the Clerk any items they wish to include in the newsletter.

10 Village Hall Matters:

- **To consider granting permission to install doors to separate the small and main hall as requested by PCA**

Resolution (39/10): That the Parish Council grant permission for the PCA to install doors in the corridor at the village hall. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Rachel Middleton, six in favour, two abstentions.

- **To receive letters of complaint regarding anti-social behaviour in the village hall play area**

Resolution (40/10): It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council respond in accordance with the drafted letter in the briefing notes.

11 Alder Lane:

- **To note current progress on funding application for goalposts at the new field**

The Clerk updated the meeting, confirming that the claim for reimbursement was now being processed through the Football Foundation and that delivery of the goalposts was awaited.

- **To update members on the Footpath project**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the footpath was now complete and the invoice for payment listed on this month's accounts for ratification.

- **To note progress of creating an interpretation board at Chapel Lane Meadow**

The Clerk confirmed that she was working on this with Cllr Mrs Harry, Jon Hickling and David Secret and that a draft design would be available for Councillors' consideration shortly.

At this point, Cllr Mrs Raju left the room.

- **To consider applications for use of playing fields at Alder Lane**

Formal application for use of the fields had been received from Shevington Sharks ARLA and David Powell. Following discussion the following resolutions were reached:-

Resolution (41/10): It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council

- (i) agree in principal to the conditional use of Alder Lane fields for one year by Shevington Sharks.
- (ii) create a working group of Chairman, Clerk, Cllr Arnold, Cllr Harrhy and David Powell.
- (iii) delegate to the working group discussion of this conditional use and conclusion of a single season agreement for 2010/2011
- (iv) delegate to the working group negotiation to bring a ten year agreement to a future meeting for ratification.

The introduction, this evening, of a proposal for a cricket pitch was acknowledged. It was agreed to advertise the fields in the newsletter to see if any other residents had ideas for their use. The Parish Council also concluded that any development of the fields and any facilities should encourage community use.

Resolution (42/10): The Parish Council unanimously agreed the following priorities :-

- 1 bring new field to a playable standard
- 2 bring old pitch back into playable standard)
- 2 build a MUGA in an agreed position and specification)
- 3 work with partners to secure changing facilities, as this needs a larger user to absorb some of the costs

Resolution (43/10): It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council

- 1 Seek external funding and identify Council funds to drain and bring the old field back into usage
- 2 Seek quotations for a MUGA for completion within 2010/2011 season

At 9.45pm Cllr Mrs Raju returned to the meeting, asked if discussion was completed but was told it was not, so she then left the meeting at 9.45 pm.

- To agree the position and specification for a Multi-use Games Area

Resolution (44/10): That a MUGA, 40m x 20m, including apron, to accommodate a netball court with 3 ft surround, be installed, adjacent to the new playing field, as near to the car park as possible, parallel with the footpath. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Bithell, all in favour.

- To review maintenance of playing fields

Resolution (45/10) That the Parish Council delegate to the working group to agree changes to the grass cutting regime, if at zero cost to the council. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Bithell, all in favour.

- 12 To determine whether the tarmac at the car park on The Common requires repair

The Clerk was requested to obtain quotations for this repair work and bring these to the next meeting.

13 To note flooding problems on Brandreth Drive, following complaints from local resident

Resolution (46/10): That the letters drafted in the briefing notes, be amended slightly and sent to the resident and United Utilities. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Bithell, all in favour.

14 To form response to LCC's consultation regarding Public Transport Costs to Denominational Schools

Following discussion, the Parish Council decided to encourage Councillors to respond individually.

15 To endorse addendum on the WLBC-Parish Councils Charter

Resolution (47/10): It was unanimously agreed that the addendum to the Charter be accepted.

16 To agree any proposals for the Lancashire Association of Local Councils AGM

No proposals were presented.

17 To discuss promotion of library services

It was decided to raise awareness amongst residents by highlighting in the newsletter that library services need to be used.

18 To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2010/0955/FUL

Proposal: Relocation and replacement of front door, new windows and partial overcladding.

Location: Delph Lodge, Brandreth Park, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7AG

Application Number: 2010/0851/FUL

Proposal: Part two storey/part first floor extension to side elevation, conversion of garage to living accommodation

Location: 22 Greenfield Avenue Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DH

Application Number: 2010/0682/FUL

Proposal: Conservatory to rear

Location: 24 Lathom Avenue Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DT

The planning applications were noted, with no parish council objections to these proposals.

19 To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

This item will be concluded administratively and need not be recorded in meeting.

20 Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Mrs Harry:-

- to consider revising the format of minutes with action points rather than having to read through all the minutes, -
- to consider tidying the land behind the McColls.

21 Resolution (48/10): 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 (terms & conditions of employment), the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda

It was unanimously agreed to close the public session of the meeting.

22 To receive update from the Clerk regarding the Main Hall Flooring

The Clerk updated the meeting following recent solicitor's advice.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm

Chairman – Cllr R M Bailey

Clerk – Mrs E-A Broad

Date