

# Parbold Parish Council

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## MINUTES

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 in Parbold Village Hall, The Green, WN8 7DL

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Holland, Cllr Blake, Cllr Gill, Cllr Stopford, Cllr Carruthers, Cllr Long.

5 members of the public in attendance.

#### 1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Butts and Cllr Schaffel.

#### 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.**

Ros Wess, retiring founder of the Parbold Flood Action Group explained the need to dissolve the group following lack of younger volunteers rather than no need for such a group. She gave a detailed report of thanking many volunteers, elected officials and council staff who have helped since the catastrophic Boxing Day floods of 2015, when the group was first formed. A hugely successful innovation of the group was the installation of community led telemetry on Dock Brook. However, with disbandment, there is now no way to maintain this unless the Parish Council agree to pay the monthly costs. As Parbold Parish Council always did pay this, though in the form of an annual grant, along with cover for Flood Wardens insurance, the costs to the Parish Council are actually reduced and well within budget. There will be one final meeting of the Flood Action Group to conclude winding up.

The Parish Council Chairman thanked Mrs Wess for her work, her tireless tenacity in getting the Lead Flood Authority (Lancashire County Council) to acknowledge and assist the flooding problems in the village.

Two representatives of the Stop Parbold Landfill group gave a detailed history of the applications made by the current landowner. Whilst to an observer, all seems quiet, the group continue daily activity and correspondence and have depleted funds in strongly objecting to a reopening of the land fill, in whatever guise it is promoted.

Following an approval in committee at LCC to recontour the land with further infill, the group sought legal opinion on that decision. The officers had accepted the applicants reports without question and legal opinion revealed anomalies with those reports. When the raw data, rather than the applicants' report was looked at, there were no legal grounds to re-open at this stage. The applicant has been told to sort out the Environmental Permit (from the Environment Agency) before proceeding further. This action has not been taken and there is now an unresolved application, which will likely time-out of the process. It is understood that the applicant has a number of enforcement notices from the EA and WLBC at this site and the Appley Bridge site. There is currently no monitoring of the site, so no data being collected to support any application for a permit variation.

There is clearly a risk that the site will be re-opened with HGV movements and associated problems of environmental nuisance so the group continue to observe the site and liaise with the authorities. Such activity costs and fund raising will continue. The next Parbold Hall flea market to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 will be run by the group and volunteers to assist are requested please.

Lancashire County Councillor Rob Bailey Parish thanked Mrs Wess for her work creating the Flood Action Group and acknowledged that LCC as the Lead Flood Authority had been greatly assisted by their work. LCC now have a new App for mobile phones, whereby a blocked gully can be photographed and reported in real time. Once completed, the mobile phone reporting the matter will receive a photograph of the cleared gully. The App can also be used to report potholes and similar road issues. The budget for gullies has doubled in size and each Borough will have their own gully vehicle. The homes on West View who have erected fencing across the brook have been issued with enforcement notices to remove this where it blocks the flow of water. It is hoped that all these measures will assist in reducing the incidence of flooding. Recent flooding on Brandreth Drive, thought to be due to inadequate utility management, was discovered to be caused by an ancient culvert. The route of this culvert will be mapped to see if it can be diverted.

There are discussions around how to improve customer experience and this may involve taking back in-house the incoming phone calls and 'VIP' emails. Looking also at how to change priorities, favouring rural networks rather than the usual markers for deprivation.

Finally, as the Lead Member for Highways and Active Travel am looking at ways to support and promote cycling and walking.

**4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Alder Lane update

The gate has been repaired and the benches will be installed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

There continue to be complaints about car racing on the car park at the end of Bramble Way. Residents are encouraged to report this to the police. Some have done so but the police have not viewed the cctv footage, so appear not to be treating this as a priority. Provision of a gate stalled following residents concern about large turning vehicles and the practicalities of locking and unlocking the gate.

## 6. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

040322	PCA room hire	3064	£34.00
070322	Glasdon Ltd (Hutcheon bench)	3065	£791.69
120322	Unity Trust bank	3066	£500.00
120322	Unity Trust bank	3067	£500.00
190322	O2 CCTV Bramble Way	d.d.	£21.90
210321	RBS Bank charges	d.d.	tbc
230322	E Joule Expenses – Jubilee Event	3068	£126.63
280322	E Joule Salary	d.d.	£720.29
280322	Chairman's Allowance	3069	£100.00
280322	Wrightington Windows	3070	£20.00
010422	Classic Garden Furniture – refurb benches	3071	£460.00
010422	Laurence Davis – for fencing	3072	£290.00
010422	Lancs Best Kept Village entry fee	3073	£25.00
010422	E A Broad – leave cover for meeting	3074	£28.00
010422	Wrightington Windows (April cleaning)	3075	£20.00
010422	PCA Room hire	2076	£34.00
010422	Vision Link – telemetry flood detection	2077	£24.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

## **7. To review the Parbold Wildlife Group Action Plan Review**

The meeting heard that the following work was undertaken from April 2021- March 2022:-

### Chapel Field

1. Ivy spreading across grass near level crossing cut back to fence by PWG
2. Soft rush on meadow weedwiped by contractor (Wades) – October
3. Brambles and scrub round edges of meadow cut back by contractor Midstream in February 2022
4. Ragwort, thistle and dock removed by PWG –June to August 2021
5. Meadow was mown in July/August 2021 by contractor (Wades) and the cuttings removed. Funded by Parish Council
6. Monthly photographic record kept by member of PWG
7. Cutting of hedge along Chapel Lane – Parbold Wildlife Group December 2021

### Woodland

1. Area of grass in centre of woodland cut in August. Cuttings raked up – PWG
2. Swampy area in centre of woodland. Saplings and large area of bramble and scrub cleared by Midstream February 2022

### New Pond

1. Pond and surrounding area maintained by contractor hired by Parbold Parish Council (Chris Horridge)
2. Old pond monitored

### Scrub area between infill site and canal/reed beds

1. Scrub December 2021 PWG cut down Hawthorn scrub
2. Midstream cut paths through area, and cleared invasive trees and scrub. February 2022
3. Brambles and scrub along path by canal to Chapel lane, cut back by Midstream. February 2022

Whilst cutting the hedgerow along Chapel Lane several sections of the fencing were in need of repair. The Parbold Wildlife Group offered to undertake the repairs for the cost of materials expected to be in the region of £60. The matter will be listed on a future agenda for discussion. However, this amount can be approved by the Chairman and Clerk within the restraints of the Financial Regulations so may be expedited and ratified at a future meeting.

## **8. To note Planning and Planning Applications**

Application Number: 2022/0025/FUL

Proposal: Alterations and extensions to existing one-bedroom semi-detached bungalow including raising height of roof to form first floor; single storey rear extension and front porch.

Location: 37 Mill Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NW

Parish Council Response: This property is in a prominent section of the village and Conservation Area. The Parish Council would accept the view of the Conservation Officer on this application.

Application Number: 2022/0086/FUL

Proposal: New plant equipment for Co-op store.

Location: Railway Hotel, 1 Station Road, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7NU

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal, provided it can be properly sound insulated so as not to create a nuisance. This matter can be dealt with by implementation of a suitable condition.

## **9. To consider adopting the revised Members Code of Conduct**

The WLBC revised Members Code of Conduct was approved for adoption by Parbold Parish Council. It was understood that WLBC will be arranging a training package in the near future and Parish Councillors will be encouraged to attend.

## **10. Update on Councillor raised issues:-**

- **Inconsiderate parking around the shops, particularly around school times**

Police say they are going to get tough on inconsiderate parking so liaison with police may be key to resolving this issue. Previously, shop workers were given a windscreen sticker to identify their cars to avoid a penalty for parking over the permitted time. However, the real solution remains in enforcing the time limits or having a warden or policeman visible at busy periods to deter illegal and inconsiderate parking.

- **Perimeter signs to the Parish**

It was noticed that the boundary marker sign between Parbold and Hilldale, on Chorley Road (B5246) is again missing. The sign was purchased from Signs of the Times around ten years ago, when it replaced the original and was presumably stolen for the metal. There are currently castellation blocks with Welcome to Parbold outside The Wayfarer and on Parbold Hill, marking the boundaries to the Parish. They were installed around 2002.

It was resolved to:

1. Review the Parish Council logo/coat of arms

2. Decide exact location for the structures (initial thoughts being Stoney Lane, Parbold Hill (Wrightington border), Ash Brow or Alder Lane (Newburgh border), Chorley Road (Hilldale border). Initially on a map but sites must be visited and LCC Highways consulted to check if permission is required.
3. Appropriate replacement markers be sought and quotations brought to a future meeting.
4. This meeting favoured GRP (glass reinforced plastic) or similar signs to reduce risk of theft or vandalism.

- **Apparently homeless person outside the shops in Parbold**

The meeting heard that there had been communication between the authorities and the person and the Parish Council resolved to monitor and provide assistance if requested.

- **Intermittent power cuts in the village**

It was understood that a resolution was in progress and that some of the recent road works relate to the power cuts. If they continue further liaison with Electricity North West will commence.

- **The ongoing issue of the condition of the Railway house**

Representatives from the Arch Company met Cllr Arnold and the Clerk to discuss the state and condition of the property next to the railway line in Parbold.

The Arch Company has agreed to do the following:-

- clear and tidy the vegetation in the front and side garden
- trim and tidy the ivy growing up the front of the house
- re set the stone blocks at the base of the railings to secure the fence
- paint the railings
- paint the front door and window frames

The representatives will continue to liaise with the Council to ensure that the property is maintained to a reasonable standard in the future.

- **Litter pick update**

A successful litter pick was reported with twenty-five bags of rubbish and some larger items collected. WLBC removed the filled bags. As usual, the main road was the worse place, particularly around the road works, though it is possible that on completion of the road works the contractors might tidy up after themselves. Chorley Road, where there is an ivy-covered wall also collects a good deal of rubbish, mostly thrown from vehicles.

## **11. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings**

The manhole between Christ Church car park and Parbold Hill pavement has clean water spilling out from it. This has been reported online and County Councillor Rob Bailey will be asked to intervene if it is not attended to shortly.

Borough Councillor May Blake has been approached by residents asking for a street light to be installed on the pathway, alongside the dentists, facing the shops and leading to Fairhurst Drive. The ground is uneven and very difficult to negotiate after dark. Cllr Blake will forward this request to Lancashire County Council.

**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.**

Resolved.

**12. To discuss the request from the Clerk to enrol on the ILCA training course**

It was agreed to support the Clerk in enrolling on the Introduction to Local Council Administration Course and pay the fee.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

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**Chairman**

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2022**