

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 2nd December 2011 at Parbold Women's Institute.

Present: Cllr Bailey (Chairman), Cllr Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Bithell, Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Stapleton and Cllr Mrs Wess.

Cllr Bailey left the meeting room briefly and Cllr Arnold took the Chair and opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Butts, Cllr Mrs Middleton and Cllr Mrs Houlgrave.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Bailey – personal interest in matters pertaining to WLBC and LCC of which he is a member

Cllr Blake – personal interest in matters pertaining to WLBC of which she is a member.

(declarations advised in advance of the meeting)

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th November 2011

Cllr Mrs Blake arrived at 7.31pm.

Resolution (56/11): That the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Arnold , seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, all in favour.

4. 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.

The Chairman closed the meeting briefly to invite members of the public to speak.

A Tan House Lane resident spoke against the Planning Application for 15 Tan House Lane. He explained that neighbours don't want crowding on Tan house Lane. Tan House Lane is the major route to the primary schools and residents have been concerned for many years, in terms of traffic so anything that increases traffic, such as additional properties on the road will be a problem. The large gardens are part of the character of Tan House Lane and have created a little oasis of what is complete near wilderness. Simply the pleasure of walking along Tan House Lane is such a fantastic asset that should be valued. Mothers taking children to school value this as residents note when they are passing by. All the houses on Tan House Lane have very large gardens and could infill with new properties but this would totally change the character of the road and create a drain on existing facilities.

Cllr Bithell arrived 7.32pm.

Cllr Bailey arrived 7.35pm.

The residents continued that they had submitted objections to the proposal but were stunned to read the Planning Officers summary of these objections, which they considered wholly misconstrued and inadequately addressed the concerns raised. The Planning Officer who has prepared the report is recommending approval, but the engineers report, also on the website, suggests flooding risk must be assessed before permission is granted.

Separately, the Council was asked if there is snow this winter, can the alleyway between Fairhurst Drive and The Common be gritted?

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

Brian Bailey and Rosie Evans received an equal number of votes for the Standards Board so this Council are asked to confirm their preferred nominee.

Resolution (57/11): That Parbold Parish Council's preferred nominee is Brian Bailey. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wess, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, five in favour, two abstentions (WLBC members).

The Chairman reported that the Localism Act gives, in theory, a variety of new powers to Parish Councils to buy assets, the power to challenge and there are significant changes to planning, rules of pre-determination are abolished, a presumption of a right to develop created, as well as the power to do our own local plan with statutory powers, where we can list which areas of the village can be built on and what we want built there. Once a plan is accepted, developers can't go outside that.

6. To consider application for grant from Parbold Scouts & payment for land clearance

Cllr Bithell declared a personal, prejudicial interest and left the room.

Resolution (58/11): To pay £150 for work done to clear the alleyway at the rear of the shops. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, all in favour

The request for an LGA 1972, section 137 grant was deferred until the March 2012 meeting to ensure the budget amount for grant allocation is not exceeded.

7. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

281111	E A Broad	Salary (November 2011)	s.o.	£ 660.74
281111	Sherwoods	Grass cutting contract	s.o.	£110.90*
281111	David Secrett	Cleaning & Gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
021211	Inland Revenue	Tax & NI contributions	2187	£88.39
021211	Parbold WI	Room hire	2188	£22.00
021211	LCC	car park repair additional sum	2189	£2.40
(Cheque 2166 was £2.40 short)				

021211 Parbold Scouts Payment for work done 2190 £150.00

Resolution (59/11): That the accounts be ratified and authorised for payment. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, all in favour.

8. To receive recommendations from the Finance Committee:

- **Approve budget for 2012-2013**
- **Accept level of precept of £30,000 for Financial Year 2012-13**

The budget papers prepared by the Finance Committee were distributed and accepted.

Resolution (60/11): That the budget be approved and precept for financial year 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013 be set at £30,000, which is unchanged from last year. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wess, all in favour.

9. Village Hall:

Issues arising from PCA Liaison Meeting on 30th November 2011

The meeting was cancelled.

10. Alder Lane:

- **Consider Parbold Cubs usage of Pitch 1**

Resolution (61/11): That Parbold Cubs be permitted use of the playing fields on Saturday 10th and Saturday 22nd December 2011 and review in the New Year when fixtures are being set. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Raju, all in favour.

Cllr Bithell declared a personal interest, having children in the scouts. He went on to explain that the scouts have been using the school pitch free of charge for some time but that the pitch is not as good as the Alder Football Pitch. The “league” is not a formal arrangement but it comprises around 12 games played over four months, and is loosely organised by the children’s parents.

The Parish Council is wary of giving priority to any single group and there is a need to recoup some of the expense of play-wear on the pitches. Whilst ad hoc matches can usually be accommodated any exclusive use must be paid for.

The Clerk was instructed to ask the scouts to give a list of required dates as soon as possible, and to ask that they move their pitch around a little to reduce wear on one section of the pitch.

Cllr Arnold informed the meeting that whilst organising the installation of the goalposts, it was discovered that the crossbars had been removed from behind the shipping containers. It was presumed that they had been stolen, though enquiries were still being made to locate them. The Clerk confirmed that she did not have a set of keys to the containers as the locks were changed when Shevington Sharks began using them. She agreed to request one again.

- **Update regarding car park maintenance**

Shevington Shark volunteers agreed to spread the road planings on the car park to assist filling the potholes. The project was planned for the 3rd December but had to be deferred.

The Clerk confirmed that she had requested Shevington Sharks confirm that they have adequate insurance for this venture but had not seen any documentary evidence of this.

Cllr Bailey and Cllr Arnold had been in contact with the volunteers and had done all the preparatory work for the project. It was hoped that it could still be completed.

Cllr Mrs Raju asked that the Clerk minute her concerns that as the Parish Council are aware that the volunteers will be working on parish land, with powerful equipment, it cannot be permitted without sight of the contractors insurance documents, assurance that the Parish Council will not be held liable and a written guarantee of work.

Cllr Mrs Wess also requested that the minutes record her strong objection to this project.

- **Introduction of Shevington Sharks proposal to site portacabin changing rooms on the car park**

Shevington Sharks ARLA suggest working with the Parish Council to site a portacabin kitted out with changing rooms.

**Resolution (62/11): That the Parish Council discuss this issue with Shevington Sharks to obtain more information. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold,
For: Cllr Stapleton, Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Bithell
Against: Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Mrs Wess.
Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Bithell.**

- **Update regarding work of Parbold Wildlife Group at Chapel Meadow**

The Clerk had provided a written update of the interpretation board and border fencing at Chapel Lane as these projects are now complete.

- **Stocks request for use of Bramble Way car park for beer festival**

Gareth Counce from the Stocks Tavern has requested permission to direct his customers, visiting for the beer festival, running from 15th – 18th December 2011, to the car park on Bramble Way. Concern about noise for Bramble Way and Alder Lane residents and concerns that the car park is dark and pot-holed were raised.

The Clerk was instructed to respond that the Parish Council cannot give exclusive permission to anyone to use the car park as it is a public, open area. Should the Stocks chose to direct customers to the car park they should be reminded that parking is at their own risk. The Landlord should be reminded of his obligation to ensure noise limitation for neighbouring properties. There is also a possibility that the car park repair work may be undertaken that weekend.

11. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Cllr Mrs Blake declared an interest as a member of West Lancashire Borough Council Planning Committee.

2011/1241/FUL The Roost Lancaster Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HS
Demolition of outbuilding and erection of single storey personal fitness building.

Parbold Parish Council Response: The Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.

2011/1205/FUL 12 Alderbrook Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HF
Pitched roof to replace flat roof over existing garage and front porch; and conversion of garage to living accommodation.

Parish Council Response: Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

2011/0394/FUL 15 Tan House Lane,

Erection of one detached two storey dwelling. Creation of new vehicular/pedestrian access.

The Clerk will attend WLBC Planning Committee on 8th December 2011 to speak against the planning officer's recommendation that this proposal be granted planning permission.

Application Number: 2011/0760/FUL

Proposal: Re-siting of 3 existing outdoor air conditioning condensers from the roof into the rear yard area.

Location: McColls, 17 The Common, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7HA,

Resolution (63/11): With regard to the planning application to re-site air conditioning units from the roof of the shop to the enclosed yard area it was resolved that Cllr Bithell will ask TM Retail what they are trying to do. Proposed by Cllr Bithell, seconded by Cllr Arnold,

For: Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Stapleton

Against: Cllr Mrs Raju, Cllr Mrs Wess

Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Mrs Raju

12. Speed Camera at Parbold Hill – Cllr Bailey

The meeting debated the position of the speed camera on Parbold Hill and noted reports that the camera was the most productive in terms of fines in Lancashire.

Foliage had hidden the camera but this had been recently cleared. LCC have been asked if it could be reassessed with a view to removal and they responded that in the three years prior to introduction, there were six serious accidents. Speeds recorded now are between 37 and 29 mph. There will be a thorough review of all Lancashire's speed cameras and a joint decision with the police as to whether this should remain an active camera site will be taken. Sites that do not reduce casualties will not be supported.

It was noted that the Three Tier Forums will be a commissioning body, raising highway concerns and the Parish Council must ensure that they are represented on the forum and raise these highway issues. Cllr Blake confirmed that she will be on the Three Tier Forum as a Borough Councillor for Parbold.

The meeting considered whether the position of the camera was dangerous, because there was a tendency for drivers to see it at the very last minute and brake sharply, which is dangerous in wet or icy conditions.

Resolution (64/11): That the Parish Council request LCC consider moving the speed camera down the road, further towards Lancaster Lane. Proposed by Cllr Stapleton, seconded by Cllr Arnold,

For: Cllr Bailey, Cllr Bithell

Against: Cllr Mrs Blake, Cllr Mrs Wess

Abstention: Cllr Mrs Raju

Named recorded vote requested by Cllr Mrs Raju.

13. To consider ideas for submission to WLBC Capital Grant scheme

Resolution (65/11): That the Parish Council submit an application for capital funding of £500 to support a project for a new canal-side bench. The Parish Council to supply matched funding of £500. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wess, seconded by Cllr Bailey, all in favour.

14. To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

No forthcoming meetings.

15. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Bithell That the Council consider organising an independent assessment of the flood risks in the whole of the village. Perhaps requesting a local university consider whether they could take this on as a project.

Cllr Mrs Blake commented that British Waterways are coming out to look at Bridge 38 with a view to repairing it.

Cllr Bailey asked that the hedge on Brandreth Drive be cut back urgently as it has encroached onto the pedestrian pavement.

Cllr Mrs Wess and Cllr Mrs Raju left the meeting 9pm.

16. Resolution (66/11): 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.

Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold. All in favour.

17. To decide grass cutting contractor for period 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013

Resolution (67/11): That the Parish Council discontinue cutting the grass verges along Lancaster Lane and Parbold Hill viewing point, following the removal of funding and return the responsibility to LCC. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Stapleton, all in favour.

Resolution (68/11): That the grass cutting contract for Financial Year 2012/13 be granted to Barry Rawsthorne, Landscaping Contractor. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold, all in favour.

18. To decide contractor for routine maintenance work on play areas

Resolution (69/11): That Yates Playgrounds be commissioned to complete the routine maintenance work on the play areas at a cost of £ 482 plus VAT but an alternative inspector be considered for future inspections as using the same contractor for inspections and repairs may not be best value. Proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Arnold, all in favour.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.

Chairman – Cllr R M Bailey

Clerk - Mrs E-A Broad

Date