

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th January 2013 at Parbold Women's Institute.

Present: Cllr Bailey (Chairman), Cllr Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bithell, Cllr Blake, Cllr Broten, Cllr Butts, Cllr Holland, Cllr Murrin-Bailey, Cllr Wess.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Houlgrave.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th December 2012

The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed.

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.

Cllr Wess spoke as a member of the public, noting last month's decision against painting the black bollards on The Common white or adding white strips to them, and asked that this be re-considered in the future.

5. To consider letter from rural beat team requesting funding for vehicle.

The letter was discussed further and the meeting concluded that if the vehicle is needed, the Police Authority must precept and pay for it. If it is not sufficiently high priority for the police budget, it should not be high enough priority for the parish budget. It was agreed to respond to the letter and write to Clive Grunshaw, Police Commissioner commenting that given his commitment to rural crime, how can it be that officers have to ask parishes for financial assistance with essential equipment?

6. Update on Lancaster Lane Parking Issues & Flooding around Parbold Douglas School

The recent incident of car damage due to water pooling in the dip of Lancaster Lane was noted. Often Dock Brook becomes overwhelmed with rainwater and the water pools for a while but then subsides. The optical illusion created by the shape of the road adds to the problem as drivers are steered towards the centre of the road.

Poor parking was blamed for restricting the progress of an ambulance during the Christmas concert event at Parbold Douglas School. The meeting was told that Lancashire Ambulance had logged the incident and noted the particular hazard. It was envisaged that the school will be required to mitigate this hazard as it could lead to a situation that may become life threatening.

The Clerk was asked to encourage the Head Teacher to remind parents and suggest that future events might be managed differently. Perhaps it would be advantageous to invite the police to the next big school event and advertise to the parents that the police will be attending. This may focus parents' minds on more considerate parking.

LCC has erected new signs with more intense flashing lights but these were met with the complaint that they are positioned in such a place that they cannot be read until it is too late.

7. Village Hall: Opportunity to raise any issues regarding the village hall

The meeting noted that the PCA AGM will be held next Friday and councillors were encouraged to attend if there are any issues they may have.

8. Alder Lane:

- **Update on installation of a Jubilee Hedge at Bramble Way Car park**

It was agreed that Oakwood Fencing undertake the work to move the gate back and fence along either side.

- **Update on land drainage project at Chapel Lane Meadow**

This project was now completed. The Wildlife Trust's response to criticism that the site had been left in a poor state was noted, with their commitment to ensure it would be tidied up and no lasting damage had been caused.

- **Update on car park resurfacing**

The meeting noted that the survey had been commissioned.

- **Update on planning application to move storage containers**

The planning application, circulated by email, was almost complete.

9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

281212	E A Broad	Salary	s.o.	£704.59
281212	David Secrett	Cleaning & Gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
041113	Parbold WI	Room hire for 4 th January 2013	2280	£22.00
040113	E A Broad	stamps and key cutting	2281	£16.10
040113	Mr C Horridge	May – Nov 2012 Chapel Ln Meadow	2282	£395

3 Pond tidy ups @ £30 each, 3 Sprays of weed killer @ £40 each, 5 Maintenance visit @ £30 each, 1 Ragwort strim @ £35

040113	Parbold PCA	Room hire	2283	£48.00
040113	Parbold PCA	Insertion of newsletter notes	2284	£15.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

10. Following the meeting of the Finance Committee:

- **Confirm dispensations for Councillors to discuss budget issues**

The appropriate dispensation was issued to Councillors to permit their discussion and voting on the setting of the parish precept, where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

- **Receive minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee**

Under Item 5 the Clerk was asked to seek clarification from the Internal Auditor on what is legal in terms of meeting gratuity or pension payments.

- **Receive budget for financial year 2013-14**

The budget was discussed and the following observations noted:

- £650 for pitch repairs appears a low amount and £2/3k may have been more realistic
- Consideration might have been given to replacing play equipment which might also cost in the region of £2/3k

It was noted that the budget is provided as a guideline, intended to ensure that there are sufficient funds for parish activities, and is not to be restrictive should projects requiring finance arise.

- **Confirm level of precept for 2013-14**

The level of precept was confirmed at £30,000

11. Parish Council - ideas for 2013

Councillors were asked to consider ideas for implementation in 2013 and the following issues were discussed.

- **Projects**

It was envisaged that a multi-use games area will be sited at Alder Lane Playing Fields.

- **Floral enhancements and grounds maintenance**

The meeting discussed areas within Parbold that might require additional attention and the following were raised:

- British Telecom surround, white fencing

- Grass verges along Lancaster Lane
- Around the “Welcome to Parbold” signs, more frequent verge cutting and flower planting at the gateways to the village.
- The Common shops: Hanging baskets, restricting long-term car parking signs.
- Canalside car park off Station Road

Concern was raised that parish funds may be spent on private property, though equally the council would wish to support some parish money going on the environment.

It was agreed to issue a parish questionnaire asking residents if there are areas of concern or particular “grot spots” that could be cosmetically improved.

- **Parish council meetings**

It was questioned whether that the parish council meet less frequently, however most preferred shorter monthly meetings, rather than longer, bi-monthly ones.

12. To note Planning and Planning Applications

There were no new applications in Parbold. The recent request from Ian Bond, Heritage Officer at WLBC for nominations for buildings of local importance was noted, with some concern expressed as to the implications for homeowners of listed buildings. The Clerk confirmed that the parish had asked that Parbold Bottle be added to the list.

13. To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting of the area committee of LALC will be held at the WLBC offices on Thursday 17th January 2013 at 7.30pm.

14. Councillors’ agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Blake: confirmed that the work on the footbridge across Alder Lane had been completed. The light aluminium fencing (behind Radiant Living) will be replaced by a wooden fence at some stage by WLBC.

Cllr Holland: LCC have replaced the bulbs on the street lighting along Lancaster Lane but the footway is now very dark. Parking outside the Parbold Takeaway blocks the footpath so pedestrians have to step into the road. The Clerk was asked to contact LCC to clarify if this is a public pavement. The new 20mph – is it being observed/enforced? There are noisy manhole covers on Alder Lane/Wood Lane.

Cllr Wess: trees on the left hand side of Broadmead need cutting back before they start drooping down. The meeting noted that WLBC usually does this work.

Cllr Murrin-Bailey: there has been a recent incident of a child falling from their bicycle due to a large pothole on Brandreth Drive, whilst coming around the last corner where the tarmac was replenished but has fallen out again.

Cllr Butts: potholes and the worsening condition of the tarmac on Greenfield Avenue.

Cllr Bithell: asked that the pothole reporting line be advertised in the PCA newsletter.

15. 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.

Agreed.

16. To consider request from Ashton Athletic to waive pitch fees

It was resolved that, as Ashton Athletic failed to pay under the terms of the licence, that licence be withdrawn. The team would be asked to contribute £100 (equating to ten sessions at £10 per session) for the use they have already had of the pitch. If Ashton Athletic wish to use the pitch in future, their application is to be treated the same as any other group and paid for on a sessional basis.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Chairman (Cllr R Bailey)

Clerk (Mrs E-A Broad)

1st February 2013