

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 1st February 2013 at Parbold Village Hall.

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

There were present PCSO Dave Benson, County Councillor David Westley and one member of the public.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey and Cllr Bithell. It was noted that Cllr Houlgrave had failed to attend for over six months of meetings and was therefore automatically disqualified from sitting as Parish Councillor. A notice of casual vacancy will therefore be displayed.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th January 2013

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.

PCSO Dave Benson attended giving an update on crime statistics. A recent dwelling house burglary involved the car keys being taken from the house with the perpetrators escaping in the car. The car's tracker system was used and it was found in the Liverpool area but had been involved in a collision and was damaged. There was a further Parbold dwelling house burglary where the perpetrator forced entry through a rear window, stole keys and the family car. Thefts from vehicles and of some vehicles themselves continue around the restaurants and public houses in the area and drivers were warned to be vigilant. However, the apprehension of a likely suspect, on other charges, may lead to a reduction in them. A criminal damage at the Ring-o-Bells public house involved slashing of car tyres and was thought not to be related to the vehicle thefts. Thefts from vehicles had been reported at Mill House Gallery, and Back Lane, Newburgh. The police have been observing restaurant car parks to combat this rise and an on-spot fines for cannabis possession was issued at Miller and Carter restaurant car park. An assault was reported at Wheat Lane, Lathom following argument between two barge-owners and there was a drive-off without paying for petrol at Briars Hall petrol station. Five antisocial behaviour incidents involving snowballs were reported and a noise nuisance from a private party in a marquee in Bispham. There was a burned out vehicle abandoned on the Broadmead estate and a disturbance that the police were called to at The Stocks Tavern turned out to be a neighbour dispute, resolved itself without police intervention. 15% of crimes were detected and the figures, in comparison to the same period a year earlier were up.

The snow attracted people to the private fields at Parbold Hill and created problems of poor parking on the hill and an incident requiring the deployment of the Air Ambulance. It was reported that the girl airlifted was from the Crosby area and was discharged from hospital the same day. There were approximately 150 people sledging, many were not from the Parbold area and some did not know that they were on private land. Police had set up dialogue with the land owner and advice was given about securing the land to prevent trespass.

A Police Operation to combat cross border crime with Merseyside and Greater Manchester Police continues. The meeting was reminded that the next PACT (Police & Communities Together) meeting will be held at Newburgh School on Monday 4th February 2013.

County Councillor David Westley addressed the issue of pothole problems, explaining that LCC had doubled the amount spent on highways, but the weather has been particularly bad; as the water table is so high, water in the cracks freezes and lifts the tarmac creating potholes. He also explained that the same people who are gritting the roads at night, are required to deal with the potholes during the day. They are only allowed to drive for so many hours a day and priority is being given to the gritting whilst the weather is icy. Also during the winter months only temporary repairs can be undertaken using hot slurry surfacing, permanent repairs require the better weather of the summer months. The Cabinet group are looking for additional money to support pothole repairs and resurfacing.

Borough Councillor Blake reported that the areas of Broadmead, Station Road, Greenfield Ave, and Brandreth Drive have all been mentioned in meetings and brought to the Borough's attention.

It was noted that Andrew Burrows, Public Realm Manager is off work; possibly long term, and other staff are struggling to cover. Councillor Westley confirmed that Highways were aware of the pothole problems and would repair when resources permit. He added that until November 2012, Highways were successfully maintaining at five-day repair response on potholes but the severe wet then icy weather had created more potholes than could be coped with.

Cllr Holland, reminded the meeting that on Brandreth Drive the pavements are worse than the road. They slope inwards towards the carriageway. There have been numerous utility works undertaken along here and as a result there is uneven patching. Much of this work has been due to substandard drainage as some piping is too narrow to cope. County Councillor Westley responded that LCC Officers note this but they prioritise on their professional opinion with "dangerous" has the highest priority.

The meeting agreed to keep lobbying LCC to raise the priority of Brandreth Drive on their Commissioning Plans.

Cllr Wess, speaking as a member of the public, reported that the Air Ambulance had also been required at Briars Hall following a road traffic accident involving a 17 year old driver who had since had his left leg amputated.

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

It was noted that the Head Teacher had been travelling which may explain why there was no response to the email sent following from last meeting. The inconsiderate parking problems continue and the education of drivers was still an issue.

It was resolved to request a permanent sign be erected warning drivers of the flood risk in the dip. Suggested wording was “possible flood risk”.

6. To discuss pothole problems

Discussed in public participation section above.

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

It was agreed in principle to provide a grit bin for use on the village hall car park.

The meeting considered it most appropriate to contact an independent consultant for advice on replacing the boiler with a more efficient system. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would meet with Mr Bonsall and Mrs Halton from the PCA to take this forward. Cllr Wess requested to be included at the meeting.

8. Alder Lane:

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

The poor weather delayed the installation of a fence but it was hoped that this would be completed within the next week.

- **Update on car park resurfacing and plan for completion in current financial year**

Survey Operations have completed the utility and drainage scanning and topographical survey and Carr Faulkner Associates (Civil & Structural Consulting Engineers) have been instructed to draw up tender documentation.

It was resolved that the section of land between the car park and the canal be cleared of vegetation including trees, to facilitate the car park resurfacing. Named, recorded vote requested by Cllr Wess. Cllrs Arnold, Blake, Broten, Butts, Holland, Murrin-Bailey - for; Cllr Wess – against.

Cllr Wess then left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

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

Council Members were asked to look at the emailed documents and determine whether they agreed with the submission of this planning application. The Clerk was instructed to give permission for Shevington Sharks to submit the application.

9. To confirm a budget of £350 to replace the parish council laptop

It was agreed to delegate to the Clerk the purchase of a Toshiba Satellite C850 laptop from Argos at a cost of £349.99. The Clerk was asked to give the old laptop to the Chairman for disposal.

10. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

280113	E A Broad	Salary	s.o.	£704.59
010213	David Secrett	Cleaning & Gardening services	s.o.	£128.00
010213	PCA	Newsletter insert	2285	£15.00
010213	Yates Playgrounds	2 Play Inspections at each of 2 sites	2286	£139.20*
010213	Yates Playgrounds	Repair to slide	2287	£69.60*
010213	Classic Garden Furniture	Jubilee benches	2288	£1,610.00*
010213	Oakwood Fencing	Fencing and gate at Alder Lane	2289	£1,140.00*
010213	Survey Operations	Survey of Bramble Way Carpark	2290	£1,200.00*
010213	Lancs BKV	Best Kept Village entry fee	2291	£20.00
010213	E A Broad	Samsung printer (Argos)	2292	£39.99*
010213	E A Broad	Laptop (Argos)	2293	£349.99*

*contains VAT (reclaimable at year-end)

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

11. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Ref. No: 2013/0041/LDP

5 Bradshaw Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NQ
Certificate of Lawfulness - Proposed single storey rear extension

Parish Council Response: Application noted and will await WLBC decision as to whether this is lawful development.

Ref. No: 2012/1296/FUL

4 Brandreth Drive Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HB

Extensions and alterations to include: single storey side extensions, single storey rear extension, porch to front and bay window with canopy. 2 No. dormers to rear.

Parish Council Response: No objection

Ref. No: 2012/1295/ADV

McColls 17 The Common Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7HA
Display of non-illuminated fascia sign and two non-illuminated projecting signs.

Parish Council Response: No objection

It was agreed to move Item 16 & 17 forward. As there were now no members of the public present, Item 16 was not necessary. Item 17 brought forward:

To respond to Ashton Athletic's offer for pitch fees

It was unanimously agreed that the pitch fees due for Ashton Athletic should remain at £100.

Cllr Murrin-Bailey then left the meeting at 9 pm.

12. To consider response to WLBC Consultation on the West Lancashire Community Infrastructure Levy - Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

The meeting discussed the pros and cons of the system proposed to replace the Section 106 system under which developers paid a sum of money directly to the community for a community asset. It was decided that, as Parbold had no planned large development (Local Plan suggesting up to only ten new residences would be required) a parish response to the consultation was unnecessary, though individual councillors who wish to, were encouraged to follow the online response form.

13. To consider the Report on Parish Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances

The Report had been distributed and considered. The figures were accepted for a basis for use for Parish Council Members allowances or expenses. It was noted that no allowances or expenses had been claimed in the last twelve months.

14. To determine representation at forthcoming meetings

No forthcoming meetings.

15. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Blake – had a request from resident about overhanging trees on Broadmead, which she would follow up.

Cllr Butts – Consider the size and dimensions of the football pitch and whether any remedial action was required.

Cllr Holland – On Lancaster Lane, the new street lighting, with a single LED bar, concentrates light onto the road but leaves the pavement, which runs behind a wide verge, in dark shadow. Is it possible to replace the fitting with a double or twin-headed bar, so that one lighting bar faces the road and another faces the pavement, and light can be thrown both ways?

Cllr Arnold – village hall boiler

16. 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

Not required – no press or public present

17. To respond to Ashton Athletic's offer for pitch fees

Moved forward.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Chairman (Cllr R Bailey)

Clerk (Mrs E-A Broad)

1st March 2013