

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 9th January 2015 in Parbold Women's Institute.

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from the Chairman Cllr Brian Arnold and Vice Chairman Cllr Charles Bithell chaired the meeting. Cllr Bailey arrived at 7.50 pm having been delayed by traffic.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 5th December 2014

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 raised an issue from resident regarding the signs at Alder Lane Playing Fields, prohibiting dogs from the fields. The complainant was the same person who had emailed earlier in the week.

5. Update on issues regarding Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre

Items 4 & 5 were taken together.

Resident Paul Quirk explained progress made following his letter to Steve Mogford CEO of United Utilities. There followed meetings (with the Parish Council Chairman) and Rosie Cooper MP, United Utilities Oliver Andrews, Area Production Manager and Steve Howells, Asset Manager. The Clerk and Cllr Holland attended the latest meeting with Oliver Andrews and Steve Howells. United Utilities explained the day to day work of the site, their actions

towards odour reduction and the unforeseen maintenance breakdowns that have created some of the odour problems. Senior management are now asking questions, which is helpful. Also Rosie Cooper will return to the site in a few weeks for a further meeting. At the latest meeting, on the 5th January 2015, United Utilities explained the amount of investment made at Hoscar and their continuing action plan for the works to meet European requirements as well as reduce odours.

The Environment Agency report and the WLBC Environmental Health Department's commissioned report were still not available. It was felt crucial that the latter be made available as it may contain important recommendations. The Clerk was asked to again contact Environmental Health at WLBC and request sight of their report.

United Utilities were very positive and helpful. They showed in the presentation they gave to Rosie Cooper that there are new avenues that they are exploring. They genuinely don't know in some cases where the smells are coming from. It was decided that the Parish Council should continue to apply pressure, hold small working group meetings in a positive way to keep momentum forward. The Parish Council thanked Paul Quirk for working so hard on this. The end is not yet in sight but we have move forward and this is due to the work that he is doing.

6. Issues on The Common:

- **Paper Recycling Banks - problems getting contractors to empty the banks**

A system of alerting the recycling company when the banks are three quarters full is now being tried. The banks were last emptied on the 7th January 2015 and one Councillor reported that they are already full. The Clerk agreed to inform the contractor directly.

- **Letter regarding parking for rail travel**

The following response was ratified

It is such a difficult problem that is repeated across the country really. Locally, Appley Bridge and Aughton, are quite difficult to drive through safely because of the sheer number of cars left in the villages all day whilst the driver travels elsewhere by train. In fact, all railway villages are suffering and it is necessary to ensure that our villages do not become graveyards of abandoned vehicles, but maintain their vital daily life. This is why we need the spaces on the car parks to support the shops and village facilities (doctors/village hall) whose users cannot be expected to walk long distances to reach the facility because a car has been parked all day in one spot, obstructing them.

I realise from your email that you do understand and are to be commended for looking for a compatible solution. Of course, the ideal is that you use public transport for the whole of the journey and leave the car at home but I'm sure that has been explored and is not an option. Councillors tell me that the Railway Hotel has an offer of use of their car park by long-term permit which may be a cost-effective compromise. Alternatively I understand there are a number of private arrangements for drive-rental that may also be explored via website such as "rentmydrive".

7. Issues regarding Parbold Village Hall:

- **Any update on green heating system**

Cllr Schaffel gave an update on the funding bodies that offered grants for heating systems in village halls and agreed to research further.

8. Issues around Alder Lane Playing Fields:

- **Response to complaint about signs at Alder Lane Playing Field**

The drafted response was agreed. The meeting noted that the issue raised by Cllr Wess had been the same complaint as this email.

The Alder Lane Playing Fields are used regularly by children and adults for sporting pursuits. The land was dedicated to the community from Wigan Boys Sports Club to West Lancashire Borough Council many, many years ago for this purpose. This legitimate activity is being compromised by the dog faeces left on the pitches and by dogs running across whilst games are in progress. Signs requesting that dogs be kept on leads and that faeces be removed have been largely ignored. For this reason, and as a last resort, the Parish Council have erected signs to restrict dogs from the playing pitches. Requests, through the PCA newsletter that dogs are not exercised on the pitches advised that this action may be necessary and, sadly, we have reached that point.

Dogs may be walked around the fields and surrounds but they should not be on the pitches because these pitches, cannot be adequately maintained where dogs are allowed to defecate.

Whilst the land itself belongs to WLBC, the Parish Council, in running the playing fields holds the responsibility for health and safety of those using these fields. Insurance requirements are that the Parish Council must do everything possible to avoid the risk of toxicariosis and protect those using the land for sporting activities.

It was resolved to discuss the matter in full at the next agenda and take into account any other complaints received.

9. Update on Mill Lane parking issues and yellow lines

The meeting heard that LCC will not be revisiting the yellow lines along Mill Lane and consider that the existing traffic control is necessary and adequate to address the road traffic implications. The yellow lines will remain. A residents permit scheme cannot be considered at the present time due to financial constraints at County Hall. Consultation, implementation and enforcement of a residents parking scheme is expensive and funding is not available at the moment. The homes on Mill Lane do not have attached parking.

It was agreed to inform residents via the PCA newsletter and to ask that those visiting the public houses avoid parking in-front of housing. Also to investigate the possibility of erecting resident-only parking signs to deter blocking by vehicles.

The Alder Lane fencing was also discussed with Andrew Burrows and it was explained that LCC will not replace the concrete and wire fencing and do not consider it is necessary for any road safety reasons.

10. To consider any update from steering group investigating an appropriate Speed Indicator Device for Parbold Village

Item deferred because progress over the Christmas and New Year period was not possible.

11. To consider new NALC guidelines for salary and recommendation for one-off non-consolidated payment of £100

This item was moved to the end of the meeting so that the matter could be treated confidentially.

12. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

301214	E A Broad	Salary (December 2014)	s.o.	£718.46
301214	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening	s.o.	£128.00
090115	Women's Institute	Room hire	2476	£46.00
090115	Eurooffice Ltd	Paper and ink	2477	£185.67
090115	E A Broad	stamps and sundries	2478	£13.80
090115	Post Office Counter Ltd	N.I. for 3 months	2479	£39.54

Recent Receipts:

8th December 2014 £762.00 BT - one off payment for green box on Tan House Lane corner

10th December 2014 £1,436.00 - second half of concurrent payment

17th December 2014 £750.00 - capital grant funding towards Alder Lane signs/notice board.

24th December 2014 £400.00 - PCA - village hall rent

31st December 2014 £3.77 bank interest

Bank account balances as at 31st December 2014

Business High Interest Account £82,663.59

Business Current Account £79.12

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

13. To consider application for funding from WLBC Capital Grant Scheme

It was decided to apply for £3,000 funding to support a project of total cost £4,000 (£1,000 commitment from parish funds) for Alder Lane Playing Field enhancement. The project to

include provision of benches with arms on Chapel Meadow, tree and hedgerow planting around the fields, and a planting for bees project.

14. To consider proposals from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2014 and rise in precept from £30,000 to £35,000.

It was resolved that, now all Councillors had had the opportunity to consider the budget figures in full, the increase in precept request by £5k was considered essential in order to maintain the set-aside figure for routine maintenance of council assets.

15. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: 2014/1337/FUL
6 Lathom Avenue Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7DT
Two storey rear extensions

Parish Council Response: No objection to this application

Application Number: 2014/1328/FUL
11 Bradshaw Lane Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NQ
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of two storey rear extension.

Parish Council Response: No objections so long as rules regarding development within the green belt are applied.

16. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Consider planting area for bees**

It was resolved to apply for funding for Alder Lane enhancements and include a project for planting a bee garden within this area.

- **Maintenance of property owned by Railtrack - Station House and Cabin Signal Box**

Despite several letters and the intervention of Rosie Cooper MP, Railtrack have still not responded about their intentions for the two properties: The Parbold Cabin and Station Master's House on The Common. The Clerk was asked to inform Rosie Cooper's Office that Railtrack Chief Executive had not responded.

It was suggested that the buildings might be registered as community assets, so that they cannot be sold or demolished without Parish Council consent. However, it would be preferable for an interested group to take on this responsibility rather than the Parish Council adding to liabilities that may incur cost.

The Clerk was asked to knock on the door of the signal box and ask the signaller what is his view of general state of maintenance, perhaps we could establish a line of communication on

what's going on. The lady running the ticket office is quite approachable and she works until 1 pm daily.

- **Receive response from Railtrack re: length of time barrier is lowered at Station Road Crossing**

Likewise, although the letter of complaint had been acknowledged by Railtrack, no substantive response had been received.

- **Hear report back on traffic parking issues**

The main problem areas are to do with construction sites, for example around Lindley House. It is understood that refurbishment here is likely to conclude in around three months time.

- **Consider proposal to increase amount of general maintenance in the village**

There are many small, publically accessible areas in the village with disputes as to land ownership. Some of these areas have become very unkempt and budget cuts make it less likely they will ever be tidied at public expense unless the Parish Council takes them on. Councillors are asked to return to the meeting on the 6th March 2015, once the spring has begun, with specific observations or ideas on areas needing attention, that could be tidied to enhance the look and feel of the village.

17. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Murrin-Bailey: The Christmas Tree and lights this year were more festive, is there any appetite for 2015 to keep this going? Is there a conversation to be had with pubs, shops etc? Please can the Parish Council write to the two guys to say thank you very much, it was fantastic. Is there any way we can help in discussions for next year?

Secondly, would it be possible to invite the Director of Operations for the Lancashire Ambulance Service to a meeting open to all local parish councils so that he can explain response times for emergency services. It was agreed to contact LALC Area Committee so that he can have a wider audience.

Cllr Wess: There is graffiti on the canal bridge near to Ours is the Earth. Can this be reported to the relevant authority please? Also please remind residents that due to the mild weather bushes and hedgerows are still growing and many need cutting back. Likewise, along Broadmead, outside the Railway Public House, the trees are overgrown. These are usually cut by the Borough Council.

Cllr Bailey and Cllr Holland send apologies for the next meeting

- 18. 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 unanimously.

Item 11 returned to:

To consider new NALC guidelines for salary and recommendation for one-off non-consolidated payment of £100

It was resolved unanimously to increase the clerk's salary in line with the NALC guidelines and to pay, pro rata, the non-consolidated payment of £43.24 (£100 pro rata).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Chairman - Cllr Brian Arnold

6th February 2015