

Parbold Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th February 2015 in Parbold Women's Institute.

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Bithell (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blake, Cllr Butts, Cllr Schaffel, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Wess. Four members of the public present and PCSO David Benson and Police Sergeant Kelly.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey, Cllr Murrin-Bailey and Cllr Holland.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 9th January 2015

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

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 and Sgt Jeanette Kelly gave an update on recent crime figures. Predominantly, car crime from a local restaurant car park, theft from outbuildings, minor neighbour disputes and one cannabis warning following a vehicle stop and check.

To put the figures into perspective, there were 5 in Parbold, 3 in Appley Bridge, 11 in UpHolland and 48 in Digmaor during the same time period.

Cllr Wess explained that Parbold residents complain we never see anybody - do we even have a police man? Just if we saw you doing the main streets, it would help. They don't think they are getting what they are paying for.

Sgt Kelly - Everywhere has the same complaint about police visibility. Even in Digmaor, where there is a massive police presence, residents say, "we never see them". We are not

always in hi-viz jackets, we are often in dark clothing, maybe plain clothes with non-liveried vehicles. We carry an ARLS chip so that our position is always known. Lancashire has more police than any other county in UK and we are recruiting. We have however moved onto "risk and threat" mode, whereby we have to assess the risk and move resources where it is greatest. So, if you don't see us, there isn't a problem. We do a lot of liaison via social media so do not always need to be physically there to provide cost effective policing. Neighbourhood policing also involves a lot of preventative advice giving. Many of the recent crimes in Parbold were preventable by using better locks, ensuring cars are fitted with alarms, CCTV in pub carparks and the like. We have promotional stalls at market places and attend OAP groups and coffee mornings to give out things like purse bells, which ring if anyone is trying to grab your purse or handbag. We have lost 16,000 police officers so we have taken a hit there but we have changed our way of policing. We are reducing crime, detecting levels are high more effective than we have ever been. Predictive work rather than reactive work we are using facts and figures and looking ahead for the likelihood for a problem and it is why the crime rate is falling.

How do elderly people in this village get hold of purse bells? PCSO Dave Benson is the contact.

At Ormskirk Christmas Lights Switch On, police attended the market and handed out purse bells. We are where we be where we need to be and thankfully, that is not usually Parbold.

Cllr Bithell asked what can people in the village do, without being vigilante, just to help you? We have problems with parking and speeding, but we meet a brick wall of "you need to be a police officer to do something about that". We want to make Parbold special. A lot of people spend time on the various village activities who help make Parbold a nice place to live, and we are proud of what we have here, if there is something we can do, but we have no teeth to make change when it comes to things that we think need changing.

Sgt Kelly: you probably have more teeth than you think. When you hand a problem to us, such as parking outside the school, when local parents, being a bit lazy or because the weather is bad, park in such a way that is dangerous for the youngster, we cannot do any more than you can. We would seek to educate, not fine. So, what we would do, you can do - leaflet drops, messages in the school, ask the school to do it, you could speak to the people just as we could, we prefer to educate rather than ticketing, that just gets peoples backs up, there will be some drivers who insist on inconsiderate parking, but to say I can, and you can't stop me!". Looking at the type of crime in Parbold, much of it could have been avoided. If property was out of sight, sheds were adequately locked, security lighting was used, cars, doors and windows locked, property marked with serial numbers. All the reported crimes were opportunistic. Perhaps working with the schools by tackling youngsters at the school, teachers are mad keen for lesson plans, road safety, companies such as Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, kids can do colouring poster competitions, a walking bus, giant signage at school reading "don't park here, you're risking my life". When police work with the school on road safety campaigns it is the children talking to the drivers that makes the difference. Police can tell the drivers until they're blue in the face, but a child telling them seems to make an impact. This method is very effective, no-one ended up with a fine that they had to pay but they didn't park like that again. With regard to poor parking it is members of your own community doing it, identify them, name and shame, using parish newsletters - these are

your kids, your taxes go to fix the problem, your insurance go up if you leave things as they are, you need to modify your behaviour. Police waste a lot of time with social issues, these divert us from real issues.

Cllr Blake explained that these methods had been tried in the past but all failed eventually, none had a lasting improvement to the parking issues. Drivers now know that they cannot be effectively penalised so only fining will work. Once one or two fines are issued, word will get around and people will think more about where they park.

Sgt Kelly - Police don't have the power to ticket and issue fines any more. It is now the responsibility of WLBC who employ Parkwise.

Sgt Kelly then explained the system of targeted response times. A call where there is imminent danger is Grade 1 and will be responded within fifteen minutes, anything serious, but not ongoing is Grade 2, deployment within one hour and immediate deployment not necessary is Grade 3, response time within twenty-four hours. Reporting may be online or by telephone.

Cllr Arnold - there is still a lack of communication. I attended the last PACT meeting, and the room was virtually empty because nobody knew about it.

Sgt Kelly - People are changing the way we communicate and the police are doing the same. We find it is better to have online PACT meetings because the reach is much wider, huge, sometimes tens of thousands of people can be contacted at once. We've all had our photos taken recently for the new website, which will be more informative, and more user-friendly. We have people who don't want to come out at night, perhaps feel vulnerable or just don't want to waste time sat in meetings where there issues don't necessarily get talked about anyway. Computer access widespread, more people can get involved in discussion online, where you can get answers to your specific questions without leaving your armchair. This is partly why people don't want to go out to PACT meetings anymore. There are more direct ways of telling the police what you want to tell them.

Cllr Stewart - with regard to road issues, the general public are delighted to be educated because they don't need to do anything about it. There ought to be a warning on the first occasion and a penalty fine if they are caught again. Sgt Kelly - Unfortunately the police can't do it anymore.

Cllr Arnold witnessed a young girl parked on the white line on Lancaster Lane dangerously because it was on the bend. He warned her that it was badly parked but she just flicked the key fob to lock the car and ignored him leaving her car parked dangerously. Drivers have no care or consideration.

Cllr Wess - there are a number of people living in the village of a certain age. These are not people who would ever access online services for PACT meeting and the like.

Sgt Kelly - not everyone does use the internet but you can be taught at any age, there are a number of training courses geared up for the older population. That is not to say, we're all

going digital you'll have to catch up. - not saying that at all. Police do attend Coffee Clubs and Pensioners' Lunches to listen to their concerns.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would be in favour of bringing back the PCSO newsletter back. The Coffee Etc and U3A clubs will be contacted to see if they wish a policeman to come along to talk with them. Graffiti under the canal bridge, at Alder Lane and on "For Sale" signs, was noted. Graffiti with references to open-source information for criminal activities was a concern.

Steve Morgan raised the complaint that the notices at Alder Lane Playing Fields now read No Dogs. As a disabled dog owner, he regularly took his dog onto the fields for a run as it is a useful, contained area for them both. He finds walking a dog down there is difficult but he is able to drive down there and let his dog loose. The sign now prevent this and he feels alienated and banned from using it to exercise dogs. There is a section of the community feeling the same because of this Draconian measure. Dog owners do clean up after their dogs, out of 10 dog walkers, 7 or 8 clean up. Understand that dog owners have to clean up and understand that dogs should be on a lead but it is a step too far to ban dogs from the site. Also, how are you are going to stop it? Last weekend there were still people with three dogs watching the rugby. The rugby people are leaving more litter on the pitch. Responsible dog owners, disabled who can walk a couple of hundred metres, use this field to exercise their dogs and they are members of this community and they are being penalised to accommodate people who are not members of the community paying for the fields. There are other ways to do this - have a name and shame policy - go down there and tell people.

The Chairman responded, you know as well as we do, that it is a variety of local and non-local people who come and let their dogs run on the fields. The owner does not walk with the dog but lets it run and if it poos, the owner will not go out to the field to remove the faeces. Children are then falling in it during the game. There are also a number of professional dog walkers, with five or six dogs allowing them to run on the field, which is a danger if children are playing there.

Other question is: Use of the field by Parbold Festival - will dogs be permitted because we run a fun dog show?

We could get residents to sign a code of conduct where they agree to pick up after their dogs and issue a licence to use the fields. Then, people who don't sign up to it, would be fined.

Paul Scott commented I don't think enough other methods have been tried first. At Hilldale Village Hall, I'm their odd job man and I keep filling a box with dog-poo bags for people to use. There is nothing like that at Alder Lane - If the parish council could buy one, I would keep it filled. Then we can exercise our dogs on the fields.

The Chairman said the intention of the sign is that there are no dogs on the playing surface - dog walkers may walk around it.

We're respecting that sign and won't take dogs on the fields at all now but the people who don't pick up after their dogs, won't respect a sign anyway.

5. Update on issues regarding Wigan Waste Water Treatment Centre

WLBC's Environmental Health Department has now produced the report for public view, and met with the working party on the 28th January 2015 to discuss it. The minutes of that meeting had been distributed to Councillors.

Paul Quirk updated this meeting. He will again be discussing this with Rosie Cooper MP and inviting Chairman, Brian Arnold to meet also.

The next public meeting will be arranged in April, the date to be decided once WLBC's Andrew Hill's availability was determined. Environment Agency's Adam Blacklock will also be invited along.

Meanwhile, the regular meeting between WLBC Environmental Health and United Utilities will continue. OFWAT hold the purse string for any funding it was suggested that OFWAT be informed of the issues, so as to prioritise funding for odour control measures.

6. To consider any policing issues

Discussed at Item 4 above.

The Clerk was asked to write to the two Head Teacher to ask what they planned to do to help educate parents to park appropriately and offer parish council assistance if they thought it useful.

7. To consider request for funding from West Lancashire Crossroads: Caring for Carers

It was resolved to issue a cheque for £100 donation to West Lancashire Crossroads under Section 137 Local Government Act. The meeting noted eleven families in Parbold were being supported by the organisation and full, audited accounts had been received from them to show how they intend to spend the money.

8. Issues on The Common:

- **Update on Paper Recycling Banks**

The meeting noted the email from Phil Samosa, WLBC describing slightly odd arrangements under which they claim there is no contract with Palm Recycling but WLBC pay for the recycling containers to be emptied did not make any sense. Furthermore, the email reads that the landowner and Palm Recycling are in a contractual relationship but since the Parish Council is the land owner and no such paperwork exists in Parish files, the whole situation is unclear. Funds from the paper-banks have been approximately £300 each year for our years now. The Clerk was asked to obtain more clarification from WLBC on who pays what to whom, and the tonnage collection, so that the Council can decide whether this is a worthwhile endeavour. The process of informing Palm Recycling when the banks are three quarters full does seem to be working but it relies on someone going to have a look and reporting it bank.

9. Issues regarding Parbold Village Hall:

- **Any update on green heating system**

It was agreed to seek the advice of the contractor who had been servicing the boiler. Cllr Arnold and Cllr Shaffel will meet with him in the very near future.

- **Maintenance of windows**

Quotations are currently awaited.

- **Maintenance of fire doors**

Water ingress has been reported so fire door repairs are to be prioritised. One quotation for new hinges and sill replacement had been obtained but comparison prices were required.

It was resolved to budget up to £1,200 to repair the doors.

The small hall fire doors are now reported to be allowing in water as well. Also the front doors have never been ideal.

The meeting discussed the request from the PCA for a face-to-face meeting and determined that the meeting would be more fruitful once some of the issues were underway.

A wider project including cavity wall insulation and green energy grants may be considered.

10. Issues around Alder Lane Playing Fields:

- **Signs at Alder Lane Playing Field**

The signs ask- Please respect these playing fields - and have "No Dogs" and "No Litter" logos on them. The intention is that dogs are kept off the playing pitches to reduce the risk of toxicariosis for the children playing on the sports fields. There is an ample area for dog walking in the vicinity around the pitches themselves.

It was resolved to analyse how effective the signs are by returning to discuss the issue again in April.

- **Consider application for field use**

It was resolved that the football pitch be offered to Appley Bridge Children's Football Team for the sum of £200 for the season, for Sunday morning use only. However, the actual dates for the field use must be established so that they do not conflict with any pre-arranged bookings. Warning regarding the heavy car park use, particularly on days when Shevington Sharks and the Wigan Anglers are also meeting at the site was given.

The meeting noted that Parbold Cubs will be having a match there on Saturday 14th March 2015.

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

The steering group suggested the following positions for a SPID:

Outside Alder Lane (near The Wayfarers),
59 or 76a The Common,
Tan House Lane,
Broadmead or Burnside around 38 or 40,

Concern was expressed at placing a device outside homes.

Solar powered, fixed units were preferred.

12. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

300115	E A Broad	Salary (January 2015)	s.o.	£718.46
300115	David Secrett	Cleaning and gardening	s.o.	£128.00
060215	Women's Institute	Room hire 28/1 and 6/2	2480	£48.00
060215	EA Broad	Salary adjustment	2481	£44.34
060215	Best Kept Village	Entry fee	2482	£25.00
060215	Wigan Council	Signs at Alder Lane Playing Fields	2483	£492.90
060215	Crossroads	Section 137 donation	2484	£100.00

Salary adjustment calculation:

gross £773.11. Deduct tax of £9.60, NI of £13.21 = £750.30, add £12.50 office space = £762.80. £718.46 by standing order and cheque for £44.34.

The bank balances:

current account	£67.65
reserve account	£81,566.98
Total:	£81,634.63

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

13. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Ref. No: 2015/0042/FUL

Delph House Farm Hall Lane Wroughtington Wigan Lancashire WN6 9EH

Construction of slurry store on existing pig farm

Clerk to check why this out of parish application had been highlighted for Parbold Parish Council to consider.

Permission has been granted for:-

Ref. No: 2014/1328/FUL

11 Bradshaw Lane

Demolition of conservatory and erection of two storey rear extension.

Application Number: 2015/0079/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Removal of existing roof including rafters and purlins. New roof structure and new underlay. Re-use existing stone tiles as roof covering.

Location: Greystones, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7AA

No objection to this proposal.

14. To respond to request from Lathom South Parish Council to support their request that the decision about the Whitemoss Hazardous Waste Tip extension be taken locally, not nationally, as provided for under the Sustainable Community Act.

It was resolved that a letter of support be sent to Lathom South Parish Council to assist their application to have matters of this nature determined locally, rather than by central government.

15. Items raised by Councillors:

- **Consider planting area for bees**

An application for WLBC Capital Grant funding has been made to support planting a bee garden.

- **Maintenance of property owned by Railtrack - Station House and Cabin Signal Box**
- **Receive response from Railtrack re: length of time barrier is lowered at Station Road Crossing**

The Chairman spoke with Railtrack personnel on site but no further information could be obtained. It was believed that the Railtrack contract for operating the rail system would be for review this year. It was suggested that the Clerk write to OPSTA (Ormskirk, Preston, Southport Travellers Association to ask if they might have information on either of these issues.

16. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Schaffel There is a pavement with around a metre of grass outside the Catholic Church that suffers from cars parking on it daily and has become a muddy and churned up. It would

be great if this section could be cut away to form some parking along there for church and school users. LCC have informed the Parish Council that there is no money available for road issues that are non-urgent. However, the road safety issues on this road may prioritise it, so the Clerk will write to ask that it be considered.

Cllr Bithell: Please put something in the newsletter to tell residents that the village is entered in the Best Kept Village competition, it is an election year so invite people to get involved. In the light of the Hoscarr solar farm application, should the Parish Council be thinking about writing some policy documents regarding issues such as solar farms, fracking etc, anything of relevance to this village? Finally, pleased to report that the Church car park is to be resurfaced, the same company who completed Alder Lane car park won the contract and work will commence very shortly. It may be a very useful parking spot for dog walkers, as the surrounding fields are more appropriate for dog than the Playing Fields are.

Cllr Butts: Rather concerned that the PCA don't know where they are up to with the Parish Council in terms of village hall maintenance. Can an official letter be sent with a synopsis of where we are up to, explaining why a meeting isn't possible at the moment but offering to meet a little further along the line?

Cllr Blake: With regard to the graffiti under the canal bridge, WLBC and Lancashire County Council are liaising and they will keep me up to date. I will keep on top of this.

Cllr Wess: NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group are currently undertaking a survey on the breast care service. Please encourage any breast cancer sufferers to complete this survey so that their views can be heard.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm in-line with Council Standing Orders.

6th March 2015

Cllr Brian Arnold (Chairman)