

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm on Friday 2nd October 2015 in Parbold Women's Institute Hall, The Common, Parbold, WN8 7HA

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

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Wess, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Murrin-Bailey. The Chairman requested that wishes be sent to Cllr Wess for a speedy recovery.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 11th September 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.

Paul Quirk attended and gave an update, reminding everyone that the next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th October 2015 at 7:30pm in Parbold Douglas School. He has requested photographs of the work on the storm tanks. He obtained statistics for odour complaints over the last two years, however WLBC have now told him that any further requests that require time-consuming investigation will be charged at an hourly rate and may need to be prioritised, taking up to 20 days for response. He requested that the Parish Council consider asking for a visit to the Skelmersdale works, over the canal and opposite Hoscar, and a copy of the minutes of all meetings held between United Utilities and WLBC Environmental Health Department. He understands that WLBC believe there to be a 50% reduction in complaints this summer, but this is not an accurate reflection because residents are getting fed up of complaining when they know WLBC has never taken action against United Utilities and probably never will. He asked that thanks be recorded to the Parish Council for getting the process of liaison to this stage.

County Councillor Westley reassured the Parish Council that the planning issue of Appley Bridge Biomass to Energy will be properly dealt with. WLBC will make comment on the application which will be decided by LCC, and although, not in Cllr Westley's County area, he is watching the process at West Lancs and ensuring that it will go to Planning Committee for comment and not be delegated to a Planning Officer as was first suggested.

5. To record any policing issues

The meeting noted apologies from Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner and the offer of a meeting for the Clerk and Chairman in Preston.

6. Follow up from LCC Parking Officers visit to Tan House Lane/Lancaster Lane

The Chairman opened this item up for full discussion with members of the public present.

Sarah Carruthers attended the meeting and brought photographs taken by some of the parents, to show how dangerous the parking around the school at drop-off and pick-up times really is. The meeting heard that the presence of the traffic warden from LCC did stop drivers parking badly but the very next day the parking was atrocious again. It was suggested that signage be used outside the school to remind people not to park by the solid white line.

The drivers are there for a very short time and it is not long enough for official enforcement to kick-in. The most productive method of correcting driver behaviour in other areas has been driven by the children themselves and there must be more proactive action from the school. Meetings held between the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors, Parish Clerk and Chairman explored putting notices on badly parked cars, but the logistics of this were not within the parish council scope. There were no volunteers from the Parish Council available at school drop-off/pick up times to do it. Individual Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk have, on occasion, photographed cars parked and been subject to abuse from the drivers, or simply ignored by drivers who will not move when told to anyway.

It was agreed to meet again with school representative to explore further what could be done. Lengthening the period over which children can be left at school could alleviate the pressure on parking. Would it be possible to designate a play area with adult supervision (employed or volunteer) to accept the children earlier than school starting time and allow the parent/carer to then move their car away, making room for another?

It was accepted that this is a problem all over the country and most schools suffer it. County Councillor Westley explained that enforcement falls between civil parking and the police where any obstruction is but as cars are not there for long there are rarely tickets issued. Budgetary constraints in the police and councils push this type of thing down the priority list.

It's clear that a visible presence is required to modify parking habits. There were no cases of dangerous parking when the Traffic Warden was there, so the exercise was worth doing but may not be the most cost-effect method.

The issue of devolved powers for parish councils to issue parking tickets was again returned to. However, the process is costly; the issuing officer must be trained and, as most of the parking is legal, the driver couldn't be subjected to a fine anyway. Parking opposite the white line should incur a fine but most cars are not parked long enough to provide the evidence for a prosecution. Some drivers even remain with their cars. Highway code infringements, such as parking too close to a junction and on a bend are simply not actionable.

The meeting also discussed how impotent the Parish Council feels in subjects such as road traffic, when ideas are not pursued because of cost or bureaucracy. County Councillor Westley replied that the County Council budget is severely stretched and with more cuts due, priorities have to be set.

7. Issues around Alder Lane Playing Fields:

- **Update project for a MUGA (multi-use games area)**

Questions raised at the last meeting were responded to. WLBC confirm that no MUGA has been built and then removed in Skelmersdale. There is one MUGA that has been causing a problem for local residents because it was the site of drug related crime and dog fighting. However, police surveillance has solved the problem and the MUGA is still in situ. Hesketh-with-Beaconsall's MUGA is sited alongside a busy village hall, so is not remote in location. It is well used but available free of charge, as a community asset rather than revenue builder.

This meeting considered that the financial outlay for a MUGA at the present time may not be sensible, but funding sources will continue to be sought and the item returned to should groups who would use such a MUGA request it.

- **Note complaints about parking issues on match days**

It was resolved to meet with Shevington Sharks in the first instance to discuss the parking problem and suggest a gap between the two games sessions. The licence for field use requires traffic management measures to be taken by the clubs and none of the clubs appear to be marshalling as is required. It may be that the problem is not a constant one but is exacerbated by Wigan Anglers using the car park when they hold fishing competitions, so they will be requested to inform the Parish Council in advance of their intended presence and, if possible, avoid Sunday fishing competitions.

The grass cutting contractor has been asked to tidy up the car park area and arrangements are in place for hedge planting along the field fencing. "Keep Off the Grass" or large stones will be considered for along the grass verge as a visible barrier to parking on there. Whilst meeting with Shevington Sharks, they will be asked to repaint the shipping container as paint is flaking off and it is unsightly.

8. To finalise arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and consider donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

It was resolved to issue a cheque for £100 to cover the cost of two poppy wreaths and a donation to the British Legion Appeal. Cllr Blake will present the wreath in Our Lady & All Saint RC Church and Cllr Arnold will present the wreath at Christ Church Douglas-in-Parbold C of E Church on Remembrance Sunday.

9. To ratify accounts and authorise payment of accounts presented

290915	E A Broad	Salary (September 2015)	s.o.	£718.46
021015	E A Broad	postage	2534	£3.30
021015	Parbold WI	Room hire 021015	2535	£24.00
021015	Parbold Douglas	Room hire 061015 Hoscar meeting	2536	£30.00
021015	Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal donation plus wreaths	2537	£100.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

10. To note Planning and Planning Applications

Application Number: LCC/2015/0088

Location: Appley Biomass To Energy Ltd Depot West Quarry Railway Pad Appley Lane North Appley Bridge Lancs

Proposal: Low temperature pyrolysis plant to convert low worth waste plastic into diesel and gasoline. The facility includes a fuel reception hall, conveyors, chemical treatment, fractionation columns, fuel storage tanks, a generator set and offices. The facility uses the non-condensable gases and some of the product gasoline as fuel to meet the plants heat and power requirement.

The Clerk contacted Rob Jones of LCC as this application is a County Council matter. There was a question as to the validity of this application because it had not been sufficiently notified to neighbouring parishes who will be affected by it. The applicant clearly realises there will be an effect in Parbold because "trigger" points in Parbold (Gillibrand's Farm House) are being used for monitoring. The proposal is for burning of plastics, the Clerk was asked to enquire of LCC what the current levels of methane production from the site are before it is considered for incineration work.

It was resolved to form a full response to this application administratively. The Parish Council object primarily to the location for the development.

Application 2015/0954/FUL

Location: 2 Mill Leat Close Parbold Wigan Lancashire WN8 7NJ

Proposal: Replacement of wooden windows and front door with UPVC to front elevation, and replacement of wooden fascia boards to front and gable end elevations.

Parbold Parish Council has no objection to this proposal

11. Items raised by Councillors:

Cllr Holland - brought a daft letter to the meeting for discussion. This letter to be duplicated and placed on windscreens of cars parked inconsiderately. This will be listed on the next agenda for conclusion.

Cllr Butts - damage to the trees on Greenfield Avenue. The response from WLBC Derek Hill, that there is no intention to replace the tree that was removed. Its removal was offset by WLBC giving free trees to residents to plant. Weedkiller will be sprayed at the base of the trees, so that there is no need for the mowers to be used right up to the bark. However, in practice residents report that the mowers are hitting the base of the tree and this is what caused the loss of one of the trees. Newburgh Parish Council protect the trees in their verges by driving stakes around so that the mowers cannot, even accidentally, hit the base. The Clerk will enquire of Newburgh Parish Council whether this has been successful or not. There was discussion as to whether the Parish Council should request taking over maintenance of this verge or obtaining ownership of the verge as a community asset. However, liabilities and maintenance costs could outweigh its value as there are no guarantees that the budget for maintenance, currently given to WLBC would transfer with it.

12. Councillors' agenda items for future meetings

Cllr Butts: - The Stocks Car Park on Mill Lane has become untidy with storage of public house paraphernalia, including rubbish, beer barrels and possibly food waste. It is unsightly and in close proximity to neighbouring houses. It was resolved to ask the Publican to tidy the area and keep it clean.

13. 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.

14. Issues regarding Parbold Village Hall:

- **To agree replacement windows**

It was resolved to replace at the windows and the front door and the contractor Goldseal was selected from the three companies providing quotations. The Chairman will discuss the exact requirements with them and inform the PCA of this and the replacement of the fire doors in the main hall, that will be undertaken in the coming months. The fire doors in the small hall and the external storeroom door will not be replaced.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Chairman: Cllr Brian Arnold

6th November 2015