

## Farington Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 December 2018 at St Paul's CE Primary School, Croston Road, Farington Moss at 7.00pm**

**Present:-** Councillor Graham Walton (Chairman); Councillor Mike Otter (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Roy Clarke; Councillor Dave Moore and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton.

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council  
County Councillor Michael Green  
8 Members of the Public

#### **68. (18/19) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Langley, Councillor Alan Pearmain, Councillor Paul Wharton and Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council. The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

#### **69. (18/19) Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation**

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 Planning Applications as a Member of South Ribble Borough Council Planning Committee.

The Clerk confirmed that written requests for dispensations had been received from all present if required, in order for them to consider the precept up to 31 March 2019 in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

#### **70. (18/19) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

##### **Resolved**

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 November 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **71. (18/19) Adjournment for Public Participation and reports from the Community Beat Manager/South Ribble Borough Council**

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton adjourned the meeting for public participation, and welcomed County Councillor Michael Green to the meeting. County Councillor Green said that the issues regarding the possibility of stopping up School Lane had been considered by Officers at Lancashire County Council who had advised that they were unable to consider such a request as there had been no injuries on School Lane during the last five years and, as it had a good safety record there was no justification for closing the road. Councillor Roy Clarke said that he was aware of at least one accident in the last few years involving his neighbours' daughter and also there had been a recent incident of someone being knocked off

their motorbike under the bridge. Councillor Roy Clarke also said that vehicles were regularly seen speeding on School Lane up to Coote Lane and these appeared to be travelling at speeds in excess of 40 MPH.

County Councillor Green said that due to this further information he would refer this matter back again to Lancashire County Council to see what could be done. The Parish Council and members of the public present felt that a traffic count and speed check in conjunction with Community Speed Watch may be beneficial to gather evidence on this issue. One member of the public agreed to work with Councillor Roy Clarke to look at the traffic issues and gather evidence.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton agreed that the Planning Items could be discussed under public participation to enable the public to contribute to the discussion. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. Due to the Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton having a personal and prejudicial in the Planning Items due to being a Member of South Ribble Planning Committee, Councillor Graham Walton left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision. Councillor Mike Otter as Vice-Chairman took over as Chairman for the planning items.

Councillor Mike Otter welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and agreed to discuss the planning consultation relating to Pickering's Farm as the first item. One member of the public asked the Parish Council to help stop the Masterplan and Pickering's Farm going ahead as it would mean an additional 2,000 houses in the area. She also raised her concerns about the lack of consultation with the local community as a number of her neighbour's had not received any information about Pickering's Farm in spite of the developer saying that over 6,500 leaflets had been delivered. The member of the public then outlined her concerns, in particular she highlighted that the development would in effect join Lostock Hall/Farington/Penwortham to Preston and Leyland and would destroy 224 acres of beautiful countryside. The area was currently home to a vast array of flora, fauna and wildlife and all this would be lost if the new development went ahead. It was also well used by walkers and cyclists. Concern about traffic issues were also referred to especially as the roads were already struggling to cope and the proposed entrance/exit points were unsuitable especially Coote Lane and Chain House Lane. In addition to this the member of the public referred to the poor air quality and other issues regarding waste, waste water and surface water run off including flooding. Councillor Mike Otter thanked the member of the public for her detailed information. The Clerk also confirmed that she had received an email from a local group "Keep Bee Lane Rural" and the information had been circulated to the Parish Council.

A member of the public asked if it was likely that the development would go ahead. County Councillor Green said that in principle South Ribble Borough Council had agreed for development to be undertaken on that land. So it was likely, however it would be considered by South Ribble Borough Council Planning Committee and there would be a number of issues to be discussed including traffic, access and infrastructure before approval was given.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection to the Masterplan for Pickering's Farm, this would be in relation to those issues that affected Farington Parish Council only.

Councillor Mike Otter then referred to the proposed Planning Application for up to 100 dwellings at land at the South of Chain House Lane. It was noted that Emery Planning had sent a letter to the Parish Council advising that they be submitting an application in due course. The Clerk agreed to forward a copy of the information to County Councillor Green. It was noted that as a Planning Application had not been submitted then it was not possible for the Parish Council to comment as there were no details of the application available.

Councillor Mike Otter thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

## **72. (18/19) Planning Items**

As discussed under public participation it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection to the Masterplan consultation and Pickering's Farm for the following reasons: - that the access road to the site was not acceptable and this development would introduce a further extra 4,000 vehicles onto an already congested road network ie Leyland Road and Penwortham Way. The Parish Council did not feel that Coote Lane was a suitable access point for major development. The Parish Council was also concerned about the lack of public transport.

In addition to this the extra vehicles would result in a detrimental effect to the already poor air quality in Tardy Gate at Lostock Hall, Walton-le-dale and Penwortham which already suffer with poor air quality and were designated as AQMA's.

Finally there was also a lack of infrastructure included in the Masterplan. Whilst the plan did allocate space for a community centre, there was no funding for any additional services such as dentists and doctors.

With regard to the proposed Planning Application for up to 100 dwellings at land South of Chain House Lane, the Parish Council were unable to comment on the proposals until a Planning Application was submitted to South Ribble Borough Council.

### **Resolved**

i) That with regard to the Masterplan consultation and Pickering's Farm the Parish Council objects for the following reasons: - that the access road to the site was not acceptable and this development would introduce a further extra 4,000 vehicles onto an already congested road network ie Leyland Road and Penwortham Way. The Parish Council did not feel that Coote Lane was a suitable access point for major development. The Parish Council was also concerned about the lack of public transport.

In addition to this the extra vehicles would result in a detrimental effect to the already poor air quality in Tardy Gate at Lostock Hall, Walton-le-dale and Penwortham which already suffer with poor air quality and were designated as AQMA's.

Finally there was also a lack of infrastructure included in the Masterplan. Whilst the plan did allocate space for a community centre, there was no funding for any additional services such as dentists and doctors.

ii) That with regard to the proposed Planning Application for up to 100 dwellings at land South of Chain House Lane, the Parish Council were unable to comment on the proposals until a Planning Application was submitted to South Ribble Borough Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton returned to the meeting.

### **73. (18/19) LALC AGM**

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton gave feedback from the LALC AGM that they attended on behalf of the Parish Council on 17 November 2018. There had been a number of items discussed at the AGM including the reduction in Police Officers and rural crime, the Code of Conduct and paperless correspondence with Parish Councils. There was also information on a Senior Road Users Workshop.

It was noted that Councillor Roy Clarke did not attend the AGM due to being ill.

### **74. (18/19) Projects for Expenditure 2018/2019**

**Welcome to Farington Signs – update.** The Clerk confirmed that the new boundary sign for Heatherleigh would be painted in maroon and cream as previously agreed by the Parish Council and would be installed as soon as practicable.

**Adult Outdoor Gym (mats) –** The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton said that the matting would be looked when the weather improved early next year. He would discuss with the Lengthsman how the drainage around the mats could be improved.

**Woodland Area – Farington Park.** Councillor Mike Otter informed the Parish Council that some bulb planting had been carried out on Farington Park by South Ribble Borough Council in conjunction with Farington County Primary School Gardening Club. Councillor Mike Otter proposed that the Parish Council award a one-off grant of £50 to the Schools Gardening Club as a thank you for their hard work on the park, and that this would go towards purchasing some new hand tools for the Club. Councillor Dave Moore thought this was an excellent idea but proposed that the School should be awarded £75. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

**Bashall Grove/Mill Street entrance feature – update.** There was nothing further to report on this project except it was likely to be in place for Spring 2019.

**Mill Street garden – replacement of seating.** Councillor Mike Otter reported that the bobbin tops had now been recoated as agreed and that the new seating would be in place shortly.

### **Resolved**

i) That the update on projects for expenditure is received and noted.

ii) That with regard to Farington Park, a one off grant of £75 is awarded to Farington County Primary School Gardening Club for new hand tools as a thank you for their hard work planting bulbs on the park.

## **75. (18/19) Financial Matters**

### **Resolved**

1) It was noted that we had approximately around £69,276.58 (bank statement up to 9 November 2018) in the bank.

It was noted that since the last meeting we had paid: -

12/11/18 - Reimbursement for Remembrance Day wreaths – Councillor Mike Otter £80 (cheque no 100779).

15/11/18 – HMRC underpayment of Tax/Ni £269.80 (cheque no 100780).

23/11/18 – Peter Heise for planters, soil etc £291.66 (cheque no 100781).

01/12/18 – S Whittam Clerk's salary £970.28 (cheque no 100782).

04/12/18 – Garrick Ltd for bobbin top plates as previously agreed £240. (cheque no 100783).

It was noted that we had paid British Gas for electricity BTR field 23 October (£101.23) and Nest Pension payment £32.78 on 24 October (direct debits).

2) The following outstanding invoice was agreed for payment:

Sally Gorton for website admin – Sept – December 2018 (£101.25).

It was further noted that the grant cheques were handed out at the meeting or posted as appropriate.

3) The Parish Council gave consideration to the draft budget for 2019/2020. With regard to the woodland at Farington Park it was agreed to reduce this budget to £500 as part of the works had now been completed. With regard to the Wellfield Road corner it was agreed to allocate a budget of £1,000 to this project. Taking into account these changes the Parish Council approved the budget for 2019/2020 and a copy of the budget is included in the Minute Book.

4) The Parish Council then gave consideration to the precept for 2019/2020. Taking into account the proposed expenditure as included in the budget above, it was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Graham Walton that the precept remain the same at £50,000. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. It was noted that this was the 12<sup>th</sup> year that the precept had remained at £50,000.

#### **76. (18/19) Borough Council reports – for information only**

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that the Christmas Market and the Christmas lights switch on would be held on Thursday 13 December. She also reminded the Parish Council that the next Bob-In café meeting would be held on 21 December at Lostock Hall Library.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton said that Croston Road was in a terrible state and that he was currently working with County Councillor Michael Green to see when it could be resurfaced.

#### **77. (18/19) Clerk's Report – For information only**

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

#### **78. (18/19) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held Monday 11 February 2019 at Bashall Grove Community Centre.

#### **Local Government Act 1972**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items, because, if members of the public were present, it is likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **79. (18/19) Lengthsman's Contract/Salary**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Lengthsman's contract which was currently due for review and also his salary. The Clerk advised to renew the Lengthsman's contract for a further four years and to increase his salary in line with other Lengthsmen to £14.25 per hour with effect from 1 April 2019. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. Councillor Mike Otter said that the Lengthsman did an excellent job and all agreed.

#### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council agrees to renew the Lengthsman's contract for a further four years and that the Lengthsman's salary is increased to £14.25 per hour with effect from 1 April 2019.

## **80. (18/19) Maintenance Tenders for 2019/2020**

### **Resolved**

That South Ribble Borough Council and any other interested parties be invited to tender for the maintenance work at St Paul's Park and the BTR field in line with the following specification: -

#### **St Paul's Park**

Grass Cutting (10 cuts)

Cutting of hedge bordering Croston Road (4 cuts)

Spring dressing (feed/weed)

Autumn dressing (feed/weed)

Additional weed treatment around the play equipment as necessary

Emptying of litter bins - weekly

Monthly inspection of the play equipment – including schedule provided by Wicksteeds.

jet washing play area surface twice a year to fit in with South Ribble Borough Council's playground regime.

#### **BTR field**

Hedge cutting twice a year to fit in with South Ribble Borough Council's cutting regime.