

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 December 2019 at St Paul's CE Primary School, Croston Road, Farington Moss at 7.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Mike Otter (Chairman); Councillor Paul Buckley; Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Elaine Robb.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council

86. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Roy Clarke; Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

87. (19/20) Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations

The Clerk confirmed that written requests for dispensation had been received from all present if required, in order for them to consider the precept up to the 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

88. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Councillor Michael Green stated that with regard to Minute 80 (19/20) – Annual Grants, he had moved the proposed grant recipients "en bloc" so Turbary House Birds of Prey should have been included in the grant list for this year. The Parish Council agreed to this amendment to the Minutes and the Clerk agreed to forward a cheque for £200 to Turbary House Birds of Prey.

Resolved

That, subject to the amendment to Minute 80 (19/20), to include Turbary House Birds of Prey as stated above, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 November, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter adjourned the meeting for public participation but as there were no members of the public present, he asked if any Member of the Parish Council had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Paul Buckley asked if a reply had been received from NALC regarding the Standing Orders and in particular relating to members of the public being allowed to speak on all items. The Clerk said that a response had been received from NALC which basically reiterated the Model Standing Orders that the Parish Council had

adopted. Although Councillor Paul Buckley did not necessarily agree with the response, he accepted what they had said.

Councillor Elaine Robb said she had attended the Chainhouse Lane appeal and represented the Parish Council as agreed. It had been a very difficult appeal hearing with the Officers from South Ribble Borough Council being subjected to intense scrutiny. However local residents had put forward a good argument against the appeal. It was difficult to predict the outcome of the appeal but a decision was likely to be received in the next few weeks.

It was also noted that the meeting on School Lane with County Councillor Keith Iddon would be held in the new year and the Clerk was waiting for proposed dates.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter then reconvened the meeting.

90. (19/20) Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation

The Clerk had circulated information on the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation. It was noted that the closing date for comments was 14 February 2020. It was suggested that if Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman was producing the newsletter for the Parish Council that it would be beneficial if an article on this Consultation could be included in the newsletter. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to discuss this further and agree a formal response to the Consultation at their next meeting on 10 February 2020.

Resolved

- i) That information on the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation is included in the Parish Council newsletter if this can be produced before the closing date for comments to the consultation.
- ii) That the Parish Council will discuss this further and agree a formal response to the Consultation at their next meeting on 10 February 2020.

91. (19/20) Feedback from the Meeting with South Ribble Borough Council

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter and the Clerk gave an update to the Parish Council on the meeting held on 22 November, 2019 with the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council and Members of the Cabinet. He explained that the meeting had been very informal and had been attended by representatives from other Parish Council's and Penwortham Town Council. Some Parish Council's had indicated their difficulty in contacting the appropriate Officer's at South Ribble and to make the process easier the Leader of South Ribble agreed that Darren Cranshaw would be the first point of contact for Parish and Town Councils. It was also noted that South Ribble Borough Council were currently undertaking a Community Engagement review and were encouraging Parish and Town Council's to get involved. It was agreed that similar meetings would be held around four times a year and the Leader of South Ribble said he was committed to working closer with Parish and Town

Councils. It was also noted that the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council had indicated that he would attend the next meeting of Farington Parish Council in February.

The Clerk reported that she had put forward a number of questions in advance of the meeting as agreed by the Parish Council. However, the meeting held had not really been appropriate to discuss a number of individual Parish Council concerns but focussed on general issues. However, Darren Cranshaw had responded to the questions raised as follows: -

Lostock Hall/Christmas Market – Due to lack of foot fall and traders willing to take part, local Councillors felt that the market was not sustainable.

Lack of wildflowers in Farington Park – the wildflower meadow was moved to a different part of the park this year as prolonged use in the same area means that the wildflowers will not thrive. Bio diversity is an important part of South Ribble Borough Council's corporate plan and any suggestions for other wildflower meadows in the area would be welcomed.

Lack of Spids in the Parish – New Spids have been purchased this year by South Ribble Borough Council and they are used in areas where they have the biggest impact. If the Parish Council has any suggestions on where Spids should be used in the Parish, we can let South Ribble know and these will be investigated and a Spid used there as appropriate.

The amount of CiL collected by SRBC and where it is spent.

	£000
CIL received from developers	2,971
Less: CIL payable to parishes (where development site is in parished area)	-114
CIL admin charge	-149
CIL paid to City Deal	-1,028
CIL currently held / to be allocated to projects in capital programme	1,680

Resolved

That the update on the meeting held with the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council and representatives from the Cabinet is received and noted.

92. (19/20) Projects for Expenditure 2020/2021

It was noted that priorities for projects over the next 12 months would be discussed under the budget at tonight's meeting. However, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman regarding the Parish Council newsletter and forward to him any potential articles including photos from grant recipients, the Farington Nursery flyer and the Hedgehog Project.

Resolved

That Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman is asked to produce the Parish Council newsletter in line with the information presented above.

93. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had £74,922.56 (bank statement up to 9 November 2019) in the bank.

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

04/12/19 – South Ribble Borough Council – bin emptying October £322.74 (Cheque no 100859).

04/12/19 – S Whittam, Clerk’s salary £988.35 (Cheque no 100860).

06/12/19 – SLCC annual subscription - £227.00 (Cheque no 100861).

06/12/19 – Peter Heise Lengthsman - £855.00 (Cheque no 880).

Grant Cheques

Lonsdale Chase Sheltered Accommodation	£200.00 (cheque no 868).
Bashall Grove Sheltered Accommodation	£200.00 (cheque no 869).
St Catherine’s Hospice	£300.00 (cheque no 870).
North West Air Ambulance	£400.00 (cheque no 871).
Farington South Senior Citizens	£300.00 (cheque no 872).
Derian House	£300.00 (cheque no 873).
Bowland Mountain Rescue	£300.00 (cheque no 874).
St Catherine’s Church	£300.00 (cheque no 875).
St Ambrose Church	£300.00 (cheque no 876).
Farington St Paul’s Scouts	£200.00 (cheque no 877).
Mayor’s Charity Fund	£100.00 (cheque no 878).
Leyland & Cuerden Valley Lions	£300.00 (cheque no 879).

It was further noted that we had paid British Gas for BTR field on 22 October £87.83
Nest Pension 5 November £50.71 – all direct debits.

2) The following invoices were agreed for payment at the meeting: -

Cllr Mike Otter - £8.90 nuts and bolts for Remembrance Day poppies.

HMRC Q3 Tax and NI - £574.13 due at the end of December.

Sally Gorton for website administration - £135.

Turbary House Birds of Prey - £200 as agreed earlier at the meeting.

3) Budget for 2020/2021

The Parish Council gave consideration to the budget for 2020/2021. A copy of the draft budget had been circulated to the Parish Council for approval, and the Clerk had also circulated some budget notes to help with the decision making. There was a full discussion regarding projects for 2020/2021 and beyond especially relating to the cost of the refurbishment of St Paul's Park which was likely to be in the region of £80,000 - £100,000. The Parish Council recognised that it was unlikely to carry out a number of projects at once and therefore decided to prioritise projects in order of importance. However, it was noted that due to funding or feasibility the order of the projects carried out may change. The following was agreed: -

Project 1 - St Paul's Park refurbishment. (Estimated cost between £80,000 - £100,000). Noted this project will take around two years to complete.

Project 2 - Crossing on Stanifield Lane. (Earmarked £10,000 as Parish Council contribution – subject to approval and additional funding from Lancashire County Council and South Ribble Borough Council).

Project 3 – Spid for use in the Parish. (Estimated cost £2,500).

Project 4 – replacement and additional noticeboards in the Parish (Estimated cost £5,000 depending on whether some boards can be refurbished rather than replaced).

Project 5 – Regular newsletter twice a year. (Estimated cost £1,500).

Project 6 – Biodiversity Projects in the Parish. (Estimated cost of £1,500).

The budget was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

4) Precept for 2020/2021

The Parish Council gave consideration to the precept for 2020/2021. The Clerk also referred to some information provided by South Ribble Borough Council regarding Band "D" properties. However, it was noted that the tax base figure may be subject to change as a report on Council Tax was going to South Ribble Borough Council's Council at the end of January 2020. The Clerk said that the Parish Council had a number of projects that they had agreed to do as outlined in the decision above and these had significant cost implications for the Parish Council. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to set the precept at £56,500 for 2020/2021. This decision was not taken lightly but unfortunately without the increase the Parish Council would not be able to undertake any projects at all for the benefit of the Parish.

94. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

There was nothing further to report at the meeting.

95. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For information only

The Clerk reported that she had received a lovely thank you letter from St Ambrose Church regarding the contribution made by the Parish Council to the community defibrillator.

The Clerk also reported that in answer to the Parish Council's question regarding CiL generated by the Heatherleigh development, the Planning Department had replied that the two outline permissions for this development were approved before CiL so there was no CiL payable on these and the developer was not liable for it.

96. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 10 February 2020 at Bashall Grove Community Centre.

Local Government Act 1972

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which is specified against the heading to each item, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

97. (19/20) Lengthsman's Salary (Para 1)

The Parish Council considered the Lengthsman's salary for 2020/2021 and unanimously agreed to increase his pay to £14.60 per hour with effect from 1 April 2020. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter said that the Lengthsman did an excellent job and all agreed.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agree to increase the Lengthsman's salary to £14.60 per hour with effect from 1 April 2020.

98. (19/20) Clerk's Salary (Para 1)

The Clerk left the room while her salary was discussed. The Parish Council agreed to increase the Clerk's salary by 3% with effect from 1 April 2020.

Resolved

That the Clerk's salary is increased by 3% with effect from 1 April 2020.

99. (19/20) Maintenance Tenders for 2020/2021 (Para 3)

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.

100. (19/20) BTR field/Lease (Para 3)

The Clerk reported that our current Solicitors had closed their branch in Leyland so she had approached Farley's Solicitors in Winckley Square Preston who had experience of preparing this type of lease to see if they would take on the BTR lease on behalf of the Parish Council. The estimated costs were £1,000 + VAT and disbursements, which was the average cost for this type of work. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That with regard to the lease for BTR field that the Parish Council agree to appoint Farley's Solicitors to act on our behalf in negotiating the new lease.