

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 July 2019 at Bashall Grove Community Centre at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Mike Otter (Chairman); Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Paul Buckley; Councillor Roy Clarke; Councillor Michael Green; Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council
Richard Askew – Principal Transport Planner Lancashire County Council (LCC)
18 members of the public
4 representatives from the Police

33. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council and PC Debbie Thompson Community Beat Manager. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter proposed that Richard Askew from LCC should give his presentation on the A582 dualling under public participation to enable members of the public to ask questions. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

34. (19/20) Declarations of interest

Councillor Michael Green declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 – Parish Council Vacancy as he was related to one of the applicants who was going to be considered for the vacancy. This was on the advice of the Deputy Monitoring Officer at South Ribble Borough Council.

35. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

With regard to Minute 31, Councillor Paul Buckley asked that his concerns relating to no formal agreement with the new football clubs could be added to the Minutes. With regard to Minute 32, Councillor Paul Buckley said that the intention of the Parish Council was to review the Clerk's Salary "every" December, rather than "further in" December as stated in the Minutes. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

Subject to the amendments to Minute 31 and Minute 32 as stated above, that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 June 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter welcomed Richard Askew from LCC to the meeting who had kindly come along to inform the Parish Council and local residents about the proposals for the A582 dualling consultation which would be discussed by the Parish Council later at the meeting. Richard informed the Parish Council that LCC were currently undertaking a consultation to improve the A582 and that the closing date for comments was 2 August 2019. He gave some background to the proposals and said that most people were aware that the A582 was a very busy road which suffered significant congestion at peak times. The proposals were to increase the capacity by upgrading the A582 to a dual carriageway. This would be between Broad Oak roundabout and Stanifield Lane. The dualling also included the section of the B5253 from Farington Recycling Centre to Longmeanygate. In addition to this a three-metre-wide combined cycle track would also be provided along the full length of the widened road with links into existing cycle routes and public footpaths. Richard handed out some information regarding the scheme and also explained that there would be capacity improvements to Croston Road junction including a proposed Bus Gate and also at Longmeanygate junction including Reiver Road access. The proposals also included that Sherdley Road junction would be upgraded to signal control and there would be Toucan crossings at all junctions. Richard explained that these proposals were “not set in stone” and that the County Council would welcome comments on the proposals.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked Richard for his presentation and asked if anyone had any questions to raise. Councillor Paul Buckley had some concerns regarding the proposals and felt that some of the proposals would exacerbate the current problems and cause more traffic pollution.

Richard explained that the highway network would be monitored to ensure that traffic was flowing and the use of smart technology would help this.

One member of the public commented that the traffic at Chain House Lane had become worse since the introduction of the new smart lights, and concerns were also raised about carriageways that were shared with cyclists and pedestrians.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton raised her concerns about the proposed bus gate on Croston Road and the proposals to make Croston Road one way. This was supported by some members of the public present at the meeting.

Councillor Michael Green thanked Richard for attending the meeting tonight and said this was an ideal opportunity for residents and the Parish Council to comment on the proposals. He added that the proposals had some real positives as dualling was needed to cope with the additional 2,700 homes that would be built over the next few years. It was important that infrastructure was provided, but he also had genuine concerns about the proposals for Croston Road.

One member of the public said that the Sherdley Road signal improvements would actually increase the “rat run” at Lostock Hall and also echoed the comments raised

by other members of the public regarding the intelligent road signals causing further issues especially at Cote Lane. Questions were also asked about the number of trees being removed and the life span of the road.

Richard explained that the environmental Masterplan had details of the trees that would be removed but trees and landscaping would be provided as part of the scheme. The road scheme had a life span of 15 years which meant that it was predicted to be at capacity by 2037 but there was also likely to be further improvements to buses and trains during that period.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter then welcomed representatives from the Police to the meeting. The Police informed the Parish Council that they would try and attend the Parish Council meetings when possible and they were there to give help and advice. Councillor Roy Clarke asked about the availability of crime statistics/reports for the area and the Police advised that this information could be accessed on line, and commented that South Ribble was a safe area but crime had increased slightly by 3% since last year.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that in his Ward there were a number of concerns regarding anti-social behaviour. There were also issues with speeding especially around Stanifield Lane and he asked what could be done about these issues.

A member of the public also raised concerns about vehicles parking on pavements. There were also issues with possible drugs use on local car parks.

The Police agreed to look into the points raised at the meeting, and the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked the Police for attending the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter asked if there were any further issues to be raised under public participation. Councillor Roy Clarke referred to a letter received by all Parish Councillors from the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council, regarding the comments made on social media by Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman referring to the money allocated by South Ribble Borough Council to the proposed pedestrian crossing for Stanifield Lane.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman replied that some members of the Parish Council had not received a copy of the letter and he would speak to Councillor Roy Clarke about the budget proposals outside the meeting.

Councillor Roy Clarke also reported that he was pleased that the banners had now been removed from the front of St Paul's CE Primary School and also that Network Rail had removed the ivy from the School Lane Bridge.

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

37. (19/20) Parish Council Vacancy

Councillor Michael Green declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and took no part in the decision.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter welcomed three members of the public to the meeting who wished to be considered for the Parish Council vacancy. Karen Bell, Tony Green and Elaine Robb were each asked to give a short speech for a maximum of three minutes about their background and why they would like to join the Parish Council. Following the presentations, the Parish Council voted by way of a secret ballot. The Clerk reported that the outcome of the secret ballot was a tie and therefore the Chairman had a casting vote which was also cast by secret ballot. After counting the votes, the Clerk announced that Elaine Robb had been successfully co-opted onto Farington Parish Council. Councillor Elaine Robb signed her Acceptance of Office. The Clerk also gave Councillor Elaine Robb the Registration of Interests form for her completion.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked all three candidates for their excellent presentations to the Parish Council.

Resolved

That Councillor Elaine Robb is co-opted onto the Parish Council with immediate effect.

38. (19/20) A582 – South Ribble Western Distributor

As discussed earlier at the meeting the Parish Council had received a presentation on the proposed dualling of the A582 from LCC. The Parish Council discussed how they would wish to respond to the consultation. The Clerk agreed to draft the response based on the comments received and circulate this to the Parish Council for any further amendments before submitting it to LCC by the closing date of 2 August 2019.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the response should not include any comments on the proposed bus gate and works on Croston Road. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green. On being put to the vote three members voted for this proposal and five against the proposal. The proposal was therefore defeated.

Councillor Paul Buckley proposed that the response from the Parish Council should raise our concerns regarding the proposed bus gate and the access only proposals on Croston Road. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Karen Walton. On being put to the vote five members voted for the proposal and three against the proposal. This proposal was therefore carried. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman asked the Clerk to minute that he was against this proposal.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to the consultation and state that they were not against the proposal in principal and welcomed the dualling of the A582 but did have a number of genuine concerns about the details of the proposals.

In particular the Parish Council would not wish to see a bus gate on Croston Road and neither would they wish Croston Road to be blocked off to traffic, or for access

only. They also had concerns about the Longmeanygate junction and if the proposals would actually work in practice.

With regard to the Sherdley Road junction and the proposals to upgrade it to being signal controlled, the Parish Council felt that this would increase the “rat run” of traffic at Lostock Hall. It was noted that the Parish Council had already witnessed problems with traffic at Chain House Lane since the smart lights had been introduced. In addition to this the Parish Council would wish to see improvement works to public transport rather than promoting car dependency.

It was further noted that Members of the Parish Council could respond individually to this consultation if they so wished.

Resolved

That with regard to the LCC consultation on the A582 dualling, the Clerk is authorised to produce a response to the consultation based on the comments made by the Parish Council above and circulate this to the Parish Council by email for any comments to be made. Following this the Clerk would respond to the consultation by 2 August 2019.

39. (19/20) Parish Council Meeting Dates 2020

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Parish Council meeting dates for 2020. The Clerk advised that the April meeting would fall in the Easter holidays so the options were to either hold the meeting on the 6th or the 20th April. Councillor Michael Green said that it would make sense to hold it on the 6th April. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the meeting dates should be deferred for consideration by the Community Engagement Working Group to see if alternative dates may be more beneficial to members of the public. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and on being put to the vote four members voted for the proposal, 3 members voted against the proposal and one member abstained. The proposal was therefore carried.

It was agreed that the Community Engagement Working Group would report back to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the Parish Council meeting dates are deferred for consideration by the Community Engagement Working Group and that their recommendations will be considered by the Parish Council at their meeting in September.

40 . (19/20) Projects for Expenditure 2019/2020

Welcome to Farington Signs – update. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter informed the Parish Council C & W Berry Ltd at Leyland had kindly helped by removing the heavy boundary sign at Heatherleigh back to Taylor and Pickles for the alterations to include the word “moss”. They had not asked for any payment for this, so the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter had spoken to them and they were happy for a donation to a local charity in lieu of the help they had given to the Parish Council.

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter that a donation of £100 was given to St Ambrose Church towards a community defibrillator in lieu of the help given by C & W Berry Ltd to the removal of the boundary sign. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. The Parish Council also agreed that a thank you letter should be sent to C & W Berry Ltd in appreciation of the help they had given the Parish Council.

St Paul's Park Playground Project – It was agreed that the Community Engagement Working Group should discuss a plan for developing St Paul's Park and that they would report back with recommendations to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

Parish Council newsletter – Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman reported that only Councillor Mrs Karen Walton had submitted items for the newsletter. It was therefore agreed that the Community Engagement Working Group should discuss items for the draft newsletter and report back with recommendations to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

Bashall Grove Garden – It was noted that the garden was having problems with dogs running onto the plants and that South Ribble Borough Council had recently placed a large piece of tree on the corner of the garden to help deter the dogs. The Parish Council felt that a more permanent aesthetic solution needed to be found. Councillor Paul Warton-Hardman proposed that sleepers were installed around the flower beds inside the cobbles at an estimated cost of £1,000 this was seconded by Councillor Chris Warton-Hardman. On being put to the vote 6 members voted in favour of the proposal and one member voted against and one member abstained. The proposal was therefore carried. This would be subject to the approval of South Ribble Borough Council as it was their land.

The Clerk also reported that she had received the cost for placing a metal band around the plaque on Bashall Grove Garden which was £200. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

- i) That with regard to the welcome to Farington signs that a cheque for £100 is given to St Ambrose Church towards a community defibrillator in lieu of the help given by C & W Berry Ltd to the Parish Council in removing the boundary sign at Heatherleigh for amendment. In addition to this a letter of thanks would also be sent to C & W Berry Ltd.
- ii) That with regard to St Paul's Playground and the Parish Council newsletter both these items would be discussed by the Community Engagement Working Group and that their recommendations would be considered by the Parish Council at their September meeting.
- iii) That with regard to the Bashall Grove garden, approval is given to the purchase of sleepers to raise the flower beds at an estimated cost of £1,000 subject to the approval of South Ribble Borough Council as it was their land.

iv) In addition to iii) above that approval is also given to the purchase of a metal band to protect the plaque at Bashall Grove garden at a cost of £200.

41. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had approximately around £43,562.41 (bank statement up to 9 May 2019) in the bank. It was noted that the June statement had not been received so the Clerk had asked the bank for a duplicate copy.

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

10/06/19 – Farington Primary School grant £750 as agreed at the last meeting. (cheque no 100829).

17/06/19 – BELEC electrical for emergency works at BTR field £120.00 (cheque no 100830).

17/06/19 – Argus Security for CCTV inspection £120.00. (cheque no 100831).

20/06/19 – Peter Heise Lengthsman £855.00 (cheque no 100832).

02/07/19 – S Whittam, Clerk reimbursement for Cleaner (S Daly) for BTR cabins £130. (cheque no 100832).

02/07/19 – S Whittam Clerks salary new rate + £37.08 per month backdated to April 2019 – total £1,038.62. (cheque no 100834).

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

Newgate Nurseries for plant and compost – two invoices £68.45 and £56.94 = total £125.39. It was noted that the Parish Council had set up an account with Newgate Nurseries so that the Lengthsman did not have to pay for the plants himself and then claim back. It was further noted that the invoices would be received on a monthly basis.

Bang the Drum – SRS Gorton for website admin – January to July 2019 total £247.50.

Electropak (Taylor and Pickles) outstanding invoice for boundary signs £1,595.52.

3) The Parish Council noted the report from the Internal Auditor and further noted that the accounts had now been submitted to the External Auditor. The Internal Auditor's report is presented as follows: -

Report from the Internal Auditor

Farington Parish Council Accounts 2018/2019 Audited by Donna Kidd

Cheque No 756 – total invoices = £802.85 – cheque raised for £743.89 – owing £58.96? Credit note provided.

Receipts for cheque no 747 – wrongly added up but cheque raised for correct amount. (note clerical error).

DD2 doesn't show the amount so presume correct. (note for ICO for annual data fee).

Cheque no 724 – only credit card receipt – would be better to have the full receipt for Newgate Nurseries. (note account now been set up direct with Newgate Nurseries).

42. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that the judging for the Farington & Lostock Hall in Bloom Competition would be held on 19 July. The Bob In café would also continue. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton also asked if a request could be made for a further dog bin on Wellfield Lane/Church Lane.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that he had asked the Legal Department at South Ribble Borough Council to look at the comments made by the Leader of the Council with regard to the bus shelters and bus stops.

Councillor Michael Green said he was pleased to see that Croston Road had being resurfaced and he also asked if a list of the locations of the Parish Council notice boards could be circulated to the Parish Council.

43. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For information only

The Clerk confirmed that she had now received a response from the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council regarding My Central Neighbourhood Forum which stated that they were willing to work closely with the Parish Council.

The Clerk also informed the Parish Council that the Playscheme would be held on 1-8 August on BTR field and that she was meeting representatives from the Playscheme and the Football Teams to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

The Clerk also confirmed that she would update the Standing Orders for consideration at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

44. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 9 September at Bashall Grove Community Centre.