

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14 October 2019 at St Paul's CE Primary School, Croston Road, Farington Moss at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Mike Otter (Chairman); Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Paul Buckley; Councillor Elaine Robb; Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman; and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council
PC Debbie Thompson
PCSO Ruth Carr
1 member of the public

59. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roy Clarke and Councillor Michael Green.

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

60. (19/20) Declarations of interest

None

61. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 September 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed everyone to the meeting. PC Debbie Thompson and PCSO Ruth Carr introduced themselves and explained about the Community Road Watch Scheme. She explained that suitable locations for the Scheme are identified and anyone observed speeding is sent a letter warning them about using excessive speed. If anyone wished to get involved with Community Road Watch, then their names should be forwarded to PC Debbie Thompson.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman had asked for an item on the Agenda about speeding issues in the Parish, and as the Police were present it was the opportunity to speak to them about his concerns. Although Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman recognised that there were similar speeding problems around the county it was a significant issue in Farington. He highlighted that Stanifield Lane had 27 injury

accidents since 2015 and most of these were because of speeding vehicles. He also stated that the Parish Council had looked at having a permanent SPiD but that the County Council had not been supportive at that time. It was also noted that there were similar issues with speeding on School Lane, Croston Road, Coote Lane, Chainhouse Lane and Church Lane as well as other areas in the Parish. PC Debbie Thompson agreed to look at what could be done about speeding issues in Farington.

There was also a general discussion on drug issues in the Parish area and PC Thompson agreed to look into the issues raised.

The member of the public present spoke to the Police about the recent incident involving a vehicle crashing in to the fence near her property. PC Debbie Thompson advised that it would be appropriate for the member of the public to speak to the Officer involved in the original incident. The member of the public also advised that the fence had still not been replaced and she was waiting for a response from Lancashire County Council. The member of the public was advised to speak to County Councillor Michael Green about this matter.

The member of the public also raised the ongoing issue regarding the fence and hedging that still had no "official" owner. Councillor Karen Walton had spoken to South Ribble Borough Council about this in the past and agreed to look into this again.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that with regard to the information in the minutes about speaking to Councillor Roy Clarke, that he had tried unsuccessfully to contact Councillor Clarke on a number of occasions and concluded that the matter was now closed.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter then reconvened the meeting.

63. (19/20) Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated to the Parish Council an updated version of the Standing Orders in line with the NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 (England). It was noted that this item had been deferred from the last meeting in order for Parish Councillors to read the lengthy document. The Clerk explained that with regard to the question raised at the last meeting by Councillor Paul Buckley about members of the public being allowed to speak on each item of the Agenda, the simple answer was that members of the public were only allowed to speak when the Chairman suspended Standing Orders for a period of public participation. This did not preclude members of the public speaking about any item on the agenda it just meant they would be able to speak under public participation only.

The Standing Orders as presented were unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. However, Councillor Paul Buckley proposed that the Clerk contact NALC to ask if their Model Standing Orders could be updated and amended to allow members of the public to speak on all items. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman and agreed by the Parish Council.

A copy of the Standing Orders is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

- i) That the Parish Council adopts and approves the NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 (England) and a copy of these are presented in the Minute Book.
- ii) That the Clerk contacts NALC to ask if their Model Standing Orders could be updated and amended to allow members of the public to speak on all items.

64. (19/20) Report of the Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman reported that there had been a very productive meeting of the Community Engagement Working Group and they were recommending the approval of the dates of the meetings as put forward by the Clerk. However, it was noted that the Community Engagement Working Group may look at alternative venues for the meetings for future years. It was also agreed that due to the Easter holidays in 2020, the April meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 6 April 2020.

With regard to the newsletter Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that the Community Engagement Working Group were recommending to the Parish Council that this is produced at the end of the year and this could be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting. The Community Engagement Working Group also recommended that a resident's survey was undertaken to further help understand residents' priorities in the Parish.

Resolved

- i) That the report of the Community Engagement Working Group is received and noted.
- ii) That the dates for the 2020 meetings of the Parish Council are approved and that the April meeting is held on Monday 6 April due to the Easter holidays.

65. (19/20) Speeding Issues in the Parish

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda. However, as this matter had been discussed earlier at the meeting when the Police were present, there was nothing further to discuss. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said he was reassured that the Police would look into the issues raised to reduce the number of speeding problems in the Parish.

66. (19/20) Remembrance Event – Lostock Hall

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Lostock Hall Royal British Legion and they had confirmed that the £300 donation provided by the Parish Council would be needed again to help fund the road closures for the Remembrance events. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to provide £300 as per previous years.

Resolved

That the Parish Council approves the donation of £300 towards the road closures as part of the Remembrance events at Lostock Hall.

67. (19/20) Meeting with the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council

The Clerk reported that the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Mike Otter and herself had been invited along with other Parish Councils to attend a meeting with the Leader, Interim Chief Executive and Cabinet of South Ribble Borough Council to discuss working together. The meeting would take place on 22 November 2019 and the Parish Council had been asked to put forward any questions in advance of the meeting. There was a general discussion about this and it was agreed that questions would include the reasons for disbanding the My Central Neighbourhood Forum, the lack of a crossing on Stanifield Lane, the Christmas Market, the lack of wildflowers in Farington Park this year and the lack of the SPiD being used in the Parish. Councillor Paul Buckley suggested that we put something on our website page asking residents for any questions that they wished us to put forward.

68. (19/20) Projects for Expenditure 2019/2020

Bashall Grove Garden – update. The Clerk reported that Main Road Metals had very kindly agreed to make the metal frame for the plaque for the garden free of charge. The frame was now ready and would be put in place by the Lengthsman in time for Remembrance Sunday. The donation of the metal frame was very much appreciated by the Parish Council and the Clerk agreed to thank the Company and also invite them to come along to the Remembrance Service event on Monday 11 November at 11.00 am. The Clerk would also speak to the Company regarding issuing a press release regarding this.

69. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had £83,370.37 (bank statement up to 9 September 2019) in the bank.

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

13/09/19 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £855. (cheque no 100849).

17/09/19 – CPRE Annual Membership Fee £36.00. (cheque no 100850).

24/09/19 – South Ribble Borough Council bin emptying August £322.74. (cheque no 100851).

27/09/19 – PKF Littlejohn Audit Fee £360.00. (cheque no 100852).

02/10/19 – HMRC Q2 Tax and Ni £608.06. (cheque no 100853).

02/10/19 – S Whittam Clerk's Salary £964.97. (cheque no 100854).

11/10/19 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £641.25. (cheque no 100855).

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

Electropak (Taylor and Pickles) for changing the signs to Farington "Moss" - £504.
Reimbursement to Councillor Mike Otter for the Remembrance Sunday wreaths - £100.

It was further noted that we had paid British Gas for BTR field on 22 August £83.94; and water 5 September £211.62. Nest Pension 5 September £50.71 – all direct debits.

3) Report from the External Auditor

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's accounts for year end 31 March 2019 had been certified by the External Auditor and there were no issues raised.

70. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton reported that the Bob In Café was continuing and the next one would be held on Friday 18 October 2019. She also reported that the South Ribble in Bloom final would be held on Thursday at 6.00 pm at the Civic Centre.

There was nothing further to report.

71. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For information only

The Clerk reported that she had received the consultation results for the future of Worden Hall from South Ribble Borough Council.

72. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 11 November at Bashall Grove Community Centre.

Local Government Act 1972

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item 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.

73. BTR Field (Para 3)

The Clerk reported that Rowland Homes were willing to enter into a 15 year lease only on the following terms: -

- the Parish Council is responsible for all upkeep and maintenance provisions
- the Playscheme are permitted to use it
- the Parish Council be responsible for paying the Landowners Legal fees.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to enter into a 15 year lease based on the above terms.

Resolved

That the Parish Council unanimously agrees to enter into a 15 year lease based on the above terms as presented.