

## **Farington Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12 February 2018 at Bashall Grove Community Centre at 7.00pm**

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

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council  
Tony Stirland – South Ribble Borough Council  
3 Members of the Public

#### **87. (17/18) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Langley; Councillor Alan Pearmain, County Councillor Michael Green and PC Dan Wood. The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke took the opportunity to remind the Parish Council that they were a non-political body and asked that all members refrain from circulating political emails and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke also updated the Parish Council on Springfields as he was the Springfields Representative for the LALC Liaison Committee. He said that the site had now been sold and hopefully this provided security for all employees of the Company.

#### **88. (17/18) Declarations of interest**

Councillor Paul Wharton declared a personal interest in the Bashall Grove/Mill Street entrance feature as a resident and local Councillor.

#### **89. (17/18) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

##### **Resolved**

That, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 December 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **90. (17/18) Adjournment for Public Participation and reports from the Community Beat Manager/South Ribble Borough Council**

The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council to the meeting. Tony gave an update to the Parish Council on various initiatives including the Arts

Trail at St Catherine's Park and that the noticeboard in Lostock Hall was being refurbished. A litter pick in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy would be held on Friday 2 March at 11.00 am at Wellfield Road. Tony was hoping to publicise this widely throughout the Parish and Councillor Mike Otter suggested contacting local friends groups to get involved. It was noted that Farington & Lostock Hall in Bloom and also the Bashall Grove/Mill Street entrance would be discussed later at the meeting and Tony had kindly supplied some information on Bashall Grove/Mill Street entrance which was circulated to the Parish Council.

It was noted that the Church Lane/Croston Road dog bin had been taken away for repair but would be returned shortly.

The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke thanked Tony for attending the meeting and then welcomed three members of the public and asked them if they had anything they wished to raise with the Parish Council. It was noted that the three members of the public had attended the meeting to discuss the brown bin charges that were being introduced by South Ribble Borough Council. Although this matter was a Borough Council and not a Parish Council matter, Councillor Graham Walton was the Cabinet Member responsible for waste collection and he agreed to answer the residents' concerns. Councillor Graham Walton explained that the charge for green waste would be £30 per bin per year. However, those with smaller gardens could share with their neighbours. The three members of the public explained that their properties were owned by Progress Housing and although they did not have large gardens they used their brown bins for the disposal of leaves. They expressed concern that if the leaves were not removed then this would cause flooding problems with the blocking of gullies etc. Councillor Graham Walton agreed to speak to the residents outside of the meeting to see if a suitable solution to the problem could be found. The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke also suggested contacting the CEO of Progress Housing for his help with this matter.

The Clerk then read out an update from County Councillor Michael Green who unfortunately could not be present at this evening's meeting. The update included information on the new 114 bus service which covered Whitestake and Farington Moss. Information was also provided on the Lancashire County Council (LCC) budget that had recently been agreed. Over £81m savings were needed and LCC had agreed to an increase in the Council Tax of 2.99% and an additional 3% to provide additional funding for adult social care. It was noted that an additional £10m had been provided to improve highways. It was further noted that LCC had received a damning Ofsted report relating to children with special needs and disabilities. County Councillor Michael Green's report stated that this had not been a surprise and this was part of the reason why they were reviewing the Senior Leadership Team at County Hall. With regard to the highways safety issues at School Lane it was noted that the Officers were dealing with this. Finally it was reported that Lostock Hall Library had reopened today which was good news for the residents of Farington, Lostock Hall and Whitestake.

The Clerk then read out an update from the Police who unfortunately could not be present at this evening's meeting. It was noted that there had been a spike in vehicle crime especially when vehicles had been left insecure. It was emphasised that it was important to keep vehicles locked. It was also reported that the Police

would be attending a meeting with Trading Standards to possibly set up a no cold calling area in Bristol Avenue as this had historically been an area of concern. Councillor Paul Wharton said he was also involved in this meeting and it would be held on 26 February 2018.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Father Simon about the joint Farington Fun Day and that she was forwarding to him a list of stall holders that usually attending the Parish Council event. It was noted that the Parish Council had provisionally agreed the Fun Day as 7 July 2018. However, Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that this would clash with Lostock Hall Carnival so our Fun Day should be held on the second Saturday in July. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Father Simon and suggest that our joint Fun Day should be held on 14 July 2018. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton agreed to contact Lostock Hall Memorial Band to book them for this year's event.

Councillor Paul Wharton referred to one of the planter on Mill Street that had the metal strip hanging off it and the Clerk agreed to ask the Lengthsman to either repair or remove the metal strip.

The Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

## **91. (17/18) Farington Lodges**

The Clerk explained that Dave Cox from Withnell Anglers had approached the Parish Council regarding their grant awarded to them for improving the fishing lodges. As the Parish Council were aware a recent fire had allegedly caused pollution to the lodges and it had taken a number of months for the water quality at the lodges to improve enough to sustain fish. The angling club were now looking to restock the ponds and they had asked if they could use their grant awarded towards the purchase of fish. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had previously agreed that the fishing club could use their grant towards further testing of the water at the site but Dave Cox had confirmed that these additional tests had not gone ahead as the Environment Agency had been closely monitoring the water.

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Walton that Withnell Angling Club should be allowed to purchase fish using the grant money provided by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and unanimously agreed by all present.

Councillor Paul Wharton asked if the grant award policy could be reviewed at a future meeting and said that LALC had a good grant policy and this was agreed.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That permission is given for Withnell Anglers to use the grant money provided by the Parish Council for the purchase of fish.
- 2) That the Parish Council's grant award policy should be reviewed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

## **92. (17/18) Best Kept Village Competition 2018**

The Clerk suggested that the Parish Council should enter the Best Kept Village Competition as we had never entered before and it was the Diamond Anniversary of the Competition this year. The cost of entering the competition was £25. This was unanimously agreed.

### **Resolved**

That Farington Parish Council enters this year's Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £25.00.

## **93. (17/18) Projects for Expenditure 2018/2019**

**Welcome to Farington Signs – update.** Councillor Mike Otter said that Peter our Lengthsman had some work to carry out on the new plinth for the sign and this should hopefully be in the next few weeks weather permitting. Then the first sign could be put in place.

**Adult Outdoor Gym – update.** It was noted that the new outdoor gym had now been installed, and the official opening had been carried out earlier today. There were a couple of issues with the mats but hopefully these would be resolved shortly. It was further noted that some “taster sessions” were being arranged by South Ribble Borough Council with the health providers and it was felt that one of these taster sessions would be a good opportunity for the Parish Council to promote the gym. It was felt that this should be undertaken in the warmer weather in spring.

### **St Paul's Park – next steps**

The Clerk reported that she had arranged a meeting with Officers at South Ribble Borough Council on 15 March to discuss how to take this project forward. She would report back to the Parish Council at their April meeting.

**Parish Council Newsletter.** The Clerk circulated a copy of the recent Grimsargh Parish Council newsletter for information. She was currently obtaining costings for printing a Farington Parish Council newsletter but it was noted that she would need items from Parish Councillors to enable this to go ahead.

**Farington & Lostock Hall in Bloom Competition 2018 –** Councillor Mrs Karen Walton explained the arrangements for this year's competition. It was noted that the Competition would be launched in March and that judging would be carried out in July with the awards ceremony being held in September. It was further noted that a new category for Churches would be included in the Competition this year and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton proposed that the Parish Council pay for the new shield for the Churches as we had paid for all the previous shields. The cost of this would be around £80. In addition to the Councillor Mrs Karen Walton proposed that the Parish Council pay for the vouchers for the winners which would cost £120. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Wharton and unanimously agreed. It was noted

that the shield would include sponsored by Farington Parish Council in line with the other shields supplied.

**Bashall Grove/Mill Street entrance feature** – A copy of a design produced by South Ribble Borough Council for improvements to the corner of Bashall Grove/Mill Street was circulated to the Parish Council. All agreed that this corner could be greatly enhanced with some type of planters and plants. However, it was felt that further discussion was needed on the design and the practicalities of maintenance would need to be discussed as this would fall to the Parish Council and/or local residents to maintain. It was also noted that the opposite corner would also need to be improved. It was proposed by Councillor Paul Wharton that the Parish Council contribute £1,500 of CiL monies towards improvements at Bashall Grove/Mill Street corner subject to further discussion on the final design and maintenance. In addition to this it was further proposed that South Ribble Borough Council should provide some kind of match funding from appropriate sources so that both corners could be improved. This was seconded by Councillor Dave Moore and unanimously agreed.

### **Resolved**

1) That the Parish Council agrees to pay for the new shield for the Churches category for the Farington & Lostock Hall in Bloom Competition 2018 at a cost of approximately £80 together with the vouchers for the winning entries at a cost of £120.

2) That with regard to the Bashall Grove/Mill Street entrance feature that the Parish Council agrees to contribute £1,500 of CiL monies towards the improvements at Bashall Grove/Mill Street subject to further discussion on the final design and maintenance. The Parish Council also asks that South Ribble Borough Council should provide some kind of match funding from appropriate sources so that both corners can be improved.

### **94. (17/18) Financial Matters**

**Resolved** 1) It was noted that we currently had an estimated £64,682.33 (bank statement up to 9 January 2018) in the bank. We had also received £2,257.05 from South Ribble Borough Council for CiL – ref Planning Application 07/2016/0069/FUL.

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

- 17/12/17 - Cllr M Otter reimbursement for bank as agreed at the last meeting £31.00. (Cheque no 100699).
- 17/12/17 - SLCC Annual Membership fee - £185.00 (Cheque no 100700).
- 17/12/17 - South Ribble Borough Council – 4 invoices – Outdoor Gym £13,239 (note that SRBC inadvertently missed off the VAT so a revised invoice has been received to cover the VAT element which we can claim back); hedge cutting - £336.05; bin emptying £304.92; and routine maintenance £553.92 – total £14,433.89. (Cheque no 100701).

- 20/12/17 - Peter Heise Lengthsman's wages - £810.00. (Cheque no 100702).
- 20/12/17 - Lengthsman's materials – tool hire, skip hire, bark, timber and compost – total £233.77. (Cheque no 100703).
- 31/12/17 - HMRC Tax and NI Q3 - £617.20. (Cheque no 100704).
- 02/01/18 - S Whittam Clerk's Salary - £982.98. (Cheque no 100705).
- 16/01/18 - St Paul's Church – lease payment for 2017 as agreed at the last meeting - £500. (Cheque no 100706).
- 02/02/18 - S Whittam Clerk's Salary - £982.78. (Cheque no 100707).
- 05/02/18 - Peter Heise Lengthsman's wages - £810. (Cheque no 100708).
- 07/02/18 - South Ribble Borough Council – 2 invoices bin emptying £243.94; VAT for outdoor gym as referred to above £2,647.80. Total £2,891.74 (Cheque no 100709).

It was noted that we had paid for Nov for electric on BTR £130.30 and for Dec £123.98. We had also paid £168.89 for water for BTR field (29 November). We had paid pension contributions to Nest (20 Nov and 8 Dec) - £13.75 each payment. (All direct debits).

2) The following payment was agreed at the meeting:-

Clerk reimbursement for Vidahost renewal, ink, postage, stationary, Norton antivirus – total £205.33.

#### **95. (17/18) Borough Council reports – for information only**

Councillor Paul Wharton reported that he was still dealing with a number of fly tipping issues and he had written to the Cabinet Member at South Ribble Borough Council today about these issues.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton reported that she had attended the reopening of Lostock Hall library today and she was pleased that this important asset to the community was available to all residents in Farington.

#### **96. (17/18) Clerk's Report – For information only**

The Clerk reported in regard to the recent grants awarded that thank you letters had been received from Farington South Senior Citizens; Bashall Grove; Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue; NSPCC; St Catherine's Hospice; North West Air Ambulance; the Mayor of South Ribble and also verbal thanks had been received from Derian House, Turbary Birds of Prey and St Paul's Scouts.

In addition to this the Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Leyland & Cuerden Valley Lions Club saying that they had funds available to help small local groups. They had also submitted a grant application form that would be considered at the March meeting of the Parish Council.

### **97. (17/18) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held at 7.00pm on Monday 12 March 2018 at St Paul's CE Primary School, Croston Road, Farington Moss.

### **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 item, 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 7 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **98. (17/18) Maintenance Tenders for 2018/2019**

#### **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.

Councillor Paul Wharton said that some local companies may be interested in tendering for this work.