

## **Parish of Farington Annual Parish Meeting**

**Meeting held at Bashall Grove Community Centre on Monday 9 April 2018 at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council  
PCSO Robinson  
PCSO Kilner  
2 members of the public

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke; Councillor Mike Langley; Councillor Dave Moore; Councillor Alan Pearmain; County Councillor Michael Green and Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council. As the Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke was unable to be present at the meeting, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton took the Chair for the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 April 2017**

#### **Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 April, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Chairman's Report 2017/2018**

As the Chairman, Councillor Roy Clarke was unable to be present at the meeting, the Clerk read out the Chairman's report that Councillor Roy Clarke had prepared.

The Chairman said that it had been a pleasure in the past year to serve Farington as the Chairman of the Parish Council. However the time was fast approaching with the autumn of the years to decide next year either to seek re-election or retire.

The Chairman paraphrased from his previous time as chair and said that let us not forget that the Council had been in existence since 1800 full filling the dreams and inspirations of our local 'Faringtonians' throughout those years.

He said that in 1800 the parish was known as Near Farington by the mill, and Far Farington centred on St. Paul's Church. Now of course it was West, Central and East. Why change the past if it's not broken! It did sound better.

The Chairman thanked all the Parish Councillors for the help given to him in the past year and all they did behind the scenes as Parish Councillors. He said that our work was not on the national stage with all the political intrigue but without favour for all the residents of Farington.

The Chairman said that we continued in the year to review any local grant applications and at Christmas charities received their annual grants. Once again this year the annual precept had not increased and we maintained a healthy bank balance.

The Chairman was pleased to report that after lengthy discussions he had now signed the new 25 year lease on the playing field at St Paul's park. This will now allow the Parish Council to renew the time expired playground equipment. Early in the life of the next Council detailed discussions would take place with all the stakeholders including residents for the play equipment that will be needed. The Chairman said that we had committed the money in our budget for this major project, while still looking for potential additional funding elsewhere. He said that when finished this will make the park a credit to the area to be enjoyed by the youngsters.

The Chairman also said that the Adult Outdoor Gym was up and running with a steady flow of users. Teething problems with the mats were being addressed and hopefully larger ones would replace them. The Chairman reported that on a very wet April day he had attended a photo call with local residents, South Ribble and Farington Councillors. It was intended to be a taster session but the weather was inclement, so they had just splashed around in the puddles!

The Chairman said we remain a major sponsor for Leyland United Football Club who was doing well this season. It was always a pleasure to welcome Duncan from the Club who kept us well informed.

The Chairman was pleased to report that the first of the new welcome to Farington signs was due to be unveiled at Coote Lane Greenfield Drive corner at the end of the month before he retired from office. This had been a long two years with Rose Street School winning the competition. The Chairman wanted to place on record the Parish Council's thanks to Network Rail for donating the Victorian balustrades that were removed from School Lane Railway Bridge.

The Chairman said that this year had seen our police come and go and we did not seem to have a regular visit from Lancashire Constabulary. He said it appeared that we had a track record for having our officers promoted to other areas.

The Chairman said that we did have our regular visit from South Ribble in the form of Tony Stirland and his advice was always welcome and kept us well informed on Borough Council matters that may affect Farington. He thanked Tony on behalf of the Parish Council and said all Tony's efforts were appreciated.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Royal British Legion on remembrance Sunday and laid a wreath on behalf of the residents of Farington and his own personal wreath for the Merchant Navy. He said that he had to admit that his uniform was shrinking and its days were numbered!

The Chairman said that he could not finish his report without the mention of our back room staff. He gave a big thank you to Peter Heise our Parish Lengthsman as he worked in all weather's keeping our Parish tidy and doing many minor repairs, most of which went unnoticed.

Finally, the Chairman also thanked our Parish Clerk, Sue Whittam. He said that she had a wealth of knowledge in local government; she kept us from straying out on line and had kept the Chairman in order. He added that he was returning to the back bench soon so beware. He said that we were a better council for having Sue as our Clerk and who knows in the distant future a tree may be planted in her honour. He added that he was sorry that he could not say this in person to the Clerk but that she was a treasure in all she did for the Council and he felt it was a privilege in knowing her.

#### **4. Matters raised by the Electors, report from Community Beat Manager/South Ribble Borough Council**

The acting Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton then welcomed PCSO Robinson and PCSO Kilner to the meeting. They updated the Parish Council on the crime statistics and recent police activities in the area. Overall PCSO Kilner said that crime was very low in Farington.

Councillor Paul Wharton asked about speeding issues in Farington and in particular highlighted Stanifield Lane, Croston Road, Coote Lane and School Lane. It was noted that the SPID had recently been used in this area. Councillor Paul Wharton asked how people could get involved with Community Roadwatch and PCSO Kilner said he would email the Clerk with further information.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton thanked the police for attending the meeting and then asked if any members of the public present had anything to raise with the Parish Council.

Two members of the public present said they were very concerned about the tree cutting that was taking place at Farington fishing lodges, in particular the amount of trees that were being removed. The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton explained that in order to improve the water quality in the fishing ponds it was necessary to cut back the overhanging trees and branches.

One of the members of the public said that she understood that some works would need to be done but this should have been done in a more managed way. She had contacted South Ribble Borough Council as owners of the land and had been told that they were only Alder trees and it was the Environment Agency who had told them to do this. There were concerns raised about cutting trees back during nesting season and also there had been no public notices placed to advise people that the tree cutting was taking place. It was noted that South Ribble Borough Council had paid for the works to be carried out and had employed a contractor to do this. Both members of the public were extremely unhappy with the tree works and the Clerk agreed to contact them with an update once the full facts were known.

In addition to this concern was raised about the grant money given to Withnell Angling Club for the purchase of fish. The Clerk explained that the original grant had been for improvement to the fishing pegs but the Parish Council had agreed that the grant could be used for specialised pollution tests and latterly the purchase of fish. However, it was possible that the grant had not been used for this as it was understood that the fish had been donated from another angling club. The Clerk also agreed to find out from Withnell Anglers what had been done with the grant from the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and there being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

**Councillor Graham Walton**  
**Acting Chairman, Farington Parish Council**