

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2019 at St Paul's CE Primary School, Croston Road, Farington Moss at 7.00pm

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council
Councillor Jacky Alty – South Ribble Borough Council
8 members of the public

Before the meeting started a minutes silence was held in respect of our former Chairman and colleague, Councillor Graham Walton who had had recently passed away.

1. (19/20) Appointment of Chairman for 2019/2020

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman that Councillor Mike Otter should be appointed as Chairman for 2019/2020. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green and unanimously agreed.

Councillor Mike Otter signed the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.

Resolved

That Councillor Mike Otter is appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2019/2020.

2. (19/20) Appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2019/2020

It was proposed by Councillor Michael Green that Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman should be appointed as Vice-Chairman for 2019/2020. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman. On being put to the vote there were five votes in support and two against. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman was therefore elected Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2019/2020.

Resolved

That Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman is appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2019/2020.

3. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

The Chairman Councillor Mike Otter welcomed everyone to the meeting including the new members of the Parish Council and said that he was proposing to accept an Item of Urgent Business regarding the decision by South Ribble Borough Council to get rid of the Central My Neighbourhood Forum, as this was a matter that could not await the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was agreed and would be added onto the Agenda. Councillor Roy Clarke said that he had asked for an item on School Lane to be put on the Agenda but the Clerk had advised that this was too late to be included and that it could be discussed under public participation. Apologies for absence were received from Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council. The Clerk was also asked to send thank you letters to those Parish Councillors who had stood down from the Parish Council.

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

4. (19/20) Declarations of interest

Councillor Michael Green, Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman declared an interest in the Item of Urgent Business on the Central My Neighbourhood Forum as elected Members of South Ribble Borough Council.

5. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 April 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter adjourned the meeting for public participation. He reminded the public that this was their opportunity to speak on any items on the agenda as they would not be able to comment later in the meeting. It was noted that the police had again not attended the Parish Council and this was in spite of assurances given to both Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman that they would attend. The Clerk agreed to contact Chief Inspector Gary Crowe to see if the police could attend the Parish Council meetings or send a regular written report.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter asked if any member of the public had anything to raise with the Parish Council. One member of the public said she had come along to raise the ongoing issue of School Lane and whether it could be "stopped up". Councillor Michael Green said that this was still being looked into by Lancashire County Council. The member of the public also raised the issue of the fence near her property as it was still unclear who owned the fence. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that she had been liaising with the member of the public and the Planning Officer at South Ribble Borough Council to see if this issue could be resolved. As it was a Borough Council matter rather than a Parish Council matter it

was agreed that the local Borough Councillors would speak to the Planning Department again and try and obtain a satisfactory resolution. The member of the public also raised issues with fly tipping close to the layby near her property and again Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said she would arrange for the fly tipping hit squad to clean the area.

The member of the public also raised the proposed Planning Application for Chain House Lane and informed the Parish Council that the deadline for comments had been extended until 29 May 2019. It was noted that the Parish Council had already sent an objection to the proposed Planning Application. However, the Clerk agreed to circulate further information from the member of the public to the Parish Council so that individual Parish Councillors could comment/object if they wished to. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked the member of the public for coming along and speaking to the Parish Council. He then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item.

Two members of the public had come along to raise their concerns and surprise about the new boundary sign at Heatherleigh and that it said Farington and not Farington Moss. They said that this looked confusing especially as it was close to an existing sign that did say Farington Moss. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter explained the background to the new signs and how they had been designed by Primary School children as part of a competition. However, he had obtained a quote to add the word Moss onto the sign and this would be discussed further by the Parish Council later that evening. The members of the public said they would be happy if the sign could be changed as they were proud to live in Farington Moss. They also raised their concerns about the lack of footways directly to St Catherine's Hospice and St Catherine's park.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter then welcomed representatives from Earnshaw Bridge Football Club who had come along to the meeting to discuss the BTR football field. They explained that they had been playing on the field for the last two seasons and that they had paid an annual amount to Leyland United Football Club for use of the pitch and also had contributed to the maintenance of the pitch by cutting the grass etc. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been unaware that Leyland United Football Club had sub-let to Earnshaw Bridge Football Club as this was in direct contravention of the lease. The representatives from Earnshaw Bridge Football Club said they had mentioned their involvement to former Parish Councillor David Moore and they thought he would have let the Parish Council know all the details. David Moore who was present at the meeting explained that the Parish Council were aware that there was an issue of possible sub-letting but obviously they had no proof of this. The Clerk explained that the lease on the field was due to expire in May 2020 and currently the Parish Council were unsure if this would be extended. The representatives from Earnshaw Bridge Football Club explained that they had one adult team that currently played on the pitch on a Sunday and at this present time they did not have an alternative pitch to play on. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman asked if the players in their team were from Farington and the representatives from Earnshaw Bridge confirmed that a number of them were from the Parish area. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked them for attending and said that this issue would be discussed further later on at the meeting, and that the Clerk would contact them with the outcome of the discussions.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter then welcomed Councillor Jacky Alty to the meeting who had just been elected as a South Ribble Borough Councillor for Farington East. Councillor Alty informed the Parish Council about her background and also referred to the Item of Urgent Business on Central My Neighbourhood Forum that would be discussed later in the meeting. She said that the decision to get rid of the Central Forum was an operational decision and that part of Farington would be in the new Leyland area and part would be with Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge. However, the Farington and Lostock Hall in bloom would continue this year as the competition was already underway. A poster advertising the My Neighbourhood Leyland would be available tomorrow. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman explained to the Parish Council and the members of the public that the current administration at South Ribble Borough Council had decided to get rid of Central My Neighbourhood Forum and that this why he has asked for this to be considered as an Item of Urgent Business at this evening's meeting. This had been done without any consultation with residents or with the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton highlighted the number of projects that had been done by the Central Forum in the area including the Bob In café and Dementia awareness, and also the projects that had been done in conjunction with the Parish Council such as the outdoor gym. Members of the public present were astonished that the decision had been taken with no consultation whatsoever and felt that the Borough Council had not taken into consideration the detrimental impact on local residents and also the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked Councillor Jacky Alty for attending the meeting.

Councillor Roy Clarke then raised his concerns about School Lane and in particular the banners that were on the hedge outside the school. The Clerk explained that she had contacted the school and they had indicated that the banners were not too old and felt that they were not causing any issue. It was agreed to add School Lane onto the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Roy Clarke also raised the issue of ivy growing on School Lane bridge and the Clerk said she would contact network rail about this and ask them to cut it back from covering the plaque. With regard to problems with drains on School Lane, it was suggested that the easiest way to deal with this issue was to report it directly online to Lancashire County Council.

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

7. (19/20) Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

The Parish Council gave consideration to the appointment of representatives on the following outside bodies: -

- i) Hutton Grammar School Foundation – it was agreed that Councillor Mike Otter would continue to be the Parish Council representative on this outside body.
- ii) LALC South Ribble – Councillor Mrs Karen Walton agreed to continue to be the representative on LALC South Ribble but Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said he was happy to stand down as a representative on that committee. Both Councillor Roy Clarke and Councillor Michael Green said they would like to represent the

Parish Council on LALC South Ribble. It was therefore unanimously agreed that Councillor Mrs Karen Walton, Councillor Roy Clarke and Councillor Michael Green should be appointed as the Parish Council representatives on LALC South Ribble.

Resolved

- 1) That with regard to the Hutton Grammar School Foundation, that Councillor Mike Otter would continue to be the Parish Council representative on this outside body.
- 2) That with regard to LALC South Ribble that Councillor Mrs Karen Walton, Councillor Roy Clarke and Councillor Michael Green are appointed as the Parish Council representatives on LALC South Ribble.

8. (19/20) Parish Council Insurance

The Parish Council gave consideration to their annual insurance for 2019/2020 to ensure it was adequate for their needs. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had a choice of either a one year, three year or five-year deal which meant that the longer deal reduced the amount of premium paid. Councillor Paul Buckley asked if a four-year deal was possible but the Clerk advised that these were the only deals offered by Zurich Municipal. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to approve a three-year deal with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £1,445.72 which also included cover for the new boundary signs.

Resolved

That the insurance premium of £1,445.72 to Zurich Municipal is approved for payment by the Parish Council and that the Parish Council agrees that this insurance is adequate for their needs.

9. (19/20) LALC Spring Conference – 15 June 2019

The Parish Council gave consideration to representatives attending the LALC Spring Conference on 15 June 2019 at a cost of £35.00 per person. There was no one able to attend the conference on this occasion.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees not to send a representative to the LALC Spring Conference on this occasion.

10. (19/20) Projects for Expenditure 2019/2020

Welcome to Farington Signs – update. As reported earlier in the meeting, the Chairman Councillor Mike Otter reported that he had received a quote for the boundary signs at Heatherleigh and Coote Lane to say Farington Moss. Two new panels would be needed at a cost of £235.00 per panel and this was approved by the Parish Council.

Woodland Area – Farington Park. There was nothing further to report on this, however further planting schemes would be implemented as appropriate.

Stanifield Lane Crossing – Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman informed the Parish

Council that Lancashire County Council and South Ribble Borough Council had indicated their support for a pedestrian crossing on Stanifield Lane. However, the funding of the crossing would also need to be considered. Currently there was not an estimated cost for the crossing but it was likely that £25,000 could be used from S106 monies and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that £10,000 from the Parish Council's budget should be ring-fenced towards a proposed crossing. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green and on being put to the vote four members voted in favour and three abstained.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that a number of projects had been suggested at the last meeting but none of these had currently been included in this year's budget. The main project for the Parish Council this year was the refurbishment of St Paul's Park and this was likely to cost around £100,000. The Clerk had arranged a meeting with Officers from South Ribble Borough Council to look at how this project should proceed. It was therefore agreed that no further projects should be budgeted for at this time.

Parish Council newsletter – Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the Parish Council should produce a newsletter to keep residents updated with what was happening in the Parish area. He said that an A3 double sided newsletter would cost around £350.00 for 5,000 copies and that he was happy to pull together the information for the newsletter. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and agreed by the Parish Council. Councillor Michael Green suggested that a Communications Working Group should be set up by the Parish Council and the Clerk agreed to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Resolved

- i) That with regard to the welcome to Farington signs that approval is given to the purchase of two panels to amend the boundary signs on Heatherleigh and Coote Lane to say Farington Moss at a cost of £235 per panel.
- ii) That with regard to a crossing on Stanifield Lane that the Parish Council agrees to ring-fence £10,000 from the current budget to the proposed crossing.
- iii) That approval is given to produce a Parish Council newsletter at an estimated of £350 and that Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman will arrange this on behalf of the Parish Council.
- iv) That an item on the establishment of a Communications Working Group is included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council,

11. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

- 1) It was noted that we had approximately around £43,562.41 (bank statement up to 9 May 2019)

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

- 11/04/19 - S Whittam, Clerk's Salary £963.12 (cheque no 100820).
- 23/04/19 - LALC Annual Subscription £801.39 (cheque no 100821).
- 26/04/19 - Peter Heise Lengthsman £775.25 (cheque no 100822).
- 01/05/19 - S Whittam, Clerk's Salary £963.12 (cheque no 100823).
- 17/05/19 - C & W Berry Ltd Lengthsman's materials 3 invoices for sand, stone and cement total £37.84 (cheque no 100824).
- 17/05/19 - South Ribble Borough Council 2 invoices Bashall Grove Entrance feature £755.75 and bin emptying March £251.86 = total £1,007.61 (cheque no 100825).

It was noted that we have paid British Gas for electricity BTR field March £74.02 and April £79.85 and Nest Pension payments £32.78 on 8 April and new rate £50.71 on 23 April (direct debits).

2) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Insurance premium to Zurich Municipal as agreed earlier at the meeting - £1,445.72.

New boundary sign - £1,595.52 (Taylor and Pickles) – this invoice would be paid when the changes to the boundary sign had been carried out.

3) The Clerk presented the end of year financial report for 2018/2019 which included the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) which had been completed in accordance with the revised Proper Practice Guidance following the appointment of PKF Littlejohn as the Council's auditors for 2018/2019. i) The Parish Council reflected on the effectiveness of the system of internal control and approved and completed the Annual Governance Statement. ii) The Parish Council then considered the end of year financial report and approved the Accounting Statements which were then signed and dated by the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter.

12. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that the Farington Lodges were now looking really good and work will continue on them. She also informed the Parish Council that the Bob In café would continue.

County Councillor Michael Green said that the resurfacing of Croston Road would start on 17 June and this was good news for the area and it was also the most expensive road resurfacing scheme in Lancashire. He also referred to the Cuerden development and that the Borough Council had granted Planning permission, however there would be some amended plans but he was confident that the scheme

would go forward. He suggested a presentation to the Parish Council on this at some future date.

13. (19/20) Item of Urgent Business – Central My Neighbourhood Forum
(Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman, Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton declared an interest in this item as elected Members of South Ribble Borough Council).

As also discussed earlier at the meeting there was a discussion regarding the decision by the current administration at South Ribble Borough Council to get rid of the Central My Neighbourhood Forum and place Farington with Leyland. The Parish Council were concerned that this decision had been taken without any consultation with residents or the Parish Council whatsoever. They felt that it was not in the best interest of the residents and would have a detrimental impact on residents and also the Parish Council. The Parish Council were aware of the resident's comments made earlier at the meeting as the members of the public present were equally astonished and disappointed about the lack of consultation and that the decision had been made without any consideration to others. Farington was a community in its own right and this decision did not help community cohesion but would be divisive and detrimental to our area. Further concerns were raised that by putting Farington with Leyland this would drastically reduce the opportunity for joint working and for any projects in Farington to be supported.

Councillor Roy Clarke asked if the Clerk could contact LALC to see if there was anything that legally could be done about this decision. The Clerk explained that it was up to the principle authority to make their decisions but she would check the validity of this with LALC.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the Parish Council write to both the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council and the Chief Executive to express their disgust at this decision being agreed without any consultation whatsoever and to ask why this decision would be made that would obviously have a detrimental impact on residents. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green and unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That, the Clerk writes to the Leader and Chief Executive of South Ribble Borough Council to express the Parish Council's disgust at the decision to get rid of Central My Neighbourhood Forum without any consultation whatsoever with local residents. In addition to this the Clerk should also ask why this decision has been taken when it would obviously have a detrimental impact on residents.

14. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For information only

The Clerk confirmed that she would circulate details of the LALC new Councillors and Clerks training course to the Parish Council and would book places for new Councillors if they wished to attend.

The Clerk also asked if all members of the Parish Council could forward a photograph and short biography for use on the Parish Council website.

15. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 10 June 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.

16. (19/20) BTR Field (Para 3)

The Parish Council discussed the use of the BTR field and in particular the information provided by Earnshaw Bridge Football Club earlier at the meeting. In addition to this the Clerk confirmed that she had copies of bank statements that showed payments being made by cheque which Earnshaw Bridge stated had been paid to Leyland United Football Club for use of the football pitch. This was in direct contravention of the lease and it was noted that Earnshaw Bridge had not received a receipt for any payments as this would have proved categorically that this was illegal in terms of our agreement with Leyland United Football Club.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that they had already made a decision to allow Lostock Hall St Gerard's Football Club and Leyland Albion Football Club to use the pitches on a temporary arrangement until next May when the current lease was due to expire. Lostock Hall St Gerard's had indicated that a number of teams in their Club would be using the field and the pitches would not be able to cope with any additional matches. The Parish Council had every sympathy with Earnshaw Bridge Football Club who from no fault at their own found themselves in a difficult position as the Parish Council had not been informed by Leyland United about them using the pitch.

It was felt that there was nothing further the Parish Council could do and regrettably the Clerk was asked to inform Earnshaw Bridge Football Club that they would be unable to use BTR for this season as the Parish Council had already agreed to allow other Clubs to use the pitches. It was noted that Leyland Albion would be using the smaller pitch only.

Following the meeting, the Clerk contacted Lostock Hall St Gerard's and Earnshaw Bridge Football Club to discuss how both Clubs could possibly share the large pitch. Lostock Hall St Gerard's Football Club agreed to have just one of their teams playing

at BTR which would allow Earnshaw Bridge Football Club to also use the larger pitch on alternative days.

The Clerk also reported that she was still waiting for Leyland United Football Club to remove the remainder of their property from BTR field and also to return the keys. In addition to this the Clerk had authorized some emergency electric works on site as Leyland United had removed one of their cabins and left the electric cables which were still connected to a live supply on the ground which was unacceptable. The Clerk would be speaking to Leyland United about this and would get the keys returned back to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

Resolved

That the Clerk is asked to inform Earnshaw Bridge Football Club that they would be unable to use BTR for this season as the Parish Council had already agreed to allow other Clubs to use the pitches.