

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2019 at Bashall Grove Community Centre at 7.00pm

Present:- 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
3 members of the public

17. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter and Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council. In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman as Vice-Chairman was Chairman of the meeting.

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

18. (19/20) Declarations of interest

None.

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

Resolved

That, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20 May 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that there were no police present this evening. Councillor Michael Green informed the meeting that he had attended a meeting of the South Ribble Liaison Committee last week and that it had been an interesting meeting. Both Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Roy Clarke said that they had not received the invitation to the meeting and the Clerk agreed to check with Marion Gelder at LALC.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman 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 discuss the proposed Planning Application for Chain House Lane which was now likely to be presented to the next South Ribble Planning Committee. The member of the public stated that she had been told that there would only be four speakers instead of five as the new Chairman of the Planning Committee had made

this decision. Members of the Parish Council felt that this decision could not be made by the Planning Committee Chairman as it was written in South Ribble Borough Council's constitution regarding the number of speakers. Those members of the Parish Council who were also members of South Ribble Borough Council agreed to take this matter up directly with the Director of Planning at South Ribble Borough Council. It was noted that the Change.org petition regarding this application had now over 900 signatures.

The member of the public also advised the Parish Council that the rubbish she had mentioned at the last meeting had now been removed. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that she had reported this to South Ribble Borough Council so was pleased that this issue had been resolved. With regard to the issue of the fence near to her property the member of the public said she would send some information regarding a neighbour's deeds to Councillor Mrs Karen Walton for her to look into with the Planning Department as this was a Borough Council matter rather than a Parish Council matter.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman then asked if anyone had anything further to raise. One member of the public asked about the Parish Council newsletter that was due to be produced. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman advised that the newsletter would be delayed due to legal issues relating to Purdah.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

21. (19/20) School Lane

Councillor Roy Clarke had asked for this item to be on the Agenda as he was concerned about the signs attached to the hedges outside the St Paul's CE Primary School, in particular he stated that the signs were old and rather worn and he also felt that the signs were a distraction to motorists. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Headteacher at St Paul's CE Primary School and the Chairperson of the School Governors regarding the signs. The Clerk also confirmed that she had contacted Network Rail regarding the overgrowing vegetation on School Lane Bridge and that she was awaiting a reply.

Resolved

That the Clerk would contact the Headteacher and Chair of Governors at St Paul's CE Primary School regarding the old and rather worn signs attached to the hedge outside the school.

22. (19/20) Grant Application – Farington Primary School

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant application from Farington Primary School for their proposed history mural project. A copy of the grant application and information was presented to the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed that this was a worthy project and should be supported by the Parish Council. It was proposed by Councillor Michael Green that £750 should be awarded to this project this was seconded by the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton and unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That a grant of £750 is awarded to Farington Primary School towards their history mural project.

23. (19/20) Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed that the statutory notice for the option to call an election for the Parish Council vacancy had been published and an election had not been called. The next stage was for the Parish Council to advertise the vacancy with a view to co-option. The Clerk had prepared the statutory notice to advertise the co-opted vacancy and advised that any interested persons could attend the Parish Council on 8 July and put themselves forward as a candidate for the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the statutory notice should be published on the Parish Council website and placed on the notice boards, and that interested persons should attend the Parish Council meeting on 8 July and give a speech for a maximum of three minutes about themselves.

Resolved

That approval is given to the statutory notice for the co-opted vacancy to be advertised on the Parish Council website and noticeboards, and that interested candidates should attend the Parish Council meeting on 8 July and give a speech for a maximum of three minutes about themselves.

24. (19/20) Financial Regulations

The Parish Council gave consideration to the draft Financial Regulations which were based on the NALC Model Financial Regulations. It was proposed by Councillor Paul Buckley that the draft Financial Regulations should be approved and adopted by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Roy Clarke and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

A copy of the draft Financial Regulations are presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That the draft Financial Regulations as now presented are approved and adopted by the Parish Council.

25. (19/20) Communications Working Group

The Parish Council gave consideration to the establishment of a Communications Working Group and appropriate Terms of Reference. The Clerk had prepared a draft document for discussion and it was agreed to establish a Community Engagement Working Group with the following Terms of Reference:-

1. The Group will appoint a Chairman or co-ordinator who will write up notes from the meetings, suitable for communicating to the rest of the Parish Council and also for publication on the website.

2. To explore and recommend new/improved methods of communicating with the community. The aim being to improve awareness throughout Farington of the activities of the Parish Council and increase the amount of feedback and incoming information from residents.
3. To explore and recommend new/improved methods of involving residents in activities to improve our community environment.
4. To engage with the community and voluntary sector to suggest suitable projects to be undertaken in Farington parish.
5. To evaluate infrastructure projects in Farington and look at ways of promoting and allocating the funds for those projects.
6. To explore new/improved methods of involving residents in Parish Council meetings.
7. To provide a written report back to the Parish Council with recommendations.

It was further agreed that the Community Engagement Working Group should consist of three Parish Councillors namely Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman; Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and that members of the public could be co-opted onto the Working Group as appropriate.

Resolved

That approval is given to the establishment of a Community Engagement Working Group as outlined above and that Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman; Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton are appointed to the Working Group. In addition to this, members of the public could be co-opted onto the Working Group as appropriate.

26. (19/20) Projects for Expenditure 2019/2020

Welcome to Farington Signs – update. It was noted that the sign at Heatherleigh had now been removed so the word “Moss” could be added and it would be put back in place as soon as possible.

St Paul’s Park Playground Project – The Clerk had circulated a brief update on a recent meeting with Officer’s from South Ribble Borough Council regarding taking this project forward. One of the first steps would be for representatives from the Parish Council to go into the local primary schools to find out what type of equipment the children would wish to see on the park. It was noted that this could be done by using pictures of play equipment and stickers to indicate preferences. It was noted that a basic playground was likely to cost in the region of £100,000.

Parish Council newsletter – The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that the newsletter would be printed after the Farington West Ward election. With regard to the cost of the newsletter Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman informed the

Parish Council that for £5,000 copies (A3 folded) it would be £205 + VAT and for printing on recycled paper it would be £240 + VAT. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the newsletter should be printed on recycled paper. With regard to the delivery of the newsletter various prices were quoted and these ranged from around £80 per 1,000 copies delivered to £115. It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman should approach the delivery companies to obtain the best deal for the Parish Council.

Resolved

That with regard to the Parish Council newsletter, that approval is given for this to be printed on recycled paper at a cost of £240 + VAT. In addition to this the Parish Council also gave approval for the newsletter to be delivered and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman would obtain the best deal for the Parish Council at around £80 per 1,000 copies.

27. (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 further noted that we were still awaiting the June bank statement.

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

24/05/19 - Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £835.00 (Cheque no 100826).

27/05/19 - Zurich Municipal Insurance as agreed at the last meeting £1,445.72 (Cheque no 100827).

01/06/19 - S Whittam Clerk's Salary £963.12 (Cheque no 100828).

2) The following invoice was approved for payment: -

CCTV Annual inspection £120.00.

28. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that the Planning Application for Bannister Lane had been deferred by the Borough Council and the applicant had been asked to look again at providing bungalows as part of the development.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman stated that there had been problems with speeding on Stanifield Lane. He also understood that the £25,000 earmarked for the pedestrian crossing on Stanifield Lane was still in the budget as it was ringfenced S106 monies. However, there had been no response about the crossing from the Cabinet Member at Lancashire County Council.

County Councillor Michael Green said that the A582 would become a dual carriageway as part of the City Deal. A Planning Application would be submitted by Lancashire County Council next year but before this a final consultation would be carried out and it was possible that an Officer may be able to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the proposals.

29. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For information only

The Clerk confirmed that she had not received a response as yet from the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council regarding My Central Neighbourhood Forum.

The Clerk also informed the Parish Council that Armed Forces Day would take place on 24 June and that the Mayor of South Ribble would raise a specially commissioned flag at 10.00 am at the Civic Centre.

30. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 8 July at St Paul's CE Primary School.

Local Government Act 1972

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

31. (19/20) BTR Field (Para 3)

The Clerk reported that Lostock Hall St Gerard's Football Club and Earnshaw Bridge Football Club were happy to share the large pitch as referred to at the last meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk had still not received any indication if the lease would be extended beyond May 2020. The Clerk also reported that she would be meeting with both football clubs on Wednesday 12 June to look at the cabins and field to see if any works/cleaning needed to be carried out. The Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of appropriate skips and cleaning if required and the Clerk was authorized to arrange this. The Clerk would also obtain the keys from Leyland United Football Club who were still removing their property from the site.

Councillor Paul Buckley referred to a former Parish Councillor and his involvement with Lostock Hall St Gerard's Football Club and the Clerk assured the Parish Council that there was nothing further that could be done regarding this.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to arrange for a cleaner and skips as appropriate to clean the cabins on BTR field and to remove any rubbish.

32. Clerk's Salary (Para 3)

The Clerk left the meeting for this item. The Clerk had provided the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton with information relating to her salary. The Parish Council agreed to increase the Clerk's salary by 3% backdated to 1 April 2019 and that her salary should be reviewed further in December when the budget was being allocated for 2020/2021.