

## **Farington Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2020 at 7.00 pm at Bashall Grove Community Centre.**

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

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council  
Councillor Paul Foster – Leader, South Ribble Borough Council  
Councillor Jacky Alty – Farington East Ward  
Councillor Mary Green – Moss Side Ward  
9 members of the public.

#### **101. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements**

There were no apologies for absence, however, it was reported that Councillor Roy Clarke had resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect. Councillor Michael Green asked the Clerk to send a letter from the Parish Council thanking Roy for his commitment and work on the Parish Council over the last few years. This was agreed by the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter also welcomed Councillor Paul Foster, Leader of South Ribble Borough Council to the meeting and also Councillor Jacky Alty, South Ribble Borough Councillor for Farington East Ward.

#### **102. (19/20) Declarations of interest**

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman declared a personal interest in Item 11 – Review of Community Involvement Including my Neighbourhood Forums, as a South Ribble Borough Councillor. Likewise, Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Michael Green for Item 11 as they were also South Ribble Borough Councillors. Councillor Michael Green also declared an interest in Item 10 – Lancashire County Council budget consultation 2020/2021 as a County Councillor. Councillor Elaine Robb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 – Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation in relation to site 19S090 only as it related to her property.

#### **103. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton asked for it to be noted that with regard to Minute 91 she had not been consulted as the local Councillor regarding the closure of the Lostock Hall/Christmas Market.

Councillor Michael Green also referred to the amended Council Tax Support Scheme and stated that this had been agreed after the Parish Council had set their precept in December.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman also referred to Minute 91 and the meetings between South Ribble Borough Council and the Parish Council and asked if it would be the Chairman of the Parish Council who would be invited to each meeting. The Clerk confirmed that it would be the Chairman and Clerk each time and when the Chair of the Parish Council changed then the new Chair would be invited to attend.

### **Resolved**

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

### **104. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation**

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Councillor Paul Foster and Councillor Jacky Alty to the meeting. Councillor Paul Foster said he had come along to the meeting to look at how we could improve consultation and relationships between South Ribble Borough Council and all Parish Councils. He was also looking at how the Borough and Parish Councils could work together to assist in delivering core objectives.

Councillor Paul Buckley said he welcomed the Leader coming to our Parish Council meeting but when the new administration took over last May it was not the best idea to disband the My Central Neighbourhood Forum without any consultation whatsoever but moving forward it was hoped that the relationship between both Councils could be improved.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton asked about an Officer attending our Parish Council meetings. It was noted that previously an Officer from South Ribble Borough Council did attend each meeting just for the public participation item to update the Parish Council on initiatives being undertaken by the Borough Council and also to look at projects where both Councils could work together. Councillor Paul Foster said that the Officer for Leyland and Farington Forum should be able to attend the Parish Council meetings.

There was a discussion about the Farington and Lostock Hall in Bloom and if this would be continuing. Councillor Paul Foster also agreed to speak to Councillor Mrs Karen Walton outside the meeting, regarding being included in the planning meetings for the Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge and Walton-le-Dale Forum as this also covered part of Farington.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman raised the problem of increased dog fouling and the lack of enforcement of this in the Borough and particularly in Farington. Councillor Jacky Alty said that she was working with the Enforcement Team and looking how residents could be encouraged to report dog fouling on line, so that enforcement could be targeted at major problem areas.

Reference was also made to the crossing on Stanifield Lane. Councillor Paul Foster stated that the Officers had no records whatsoever regarding the crossing and that there was no allocated budget in the Capital Project allocation. However, there was potentially some S106 monies that could be used. Councillor Jacky Alty confirmed

that she had spoken to the Cabinet Member for Highways at Lancashire County Council, Keith Iddon and it had been a positive response. It was suggested that County Councillor Michael Green may be able to take this forward as although the Borough Council had some monies potentially available the crossing could only go ahead with the support of Lancashire County Council. It was noted that the Parish Council had earmarked £10,000 towards the crossing.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter proposed to bring a number of items forward on the Agenda so they could be discussed under public participation. The members of the public present had come along to the meeting to discuss the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation and the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter asked if anyone had any comments on the proposals. One member of the public had kindly produced a list of all the sites in Farington West and this had been circulated to the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton had also brought along some large-scale plans for people to look at and identify where the potential sites were situated. Each site was considered individually and then discussed further by the Parish Council under Item 5 on the Agenda. This also included sites for Farington East. Members of the public expressed concern about the number of potential sites in Farington and also had concerns regarding surface water flooding, the loss of green belt and the possible damage to the rural nature and character of Farington. The Clerk emphasised that these were only potential sites at this stage and it did not mean that all the sites would be built on. She also advised residents to respond to the Issues and Options Consultation and that the closing date for comments was 14 February 2020. It was noted that the questionnaire had a number of different sections such as Health and Wellbeing, Employment and Planning Policy as well as the specific potential sites, however all questions did not need to be answered and residents could pick and choose which questions they wished to respond to. It was also suggested that photographs showing flooding of potential sites could also be sent as part of individual responses. The Clerk also reported that people were encouraged to respond online, however you could also submit responses in writing and by email. It was important to include the SHELAA site reference for any response relating to a specific site.

Councillor Elaine Robb and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton both referred to the recent appeal at Chainhouse Lane and stated that the Officers had done an excellent job in defending the appeal. It was noted that the developer was now challenging the appeal decision by submitting a judicial review. The decision regarding this would likely be made in the next few months.

Reference was also made to Pickering's Farm and that a public meeting would be held on 27 February. Comments were also made by members of the public and the Parish Council that they understood and supported the need for homes to be built but this needed to be done in a structured and managed way.

Councillor Mary Green also advised residents that anyone could attend Planning Committee and put forward objections or supporting documents for individual Planning Applications. Councillor Paul Buckley commented that a lot of sites had been put forward for development and it was important that we protected the distinctiveness and uniqueness of local communities.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked everyone for their input on the Issues and Options Consultation then referred to Item 7 on the Agenda – Leyland Town Board. He informed the Parish Council that South Ribble Borough Council had received funding from Central Government to develop a plan to encourage economic development in Leyland, and as it included part of Farington he had been invited to participate in the Leyland Town Board. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said she was disappointed that this did not include Farington West, however Councillor Paul Foster explained that the boundary for this had been approved by the Government. Councillor Michael Green said it was a wonderful opportunity for Leyland and parts of Farington to deliver much needed improvements for local residents.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter also referred to item 8 on the Agenda – Farington Park tree planting. He said that South Ribble Borough Council were proposing to plant a number of trees on Farington Park and asked if anyone had any comments to make on this. Councillor Michael Green said it was a good idea and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman also supported this but had concerns about trees being vandalised as they had in other parts of the Borough. The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter explained that the trees would be fenced off to protect them.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter also referred to item 9 on the Agenda – Parish & Town Council Conference. He said that he had attended the Conference together with Councillor Elaine Robb and it had been an informative and interesting conference. A number of topics had been covered including issues dealt with by Trading Standards and also speeding issues. It was noted that minor accidents are never recorded by the Police but there was a website where people could report this. It was further noted that the Conference was held annually and as well as covering a wide range of subjects it was a good opportunity to speak to other Parish Councils and share best practise.

The Clerk referred to the recent meeting held with County Councillor Keith Iddon the Cabinet Member for Highways, and Phil Durnell, Director of Highways and Transport together with representatives from the Parish Council to discuss School Lane. It was noted that the meeting had been very positive and a number of solutions had been suggested including making School Lane one-way and putting double yellow lines opposite the school. Phil Durnell was going to look into the planning history regarding the stopping up of School Lane and then decide what would be the best solution for School Lane. It was noted that any proposals would be subject to a full consultation with local residents.

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

### **105. (19/20) Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation**

As discussed under public participation the Parish Council considered their response to the Issues and Options Consultation and discussed in detail each proposed site in Farington East and Farington West. It was noted that the Clerk would respond to the consultation online on behalf of the Parish Council and the following information relating to each site was agreed: -

Site 19S064 - This is currently agricultural land and is proposed for housing. The Parish Council feels very strongly that this site should be protected from any development due to the lack of sustainable transport, lack of infrastructure, insufficient school places in the area, flooding risks and lack of public transport.

Site 19S103 - This is currently agricultural land and is proposed for housing. The Parish Council feels very strongly that this site should be protected from any development due to the lack of sustainable transport, lack of infrastructure, insufficient school places in the area, flooding risks and lack of public transport.

Site 19S255p - This land is currently agriculture and is proposed for protection. To protect this land is fully supported by Farington Parish Council.

Site 9S098 - Parish Council supports protection of this land instead of housing.  
Site 19S256P - Agree this site should be protected.

Site 19S158 - proposed for housing but there should be a presumption of not to build in residential gardens.

Sites 19S159 & 19S160 - should remain as agricultural land.

Site 19S079 - Again there should be a presumption of not to build in residential gardens.

Sites 19S035 & 19S099 & 19S212 - due to lack of suitable infrastructure all this land should remain as agricultural land. 19S212 is stated as vacant but is currently a farmers field.

Site 19S153 - the access is not suitable to change this current Nursery from employment to housing. It should remain as employment.

Site 19S077 - due to the dangerous junction/access this should remain as agricultural land.

Site 19S249 - This should be for housing only and not employment due to its location.

Site 19S119 - Should remain as agriculture not suitable for employment.

Site 19S054 - has flooding issues and as such should remain as agriculture.

Site 19S093 - listed as Charnock Ward but in Farington West - should remain as residential due to the access.

Sites 19S090 & 19S097 & 19S253p - should all be protected due to flooding and lack of infrastructure. (Councillor Elaine Robb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in site 19S090 and took no part in the discussion of this site).

Site 19S188 - Agree industrial/employment as proposed. It is not suitable for housing.

Site 19S007 - Agree to housing on this site.

Site 19S043 - proposed housing but there are flooding issues.

Site 19S041 - agree to housing.

Site 19S037 - is Bluebell Wood and should remain as a Wood.

Site 19S052 - Strategic site and is fully supported as proposed.

Site 19S059 - Should be protected as green belt. Also, massive flooding problems here.

Sites 19S100 & 19S104 - Cuerden Valley Park - green spaces and parks should be protected.

Site 19S120 - Should remain as agricultural land.

Site 19S141 - Should remain as agricultural land.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk responds on behalf of the Parish Council to the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation relating to each individual site for Farington East and Farington West as outlined above by the closing date of 14 February 2020.

### **106. (19/20) Financial Risk Assessment**

The Parish Council reviewed the current Financial Risk Assessment and noted that there was one amendment to the section on Cash/Loss relating to the Parish Council receiving payments by cash. The Parish Council unanimously approved the updated Financial Risk Assessment and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

### **Resolved**

That approval is given to the updated Financial Risk Assessment and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

### **107. (19/20) Leyland Town Board**

As reported under public participation, the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter had attended the meeting of the Leyland Town Board. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton expressed disappointment that the project would not include Farington West. The Clerk was asked to write to Nigel Evans MP and Katherine Fletcher MP to ask for their support that the project delivers benefits across the whole geographical area and not just the Town Centre.

### **Resolved**

That the information regarding the Leyland Town Board is noted and that the Clerk is asked to write to Nigel Evans MP and Katherine Fletcher MP to seek their support that the project delivers benefits across the whole geographical area and not just the Town Centre.

#### **108. (19/20) Farington Park – tree planting**

As reported under public participation, the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter had informed the Parish Council about a tree planting scheme on Farington Park. The Parish Council supported this project to plant additional trees and there was nothing further to report on this item.

#### **109. (19/20) Parish & Town Council Conference**

As reported under public participation, the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter and Councillor Elaine Robb had both attended the Conference on 8 February on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that it had been an interesting and informative Conference and there was nothing further to report on this item.

#### **110. (19/20) Lancashire County Council – budget consultation 2020/2021**

(Councillor Michael Green declared a personal interest in this item).

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Lancashire County Council budget for 2020/2021. The Parish Council had no comments to make but encouraged individuals to make comments on the consultation if they wished.

The Parish Council also expressed disappointment that South Ribble Borough Council had not consulted with the Parish Council or residents on their proposed budget for 2020/2021.

#### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council had no comments to make on the Lancashire County Council budget for 2020/2021.

#### **111. (19/20) Review of Community Involvement including My Neighbourhood Forums**

(Councillor Michael Green, Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman all declared a personal interest in this item).

The Parish Council noted the report produced by South Ribble Borough Council regarding the Review of Community Involvement including My Neighbourhood Forums and had no additional comments to make.

#### **112. (19/20) Projects for Expenditure 2020/2021**

**Newsletter update** – Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman had produced a draft newsletter for comments and this was approved by the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed that the newsletter looked excellent and the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter thanked Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman for his work on the newsletter.

**St Paul's Park – update** – The Clerk reported that she would meet with some play equipment providers to see what services they could provide with regard to refurbishing the play area. It was agreed that Carol Scrivens from South Ribble Borough Council should also be invited to the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter asked for the noticeboards to be put on the Agenda for the March meeting and suggested that the Clerk applies for a grant from the Parish Champion towards the cost of the new boards.

### **113. (19/20) Financial Matters**

#### **Resolved**

1) It was noted that we had £68,354.30 (bank statement up to 9 January 2020) in the bank.

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

09/12/19 - nuts and bolts for Remembrance Day poppies, reimbursement to Cllr Mike Otter as agreed at the last meeting. (Cheque no 881).

11/12/19 – South Ribble Borough Council – Planning Fee for application to extend the cabins on BTR field for a further five years. (Cheque no 882).

18/12/19 – Sally Gorton for website administration as agreed at the last meeting £135. (Cheque no 883).

01/01/20 – S Whittam, Clerk's Salary £988.15. (Cheque no 884).

06/01/20 – HMRC Q3 for Tax & NI £574.13. (Cheque no 885).

10/01/20 - Peter Heise Lengthsman, £427.50. (Cheque no 886).

10/01/20 – St Paul's Church, annual lease payment for 2019. (Cheque no 887).

30/01/20 – South Ribble Borough Council, 3 invoices: dog bins November (£258.19); dog bins December (£258.19) and grounds maintenance (£583.10) = total £1,099.48. (Cheque no 888).

30/01/20 – Newgate Nurseries for bedding plants £27.00 + £13.69 owing from a previous invoice last summer = total £40.69. (Cheque no 889).

31/01/20 – Peter Heise, Lengthsman £855. (Cheque no 890).

01/02/20 – S Whittam, Clerk's Salary £988.35. (Cheque no 891).

05/02/20 – Turbary House Birds of Prey grant as agreed at the last meeting, £200. (Cheque no 892).

05/02/20 – C & W Berry for Lengthsman's materials – hinges and blades £11.04. (Cheque no 893).

It was further noted that we had paid British Gas for BTR field on 22 November £89.89; 20 December £88.88 and water 29 November £279.43; Nest Pension 5 December and 6 January 2020 £50.71 – all direct debits.

2) There were no further invoices for payment at the meeting.

3) The Parish Council approved the appointment of Donna Kidd as the internal auditor for the Parish Council accounts at a cost of £60.00.

#### **114. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only**

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton reported that she had received a verbal thank you from the Leyland & Cuerden Valley Lions for their recent grant.

Councillor Michael Green reported that the Mobile Library Service would be increasing its service and would probably look at visiting a couple of more sites. It was suggested that Farington West may benefit from this and possibly near the roundabout on Croston Road would be a suitable location.

#### **115. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For information only**

The Clerk reported that she had received information from South Ribble Borough Council regarding the Fly a Flag for Commonwealth Day on Monday 9 March at 10.00 am at the Civic Centre. She had also received information regarding a Mayor's event at the Maple Leaf Café at Duxbury's Garden Centre on Thursday 26 March.

#### **116. (19/20) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 9 March 2020 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.

#### **117. (19/20) Maintenance Tenders for 2020/2021 (Para 3)**

The Clerk reported that she had now received the quote from South Ribble Borough Council for the maintenance of St Paul's park and BTR field.

## **Resolved**

- 1) That, the tender for the maintenance of St Paul's park for 2020/2021 from South Ribble Borough Council for £1986.44 + VAT is approved and accepted.
- 2) That, the tender for the hedge cutting on BTR field for 2020/2021 from South Ribble Borough Council for two cuts at £150.64 + VAT per cut is approved and accepted.

### **118. (19/20) BTR field/Lease (Para 3)**

The Clerk reported that as the Parish Council was entering into a new lease with Rowland Homes, she had applied to renew the planning permission on the BTR field for the changing room cabins as it was due to expire in December 2019. The approval had now been granted and would expire on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The Clerk also explained that some emergency works needed to be carried out on the electrics and heating in the cabins. In particular the boiler had been changed without the knowledge or approval of the Parish Council and was dangerous. Likewise, a toilet and sink had been removed and replaced with additional showers. The electrician was replacing the boiler, checking all the wiring and would provide a safety certificate when this had been completed. The electrician would carry out an annual inspection of the cabins. The Clerk suggested that the new lease between the Parish Council and the football team(s) should be drawn up by a Solicitor to ensure that the Parish Council was totally protected in case any representative from the football clubs decided to make any changes to the cabins without approval. This would ensure that we were totally covered for any loss or damage to the cabins/field. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

## **Resolved**

- i) That the update on the BTR field/Lease with regard to the Planning Permission and also the emergency works is noted.
- ii) That approval is given for the Lease between the Parish Council and the Football Team(s) to be drawn up by our Solicitors to ensure we are totally covered for any loss or damage to the cabins/field.