

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22 June at 7.00 pm.

Present:- Councillor Mike Otter (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
2 members of the public.

Please note that the Parish Council agreed not to hold their Annual Parish Council Meeting until this could be held face to face in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Coronavirus Regulations. Consequently, the numbering of the Minutes will continue with the 19/20 sequence of numbering until the Annual Parish Council Meeting is held.

133. (19/20) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter welcomed everyone to this first remote Parish Council meeting.

134. (19/20) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman (Vice-Chairman).

135. (19/20) Declarations of interest

None

136. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 March, 2020 are an accurate record and it was agreed that these would be signed at the next face to face meeting in accordance with LGA 1972 Sch. 12 Part VI para 41 (1).

137. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed two members of the public to the meeting. It was noted that due to time constraints the Clerk had asked for members of the public to submit any questions in advance of the meeting. One lady had submitted an update on various Planning Applications and issues which had been circulated to the Parish Council, and these are summarised below:-

Planning Application 07/2020/00418/VAR Heatherfield Works, Church Lane, Farington, Whitfires. It was reported that an application had been submitted to South Ribble Borough Council and it appeared that there would no longer be a chimney to carry out the steam and particulates into the atmosphere whilst carrying out their manufacturing process. The changes to the works could provide environmental benefits. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said she was also aware of the application and it was noted that this application would be discussed later and the Parish Council would decide if they wished to respond to the Planning Application.

Planning Application 07/2020/00269/PIP for 9 homes on the land at Bridgend, Church Lane. The member of the public asked if the Parish Council had sent an objection to this Planning Application. The Clerk reported that in line with Covid 19 restrictions, the Parish Council was able to deal with business via email. The Parish Council had agreed to object to this Planning Application and the Clerk confirmed that she had sent an objection email to D Roberts, the Planning Officer dealing with the application and also copied to the general planning email address at South Ribble Borough Council. The basis for the objection was that the Parish Council were particularly concerned about the access to the proposed development as it was close to a railway bridge. In addition to this, the Parish Council had recently responded to the Issues and Options Consultation and were strongly in favour that there should be a presumption not to build on residential gardens. The land was currently a garden and should remain so.

The member of the public also referred to the fence/barrier outside her property that had still not been repaired. However, it was noted that this was a County Council matter and County Councillor Michael Green agreed to look into this.

The member of the public also confirmed that she had attended the online virtual court case for Chain House Lane reference 07/2018/9316/OUT. It was noted that Councillor Elaine Robb had also attended this and that we were now waiting for the judge to make their final decision.

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no request for an election following the notice advising of a vacancy on the Parish Council. It was noted that the vacancy would be filled at the next face to face meeting.

The Clerk also confirmed that a grant application had been received from St Paul's Church and had been circulated to the Parish Council for comments. The Clerk said that she was also expecting a further grant application from Farington Moss, St Paul's CE Primary School and this would be circulated in due course.

Councillor Michael Green informed the Parish Council that the County Council was funding a new bus service and the new 119 service would cover Croston Road. He asked if any Parish Councillor had any suggestions for minor improvements to bus services to please let him know.

There was also a general discussion about the Parish Council newsletter and if the Parish Council should try and get something out to residents as soon as possible. It was noted that Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman was pulling together the newsletter but the items could now be irrelevant/out of date as the newsletter had not

been printed due to covid 19 restrictions. The Clerk agreed to ask Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman about the newsletter and if something could be produced.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter reconvened the meeting.

138. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had £53,263.12 (bank statement up to 9 May 2020) in the bank. It was further noted that the precept should be credited to the Parish Council bank account within 3 days of 17 June, and therefore should appear on the July bank statement. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had received the £500 for opting into the public rights of way scheme from Lancashire County Council.

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

09/03/20 – S Whittam Clerk expenses for shower curtains, renewal of website/domain name, postage and stationery as agreed at the last meeting £299.61 (Cheque no 898).

24/03/20 – Defib store for replacement pads and batteries for defibs £260.40 (Cheque no 899).

26/03/20 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £855.00 (Cheque no 900).

07/04/20 – BELEC for electrical works on BTR field £657.60 (Cheque no 901).

07/04/20 – HMRC Q4 for tax and NI £574.13 (Cheque no 902).

08/04/20 – Cancelled cheque, originally made payable to Clerk for Clerks Salary total £997.42 but as the bank was closed due to lockdown, the Clerk had to write two cheques of £498.71 each to use the banking app to put my salary into the bank. (Cheque 903 cancelled). £498.71 (Cheque 904) £498.71 (Cheque 905).

24/04/20 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £875.80 (Cheque no 906).

01/05/20 – South Ribble Borough Council 2 invoices bins x 2 months £580.93 and Maintenance £583.10 = total £1,164.03 (Cheque no 907).

05/05/20 – Clerk's salary £1,022.50 (Cheque no 908).

13/05/20 – C & W Berry for lengthsman's materials x 3 invoices = total £28.06 (Cheque no 909).

22/05/20 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £884.50 (Cheque no 910).

26/05/20 – Defib replacement cabinet £586.80 (Cheque no 911).

26/05/20 – Zurich Municipal for Parish Council insurance £1,478.45 (Cheque no 912).

27/05/20 – South Ribble Borough Council for trade waste bins on BTR £969.77 (Cheque no 913).

02/06/20 – Clerk's salary £1,022.50 (Cheque no 914).

11/06/20 – LALC Annual Subs £811.18 (Cheque no 915).

12/06/20 – Argus Security CCTV annual inspection fee £120 (Cheque no 916).

19/06/20 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £879. + £32.46 paint + £7.99 stain £1.67 dowling = total £921.12 (Cheque no 917).

It was further noted that we had paid the following direct debits:-

British Gas for BTR field – 21 Feb £77.13; 20 March £79.56; 24 April £135.45; 26/05/20 £130.51 and water 9 March £345.99.

Nest Pension for Clerk – 9 March £50.71; 6 April £50.71; 7 May £54.32; 9 June £54.32.

Data protection fee (Membership of ICO) was also renewed on 15 May £35.00.

Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman asked if the Clerk could be paid by BACS rather than by cheque to make things easier. The Clerk replied that as the Parish Council had to operate a PAYE system, then the amount of payment each month could vary slightly so it would not be possible to use a BACS system. However, the Clerk confirmed that she was looking into updating the signatures on the bank account and she would also look at using online banking which would mean that her salary could then be authorised and transferred rather than using cheques. This would also be useful for other invoices.

2) It was noted that there were no further invoices for payment at the meeting.

3) The Clerk presented the end of year financial report for 2019/2020 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 2019/2020. A copy of the Annual Accounts had also been circulated to the Parish Council for approval 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 the Clerk would now arrange to get signed and dated by the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter. It was also noted that due to Covid19 the internal audit had not been carried out due to social distancing rules. The Clerk would arrange for the internal audit if possible, to be carried out before the annual accounts were submitted to the external auditor. (The due date for submission to the external auditor was 31 July 2020). It was further noted that Statutory Instrument (SI 2020/404) confirmed that the 30 working day period for the public to exercise their rights to examine the accounts would not start until the 1st September 2020. This would be advertised on our website.

139. (19/20) Planning Application 07/2020/00418/VAR Heatherfield Works, Church Lane, Farington

The Parish Council gave consideration to Planning Application 07/2020/00418/VAR which had been discussed briefly under public participation. The Parish Council agreed that from an environmental perspective the proposed plans would offer environmental benefits such as a reduction in air pollution. The Parish Council also took the residents comments into account and therefore agreed to support this Planning Application. Councillor Paul Buckley asked if supporting the application would be setting a precedent for other applications. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council considers each application individually and that there was not in issue in either supporting or objecting to any Planning Application as long as the Parish Council had sound reasons for doing so.

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Application 07/2020/00418/VAR, that the Clerk responds to South Ribble Borough Council on behalf of the Parish Council to confirm that the Parish Council supports this Planning Application for the reasons outlined above.

140. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was due to be held on 13 July. However, this was likely to be a remote meeting and it would be dependent on if there was any urgent business to be considered that necessitated a meeting.