

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12 October at 7.00 pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council
3 members of the public.

158. (19/20) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter welcomed everyone to this month's remote Parish Council meeting.

159. (19/20) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Buckley.

160. (19/20) Declarations of interest

None.

161. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting should be held in November 2020 and this was seconded by Councillor Michael Green. The Clerk advised that following the Annual Parish Council Meeting in November, any appointments would be until May 2021, and then any appointments including Chairman and Vice-Chairman would need to be re-appointed at that time. On being put to the vote four members voted for the resolution and two members voted against the resolution. The resolution was therefore carried.

Resolved

1) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 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).

2) That the next meeting of the Parish Council should be the Annual Parish Council meeting and that appointments agreed at that meeting including Chairman; Vice-Chairman and other appointments to outside bodies should remain in place until the next Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2021.

162. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. One lady raised the issue

of the bin on School Lane and that it appeared to be frequently used for household waste and that it was attracting rats. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton agreed to contact Andrew Richardson at South Ribble Borough Council to see if anything could be done about this.

The lady also mentioned the flooding on School Lane around the bridge area and the problems associated with this. She had circulated some photographs via the Clerk to the Parish Council. County Councillor Michael Green explained that this had been raised to the highest level at the County Council who were lead Flood Authority to see what could be done about this ongoing issue. With regard to the fence close to the lady's house, it was reported that Lancashire County Council Highways were due to replace this when the school children were on half-term holiday, so hopefully this issue would now be resolved.

It was noted that there was no further news regarding the Chain House Lane planning application. Finally, the lady thanked the Parish Council for all their support for the planning issues over the last few months.

The Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter then welcomed any further members of the public to raise any matters with the Parish Council. A lady had come along to raise her concerns about a Planning Application reference 07/2020/00774/FUL which was close to her home. It was noted that the lady had prepared some information regarding this application that had been circulated to the Parish Council. This information contained a full comprehensive explanation regarding the proposed planning application and its probable effect on the light, noise and amenity on local residents. It was noted that problems would also be caused for residents and wildlife if the permission for laser clay pigeon shooting, tanks and caravan storage in a green belt area was granted. It was also noted that this was an important area for wildlife such as deer and this proposed development was not in keeping with the area as it was an important wildlife corridor. The Parish Council thanked the lady for coming along to the meeting and discussing this Planning Application and it was noted that this would be discussed further on the Agenda under Planning issues and at that stage the Parish Council would make a decision.

There were no further issues to be raised under this item and therefore the Chairman, Councillor Mike Otter reconvened the meeting.

163. (19/20) Planning Issues

The Parish Council formally considered a response to Planning Application reference 07/2020/00774/FUL for a Proposed Redevelopment of Open Storage (Use Class B8), Caravan Storage (Use Class B8), Caravan Site (Sui Generis) and Recreation (Use Class E) for Turbary House Nursery, Chain House Lane Whitestake. The Parish Council considered the information presented to them and took into account the concerns by local residents regarding this application. The Parish Council agreed that they were not against appropriate development in the right place, however this application was neither and so therefore unanimously agreed to object to the application for the following reasons: -

The proposal looked to reduce the important Green Belt area which was a valuable wildlife corridor between Farington and Penwortham. This would have a detrimental impact on the Green Belt and the wildlife in the area. The Parish Council were aware that there was a hedgehog hospital close to the site and the area was also home to deer, birds and amphibians. These were important to the area and the Parish Council agreed that any proposal that would potentially cause harm should be refused.

This proposal would have a detrimental impact on the residential amenity for local residents and the proximity of the caravans to neighbours, and the proposed activities including laser clay pigeon shooting and jeeps was an over use of this site. The scale and density were inappropriate and would result in light and noise pollution and potential anti-social behaviour.

This proposal was not suitable for a rural, agricultural area, and would impact on the air quality and also the quality of life for local residents.

With regard to Planning Application 07/2020/00544/REM, it was reported that the site would now be accessed from Croston Road when previously we had been advised that there would be no access from there, and that the access would be via Flensburg Way. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that she would speak on this application at the Planning Committee which was being held later in the week. The Parish Council agreed to formally object to the application due to the access being off Croston Road as they were concerned that this access was unsuitable and could cause issues with traffic in an already busy area. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also gave consideration to the Government White Paper Consultation on Planning for the Future. The link to the document had been circulated to the Parish Council and it was noted that the closing date for comments was 29 October 2020. The Parish Council agreed to comment on those matters that affected the Parish Council area including community involvement, neighbourhood planning and CiL. It was proposed by Councillor Elaine Robb that the Clerk should draft a response to the consultation and circulate this to the Parish Council before submitting this to the Department of Communities and Local Government. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman and unanimously agreed.

Resolved

- 1) That with regard to Planning Application 07/2020/00774/FUL that the Parish Council objects to the application in line with the above.
- 2) That with regard to Planning Application 07/2020/00544/REM that the Parish Council objects to the application in line with the above.
- 3) That with regard to the Government White Paper Consultation on Planning for the Future, that the Clerk drafts out a response on behalf of the Parish Council taking into account the issues and concerns of the Parish Council and circulates this to the Parish Council for comment before submitting this to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

164. (19/20) Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Report

The Parish Council considered the annual Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Report that had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Parish Council approved the CiL report as presented and agreed that a copy would be published on the Parish Council website. A copy of the report is also presented in the Minute Book.

The Clerk was also asked to check regarding any CiL due to the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report as now presented is approved by the Parish Council and It was agreed that a copy would be published on the Parish Council website. A copy is also presented in the Minute Book.

165. (19/20) Projects for expenditure 2020/2021

The Parish Council discussed the following projects: -

Noticeboards – The Clerk confirmed that the new noticeboards would be ordered shortly and that the spare noticeboard had now been collected from Councillor Mrs Karen Walton by the Lengthsman. The noticeboards would be funded from the Parish Council CiL monies together with the Parish Champion’s grant of £400.

St Paul’s Park playground – The Clerk confirmed that she had met two playground suppliers in recent months to look at the playground and that she had also arranged to meet a further supplier at the end of November.

Solar powered light Mill Street – The Clerk reported that the light was broken and beyond repair. It was therefore agreed to purchase a replacement light and the Clerk had seen a similar one in Argos for £90. It was unanimously agreed that this should be purchased.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton asked for Farington Lodges to be put on the Agenda for the November meeting.

Resolved

- 1) That the update on current projects as outlined above are noted.
- 2) That approval is given for the purchase of a replacement solar powered light for Mill Street at an estimated cost of £90.

166. (19/20) Annual Grants

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council wished to consider with their Annual Grants this year, which were usually considered at the November meeting. Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that these were obviously difficult and challenging times for a number of local organisations and charities and said that it was important that the Parish Council should be giving grants and help people at this time. It was agreed that the Annual Grants would be discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council and that the Clerk would circulate information regarding the grants given out last year to the Parish Council in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that the Parish Council would still wish to set up a “simple” grants scheme as previously agreed.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to consider awarding Annual Grants at their November meeting and that the Clerk will circulate information regarding previous grants in advance of the meeting.

167. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had £93,146.90 (bank statement up to 9 September 2020) in the bank.

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

30/09/20 – Belec electrical for installation of new defib cabinet £156.00 (Cheque no 932).

30/09/20 – CPRE annual membership £36.00 (Cheque no 933).

01/10/20 – S Whittam, Clerk’s salary £1,022.50 (Cheque no 934).

01/10/20 – HMRC Q2 Tax and NI £573.78 (Cheque no 935).

06/10/20 – C & W Berry Ltd Lengthsman’s materials £66.32 (Cheque no 936).

09/10/20 – Peter Heise Lengthsman’s wages £879.00 (Cheque no 937).

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

British Gas for BTR field – 21 August (£101.48); Water for BTR field – 4 September (£52.95).

2) It was agreed to reimburse Councillor Mike Otter for purchasing the Remembrance Sunday wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council at a cost of £100.

168. (19/20) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton reported that the Pickering’s Farm Planning Application had been refused by South Ribble Borough Council. She also confirmed that due to the ongoing pandemic then the Remembrance Sunday event at the Civic Centre was going to be scaled down.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman reported that South Ribble Borough Council had spent £10,000 on rebranding their logo for the Council

Councillor Michael Green reminded the Parish Council that if there were any suggestions for improving the bus services in the Farington area to let him know.

There was nothing further to report.

169. (19/20) Clerk's Report – For Information Only

The Clerk reported that hopefully the Parish Council would have the draft lease for the BTR field for consideration at the November meeting.

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

170. (19/20) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was due to be held on 9 November and that this would be held remotely. The Clerk would circulate the link and make this available to the public.