

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the remote Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 November at 7.00 pm.

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

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

1. (20/21) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

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

2. (20/21) Appointment of Chairman for 2020/2021

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Buckley that Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman is appointed as Chairman for 2020/2021. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman would sign the Chairman's Acceptance of Office at the next face to face meeting.

Councillor Michael Green took the opportunity to thank Councillor Mike Otter for all his hard work given to the Parish Council as Chairman. This was supported by all members of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman is appointed as Chairman for 2020/2021.

3. (20/21) Appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2020/2021

Councillor Mike Otter proposed that Councillor Mrs Karen Walton is appointed as Vice-Chairman for 2020/2021. This was seconded by Councillor Elaine Robb. On being put to the vote there were three votes in favour and four against.

Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that Councillor Michael Green is appointed as Vice-Chairman for 2020/2021. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Buckley. On being put to the vote there were four votes in favour and three abstentions. Councillor Michael Green was therefore appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2020/2021.

Resolved

That Councillor Michael Green is appointed as Vice-Chairman for 2020/2021.

4. (20/21) Apologies for Absence

None.

5. (20/21) Declarations of interest

Councillor Mike Otter declared a personal and prejudicial in Item 11 – Grant Application – Hutton Church of England Grammar School as he was a Parish Council appointed Governor on the Foundation.

6. (20/21) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 October 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).

7. (20/21) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. He asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

A member of the public asked about the bin on School Lane that had been raised at the last meeting. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that she had reported that the bin was being used for household waste and this was being looked at and monitored by South Ribble Borough Council.

The member of the public also mentioned that there was still no date for the Chain House Lane appeal. With regard to the resubmitted Chain House Lane Planning Application, the lady had been advised that this was likely to be heard by South Ribble Borough Council Planning Committee in December. Both Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Michael Green said they would be speaking at Planning Committee on this application.

The member of the public also informed the Parish Council that the broken barrier/fence had still not been replaced despite Lancashire County Council advising that this would be done over the October half term school holidays. Councillor Michael Green said he would chase the Officer at Lancashire County Council about this again. The member of the public also reported some fly-tipped rubbish near to her house and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said she would report this to South Ribble Borough Council.

The issues of flooding were also mentioned and it was noted that Croston Road had been flooded three times during the last month. Councillor Michael Green said he was also concerned about the flooding which was happening too often. He had raised the issue with the Senior Officer at the County Council.

Another member of the public raised their concerns about the Cuerden memorial and that the wreaths had been scattered, he asked if he could report this directly to South Ribble Borough Council. He also said he would look around Farington and report any issues as appropriate. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that it would be appreciated if the member of the public could report the issue with the wreaths directly to South Ribble Borough Council and likewise any issues in Farington such as fly tipping could be reported online also to the Borough Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman also took the opportunity to publicly thank Councillor Mike Otter for his Chairmanship and hard work and commitment to the Parish Council.

There were no further issues to be raised under this item and therefore the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman reconvened the meeting.

8. (20/21) Membership of Outside Bodies

The Parish Council gave consideration to the appointment of Parish Council representatives to LALC South Ribble. It was noted that Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Michael Green were the current representatives and there was one vacancy. Both Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and Councillor Michael Green said they were happy to continue to be on LALC South Ribble. Councillor Elaine Robb said she would also be happy to represent the Parish Council on this Committee. This was unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That Councillor Mrs Karen Walton; Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Elaine Robb are approved as the Parish Council representatives on LALC South Ribble.

9. (20/21) Planning Issues

Councillor Mike Otter referred to Planning Application 07/2020/00544/REM, which had been discussed at the last meeting. It was noted that the application had been approved by South Ribble Borough Council and that the access would still be from Croston Road, despite the Parish Council making a formal objection to the access.

The Parish Council considered Planning Application 07/2020/00781/OUT for land West of Lancashire Business Park, Centurion Way which would be considered by South Ribble Planning Committee in December. Councillor Michael Green declared a personal interest in this application as he was a representative on LCDL who owned the land. After discussion the Parish Council agreed not to object to the application but did have concerns about the traffic, flooding, odour issues and light pollution that may cause problems and nuisance to local residents close to the entrance of the site on Bispham Avenue. The Parish Council agreed to ask the Planning Officer that if the application was approved, then suitable mitigation measures would need to be put in place to minimise the detrimental effect on local residents. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and also Councillor Elaine Robb said they would speak at the Planning Committee regarding this application.

It was also noted that the Amazon car park application had been approved by South Ribble Borough Council.

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Application 07/2020/00781/OUT, the Parish Council agreed not to object to this application but to raise concerns regarding the traffic, flooding, odour issues and light pollution that may cause problems and nuisance to local residents close to the entrance of the site on Bispham Avenue. The Parish Council agreed to ask the Planning Officer that if the application was approved, then suitable mitigation measures would need to be put in place to minimise the detrimental effect on local residents.

10. (20/21) LALC AGM

The Parish Council gave consideration to attending the remote LALC AGM to be held on Saturday 14 November at 10.00 am. Councillor Elaine Robb said she would be happy to attend on behalf of the Parish Council and this was unanimously agreed. The Clerk agreed to contact Marion Gelder at LALC to confirm that Councillor Elaine Robb would be attending and to ask for the link to the meeting to be sent directly to Councillor Elaine Robb.

Resolved

That approval is given for Councillor Elaine Robb to attend the remote LALC AGM on behalf of the Parish Council on Saturday 14 November at 10.00 am.

11. (20/21) Grant Application – Hutton Church of England Grammar School

(Councillor Mike Otter declared a personal and prejudicial interest and took no part in the decision).

The Parish Council gave further consideration to the grant application from Hutton Church of England Grammar School towards their swimming pool project. The Clerk advised that she had now received further information to support the grant application but the documents were too large to circulate fully to the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that a robust business case was in place to support the project, and also if the project did not go ahead then the swimming pool would need to be demolished and this also had a large cost attached to it for demolition. The business case had demonstrated that the swimming pool could not be changed into classrooms and to improve the swimming pool was the only sensible option. It was noted that the Trust had enough funds to cover the cost of the project but were seeking grants to help reduce the impact of the full cost of the project, which was £250,000. It was further noted that the swimming pool when completed would not be open generally to the public but local schools and groups would be able to attend and use the pool. There was a general discussion about this application and some concerns were raised about the benefit of this grant to residents of Farington.

Although the Parish Council were very sympathetic towards the request for funding, they were mindful of a number of projects and groups in Farington struggling at the moment due to the Covid pandemic. It was proposed by Councillor Paul Buckley that the Parish Council should not award any grant to this project as it was not appropriate to support the project at this present time. This was seconded by the

Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman. On being put to the vote four members voted in favour, and two members abstained.

Resolved

That although the Parish Council were very sympathetic towards the request for funding, they were mindful of a number of projects and groups in Farington struggling at the moment due to the Covid pandemic, and therefore felt it was not appropriate to support this project as this present time.

12. (20/21) Annual Grants

The Parish Council gave consideration to giving grants to worthy causes in the Parish. A copy of previously awarded grants had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council would be looking at establishing a simple grant scheme in the future so that smaller clubs and organisations could apply for funding. This would be separate from the existing grants scheme. The Parish Council felt that grants should be given to support the residents of Farington and considered the list of previously granted applicants together with some additional ones.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the beneficiaries of this year's grants. However, the following grants were agreed: -

Lonsdale Chase Sheltered Accommodation	£200.00
Bashall Grove Sheltered Accommodation	£200.00
St Catherine's Hospice	£300.00
North West Air Ambulance	£200.00
Farington South Senior Citizens	£300.00
Derian House	£300.00
St Catherine's Church	£300.00
St Ambrose Church	£300.00
Farington St Paul's Scouts	£200.00
Leyland & Cuerden Valley Lions	£300.00
Turbary House Birds of Prey	£200.00
St Paul's Church	£150.00
British Legion	£300.00
Leyland Food Bank via St Mary's RC Church	£300.00
Clare's House Women's Refuge	£200.00

Total of grants £3,750

Resolved

That approval is given to annual grants being awarded to Clubs and organisations as outlined above.

13. (20/21) Projects for expenditure 2020/2021

The Parish Council discussed Farington Lodges which Councillor Mrs Karen Walton had asked to be put on the Agenda for this meeting. It was noted that the lodges were owned by South Ribble Borough Council but were deteriorating and needed some work doing on them. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton agreed to find out some more information about the lodges and this would be discussed further by the Parish Council in due course. There were no further projects for discussion at the meeting.

14. (19/20) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had £90,457.07 (bank statement up to 9 October 2020) in the bank.

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

27/10/20 – Reimbursement to Councillor Mike Otter for Remembrance Day wreaths - £100. (Cheque no 938).

01/11/20 – S Whittam, Clerk's salary £1,022.50 (Cheque no 939).

06/11/20 – Peter Heise Lengthsman's wages £879.00 (Cheque no 940).

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

British Gas for BTR field – 25 September £98.80 and Pension Clerk - 2 October £54.32. All direct debits.

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

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that we would be agreeing the budget and precept at our next meeting in December.

15. (20/21) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton reported that there had been no meetings of the community hub. It was also understood that a new Community Officer had been appointed for our area.

There was nothing further to report.

16. (20/21) Clerk's Report – For Information Only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

17. (20/21) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was due to be held on 14 December and that this would be held remotely. The Clerk would circulate the link and make this available to the public. Councillor Paul Buckley asked about filling the vacancy on the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that she would include this on the December Agenda with a view to advertising the vacancy in January 2021.

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.

18. (20/21) BTR Field (Para 3)

The Clerk reported that she had received a draft lease from our Solicitors (Farley's), and the draft had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Clerk had spoken to our Solicitor and had gone through some suggested amendments. It was noted that this was a relatively simple lease as the Parish Council had already had a similar lease agreement with Rowland Homes for over 15 years. As agreed previously the Parish Council had agreed to pay the Landlord's cost and these were estimated at £850+ VAT. Our Solicitor was therefore asking the Parish Council to forward the amount of £1020 to them so this was held ready for paying the Landlord's Solicitors fees. This was unanimously agreed.

The Parish Council had also agreed that once the final lease was ready for signature then the Chairman in conjunction with the Clerk should sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to forward a cheque to our Solicitor's for the Landlords Solicitors fees at a cost of £1,020. In addition to this the Chairman of the Parish Council is authorized in conjunction with the Clerk to sign the final lease on behalf of the Parish Council.