

Parish of Farington

Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting held on Monday 8 April 2019 at Bashall Grove Community Centre at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Graham Walton (Chairman); Councillor Mike Otter (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Roy Clarke; Councillor Dave Moore; Councillor Alan Pearmain; Councillor Paul Wharton and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council
Tony Stirland – South Ribble Borough Council
Daniel Leigh (Leyland Albion Chairman)
Phil Howarth (Leyland Albion Treasurer)
Michael Rossall (Lostock St Gerards Vice Chairman)
County Councillor Michael Green
4 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Langley. The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9 April 2018

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 April, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report 2018/2019

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton said it had been a great pleasure to be the Chairman of the Parish Council for 2018/2019. He was pleased that the Parish Council continued to provide and support a number of fantastic projects in the Parish including the adult outdoor gym which was proving to be very popular and also the Bashall Grove entrance feature which was nearing completion. The Chairman said that together with his wife Councillor Mrs Karen Walton he had attended the very moving Remembrance Service events to commemorate the end of WWI.

The Chairman thanked everyone on the Parish Council who continued to work hard for the residents of Farington. He said that a number of Parish Councillors were standing down this year and he thanked them all for their contributions over the years. A new team would be in place following the elections on 2nd May and he was sure that the good work would continue.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council had a good working relationship with the Officers at South Ribble Borough Council and he thanked Tony Stirland who regularly attended the Parish Council meetings and helped get local projects in the area up and running. He also thanked the Lengthsman, Peter Heise who continued to work hard in the Parish helping to keep our area tidy, helping with projects and providing valuable maintenance. Finally, he thanked the Clerk, Sue Whittam for all her valuable help and support and making sure that the Parish Council ran smoothly.

4. Matters raised by the Electors, report from Community Beat Manager/South Ribble Borough Council

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton welcomed Tony Stirland from South Ribble Borough Council to the meeting. Tony informed the Parish Council that the Farington and Lostock Hall in Bloom Competition had been launched and the closing date for entries was 21 June 2019. He also said that the Bashall Grove entrance feature project was almost complete and that the interpretation board would be put in place shortly. The Heritage Trail leaflets were proving to be so popular that a reprint was needed. He also reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Clerk to start progressing the St Paul's Playground project which was now included on the South Ribble plan.

The Chairman thanked Tony for attending and then asked if any one had any further issues to raise under this item. County Councillor Michael Green reported that the County Council were committed to improving the Highways and as scheme to resurface Croston Road which was the largest approved scheme costing £428,000 would be carried out as soon as possible. Councillor Mike Otter thanked County Councillor Michael Green for sorting out a drainage issue on Stanifield Road.

Councillor Paul Wharton said he was concerned about the pot holes on Centurion Way and Stanifield Lane as they were constantly being repaired but then the holes returned. Councillor Paul Wharton felt that the only solution was to resurface these roads and he asked if County Councillor Michael Green could take this issue back to the Cabinet Member for Highways at the County Council.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said that she had been working with the police and St Paul's CE Primary School to try and find a way forward with the parking and speeding issues on Croston Road close to the School. Councillor David Moore said that the police had attended the School in the morning and evenings to raise inconsiderate and dangerous parking issues with the parents.

A member of the public raised the ongoing issues of bollards and fencing (owned by Morris Homes) which she had sent both to Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and County Councillor Michael Green and was waiting a reply. Concerns were also raised about children on bicycles riding all over the area and causing trouble. It was noted that this had been reported to the police. Councillor Paul Wharton said it was important that any incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported to the police but no one should take any pictures as evidence especially of children.

A number of parking issues were also raised in particular near the bridge on Coote Lane and that vans/cars were parking on both sides of the road. It was felt by the members of the public present that this was an accident waiting to happen.

Concerns were also raised about the traffic lights at the end of Coote Lane as it was difficult to get out of Coote Lane due to the signals changing quickly and further issues were exacerbated by the pedestrian crossing that did not give pedestrians enough time to get across the road before they changed back to red.

County Councillor Michael Green agreed to take these issues back to the County Council Cabinet Members and Officers as appropriate to see what could be done. The Clerk would also email County Councillor Green with the issues raised this evening.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton then welcomed representatives from Leyland Albion Football Club and Lostock Hall St Gerard's Football Club to the meeting. Leyland Albion explained that they had been using the small pitch on BTR field for a number of seasons and had recently become aware that the lease had been terminated with Leyland United Football Club. They asked if they could continue to use the small pitch. They explained to the Parish Council that they did not use the changing rooms as their teams were junior teams ie under 16's, and they usually played once a week. Lostock Hall St Gerard's were hoping to establish teams in Farington and they already had a number of teams in Lostock Hall. They had older teams including under 21's and were looking at having a lady's team and a veteran's team. They would wish to use the larger pitch. The Clerk explained that Leyland Playscheme were allowed under the terms of the lease to use the whole field for a maximum of two weeks, usually August when the Playscheme was taking place.

The Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton thanked both Football Clubs for coming along to the meeting and said that the Parish Council would be discussing the use of the field again later in the evening. He then thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and their contributions.

There being no further business the Chairman, Councillor Graham Walton closed the meeting at 8 pm.

Councillor Graham Walton
Chairman Farington Parish Council