

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the remote Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.00 pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council
David Williams – South Ribble Borough Council
1 member of the public.

52. (20/21) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman welcomed everyone to this month's remote Parish Council meeting. He said that today was International Women's Day and also Commonwealth Day. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman also said that holding remote meetings was very innovative for the Parish Council and had transformed the way the Parish Council worked.

53. (20/21) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Elaine Robb.

54. (20/21) Declarations of interest

Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Michael Otter declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 in relation to St Paul's Park and in particular the grant application to the Farington Fund, as they were members of the panel on the fund.

55. (20/21) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8 February 2021 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).

56. (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.

David Williams from South Ribble Borough Council gave an update to the Parish Council on projects being undertaken by the Borough Council that affected the Farington Parish area. In particular he explained that an application had been made to the Farington Fund for improvements to the dipping platforms and other works at

Farington Lodges. With regard to the trophies from the Farington and Lostock Hall in Bloom, these were still with the winning recipients but he would arrange for these to be returned via Councillor Mrs Karen Walton, to the Parish Council.

A member of the public referred to the Chain House Lane Appeal Inquiry that was due to be start on 16 March. It was noted that the appeal would be held remotely and the Planning Inspectorate had not yet confirmed if members of the public could listen to the hearing.

Councillor Tony Green asked if the three wooden benches on Tardy Gate could be looked at by the Lengthsman as some of the wooden slates were in a poor condition. The Clerk confirmed that she would add this to the current list of jobs for the Lengthsman.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman thanked David Williams from South Ribble Borough Council and the member of the public for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

57. (20/21) Planning Issues

As reported under public participation, it was noted that the appeal hearing for Chain House Lane would start on 16 March 2021, and would be held remotely. The Clerk confirmed that she had registered Councillor Elaine Robb to speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the appeal hearing.

With regard to the Turbary House Planning Application (07/2020/00774/FUL), it was noted that this had been deferred at the recent South Ribble Borough Council Planning Committee and was subject to a new consultation. The Parish Council agreed to reiterate their objection as originally submitted to South Ribble Borough Council.

Resolved

That, with regard to the Turbary House Planning Application (07/2020/00774/FUL), which was subject to a new consultation, the Parish Council agreed to reiterate their objection as originally submitted to South Ribble Borough Council.

58. (20/21) Parish Council Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated to the Parish Council a copy of the revised Standing Orders to include Section 19 – Handling Staff Matters. Councillor Mike Otter suggested that the Standing Orders should be gender neutral and Councillor Paul Buckley agreed and asked the Clerk to write to LALC to suggest this. The revised Standing Orders were unanimously approved and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

- i) That, the Revised Standing Orders as now presented are agreed and a copy is included in the Minute Book.
- ii) That, the Clerk contacts LALC to suggest that Standing Orders should be gender neutral.

59. (20/21) Projects for expenditure 2021/2022

The following projects were discussed: -

Parish Council Newsletter – Councillor Mrs Karen Walton proposed that the newsletter should be postponed until after the elections. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman also informed the Parish Council that Councillor Elaine Robb had also suggested via email that the newsletter should be postponed. However, the Parish Council agreed that the newsletter should proceed as planned. Councillor Michael Green thanked Councillor Paul Buckley for pulling together a bright and attractive newsletter. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton suggested that the newsletter title should be Focus on Farington, however Councillor Michael Green said that the last newsletter had been in Touch with Farington so it would be appropriate to keep the same title. Councillor Mike Otter showed another newsletter produced by a Parish Council where the logo was large and the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council logo would be included on the newsletter. It was agreed that the word Farington would be made larger and that the red bus should be removed from the pictures and more local pictures and the Farington logo included. Councillor Paul Buckley asked for more photos to be forwarded to him. It was agreed that changes should be made to the In Bloom item and also to the electronic tablet/laptop item, to reflect updates. Councillor Paul Buckley agreed to update the newsletter with the help of Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton with the intention to finalise and print the newsletter by the end of the week. The newsletter would be distributed by a professional delivery company.

Parish Council Website – The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton Hardman had circulated via the Clerk information via Netwise.com regarding a new website. It was noted that this would cost £599 for initial set up and £300 for updates per year and each Councillor would have their dedicated email addresses and the Parish Council would have a .gov domain name (extra cost of £110 per annum). The cost of the new website was unanimously agreed. The Clerk said that a social media policy would need to be in place for any FB or social media information and agreed to put this on the next Parish Council agenda. It was noted that the original website would continue until the new site was up and running.

Hanging Baskets and Plant Troughs – Each Parish Councillor was asked to submit suggestions/ideas for the hanging baskets and plant troughs to enable the Clerk to check with Lancashire County Council or the relevant authority if the sites were suitable. This would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Shop Local Business Scheme – It was noted that further information about the scheme would be circulated by Councillor Michael Green as soon as possible.

Computer tablets for schools – The Clerk reported that there had been no uptake at present on requesting computer tablets for schools, however this would be advertised further in the Parish Council newsletter.

Farington and Lostock Hall in Bloom – It was noted that the Clerk had asked for the trophies/shields to be returned to the Parish Council. It was agreed that this competition would be discussed further in September to enable a suitable local competition to take place.

(Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Mike Otter declared a prejudicial interest in this item and in particular the grant application to the Farington Fund, as they were members of the panel on the fund, and they both left the meeting for the discussion and decision).

St Paul's Park – The Clerk reported that she had started the application for the Farington Fund but needed some help completing some sections. In addition to this it was important that the Parish Council confirmed that they would contribute the remaining funds to the scheme if they were unsuccessful in securing the total amount by grants. The Parish Council noted that if they were successful in receiving £40,000 from the Farington Fund then they would need to find the additional £36,000. The Parish Council agreed to supply the necessary funding if they were successful with the Farington Fund application. It was agreed that Parish Councillors would submit their contributions to the application form by 11 March, in order for the Clerk to sign off the application form in conjunction with the Chairman to enable this to be submitted to Lancashire County Council.

Resolved

- i) That, with regard to the Parish Council newsletter, this should go ahead as planned and final draft would be circulated to the Parish Council for sign off by the end of the week.
- ii) That, with regard to the Parish Council website that approval is given to using Netwise.com as outlined in the report now presented.
- iii) That, with regard to the shop local scheme, Councillor Michael Green would forward further information for the Parish Council to consider as soon as possible.
- iv) That, with regard to the hanging baskets and troughs, each Parish Councillor sends their suggested ideas for locations (including location and lamp post numbers) to the Clerk so this can be finalised at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- v) That, with regard to the computer tablets for schools, an item is included in the Parish Council newsletter.
- vi) That, with regard to the Farington and Lostock Hall in Bloom this is discussed further at the September meeting of the Parish Council.
- vii) That, with regard to the application to the Farington Fund towards St Paul's Park, each eligible Parish Councillor forwards any help and ideas to complete the application form as discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Mike Otter returned to the meeting.

60. (20/21) Financial Matters

Resolved

1) It was noted that we had £74,436.68 (bank statement up to 9 February 2021) in the bank.

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

1/02/21 – Clerk's salary £1,022.50 (Cheque no 969).

26/2/21 – Peter Heise, Lengthsman's wages £879 + £105 Waste Carriers Licence renewal fee (please note the cost of the Waste Carriers Licence is shared between Farington, Hutton and Longton Parish Councils). (Cheque no 970).

1/03/21 – Clerk's salary £1,022.50 (Cheque no 971).

4/03/21 – South Ribble Borough Council emptying of litter bins January 2021 - £330.66 (Cheque no 972).

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

British Gas for BTR field – 21 January 2021 £177.80 and Pension Clerk – 9 February £54.32. All direct debits.

2) There following invoices were agreed for payment at the meeting: -

HMRC Tax and NI Q4 £573.78.

Clerk expenses – postage, stationery, ink, domain renewal fee £248.77.

61. (20/21) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

There was nothing further to report.

62. (20/21) Clerk's Report – For Information Only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

63. (20/21) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.00 pm. This would be followed by an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council. Both meetings would be remote meetings and the link would be circulated with the Agenda.