**Farington Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at St Paul’s Church Hall, Farington Moss on Monday 10th May 2021 at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam - Clerk to the Council

Councillor Mary Green – South Ribble Borough Council 1 member of the public

**1. (21/22) Apologies for Absence/Chairman’s health and Safety Announcements**

The current Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman welcomed everyone to this month’s Parish Council meeting and the first one to be held in person for some time. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Buckley and David Williams from South Ribble Borough Council.

**2. (21/22) Appointment of Chairman for 2021/2022.**

Councillor Michael Green said that the current Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman had done an excellent job chairing the Parish Council through difficult circumstances and he proposed that he should continue in the role as Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman signed the Chairman’s Acceptance of Office form.

**Resolved**

That Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman is appointed as Chairman of Farington Parish Council for 2021/2022.

**3. (21/22) Appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2021/2022.**

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that Councillor Michael Green should be appointed as Vice-Chairman for 2021/2022. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and unanimously agreed.

**Resolved**

That Councillor Michael Green is appointed as Vice-Chairman of Farington Parish Council for 2021/2022.

**4. (21/22) Declarations of interest**

None.

**5. (21/22) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved**

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 April 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6. (21/22) Adjournment for Public Participation**

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if the member of the public present had anything they wished to raise with the Parish Council. The member of the public said that he had originally wished to attend last month’s meeting to hear about the computer tablets for schools but was unable to do so. However, the Clerk had given an update on the project so he had just come along to listen to the Parish Council meeting. He asked what the difference was between the Parish Council and the County Council and Councillor Michael Green gave a brief synopsis of the responsibilities of the County Council. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman gave a brief overview on the role of the Parish Council and the type of projects we had implemented to make improvements to the Parish. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that she still needed to get the Farington trophies returned via David Williams from South Ribble Borough Council.

The Clerk also advised the Parish Council that our local resident Jean was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. However, she had provided an update on various issues and these had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman noted that no decision on the Chain House Lane Appeal had been received as yet. With regard to the Turbary House Planning Application it was noted that this had been deferred for further consultation and that the Parish Council had reiterated their objection to the application.

With regard to the damaged fence caused by an accident two years ago, it was noted that this had still not been repaired but it was a County Council matter and not a Parish issue.

With regard to the Parish Council newsletter and the issue that it had not been delivered to some properties in the centre of Farington, the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman asked if the Lengthsman could deliver the newsletter to Croston Road and the surrounding roads. The Clerk agreed to speak to the Lengthsman and ask him to do this on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk also agreed to send an electronic version of the newsletter to Jean.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman then reconvened the meeting.

**7. (21/22) Membership of Outside Bodies – LALC South Ribble**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the appointment of representatives to LALC South Ribble. It was noted that our current representatives were Councillor Michael Green; Councillor Elaine Robb and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton. All three confirmed that they were happy to continue as representatives on LALC South Ribble and this was unanimously agreed.

**Resolved**

That Councillor Michael Green; Councillor Elaine Robb and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton are approved as the Parish Council representatives on LALC South Ribble for 2021/2022.

**8. (21/22) Planning Issues**

It was noted that some of the planning issues had been discussed earlier under public participation and that the Clerk included this item now as a standard Agenda item. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton reported that the Whitfires Planning Application had been agreed at the last meeting of South Ribble Borough Council’s Planning Committee and that the improvements at the site should help reduce air pollution in the area.

**Resolved**

That, the update on planning matters is received and noted.

**9. (21/22) Draft Social Media Policy**

The Clerk had re-circulated the draft Social Media Policy to the Parish Council for comments and approval. It was noted that the suggested amendments raised by the Parish Council at the last meting had been marked in red on the draft policy document. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman asked if anyone had any further additions and comments to make on the draft Social Media Policy. There being nothing further to add, it was proposed by Councillor Elaine Robb that the draft Social Media Policy as presented is approved by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Karen Walton and unanimously agreed.

**Resolved**

That the draft Social Media Policy as now presented is approved by the Parish Council and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

**10. (21/22) Projects for expenditure 2021/2022**

The following projects were discussed: -

**Parish Council Website –** The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman agreed to complete “form A” for the new website. The Clerk confirmed that she had received the invoice for the setting up of the website and that she would forward a cheque to the new website provider.

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

**St Paul’s Park –** The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Carole Scrivens at South Ribble Borough Council regarding the project and they were going to help with carrying out a consultation with St Paul’s Church of England Primary School and also with local residents on their preferred ideas/design for the new playground. However, the Clerk also reported that the Borough Council had advised that the Parish Council would not be able to do the tendering through the Borough’s CHEST scheme as the land was not owned by the Parish Council. This would mean that the Parish Council would have to undertake their own tendering process which would be onerous. Councillor Mrs Karen Walton agreed to check these details with South Ribble Borough Council and if the Borough Council could help the Parish with the tendering process. If they could not it maybe that the County Council would be able to help with this matter. The Clerk also confirmed that she had completed the Farington Fund documentation and that the money for the project should be transferred to our bank account shortly.

**Resolved**

That the update on current projects is received and noted.

**11. (21/22) Financial Matters**

**Resolved**

1) It was noted that we had £66,516.64 (bank statement up to 9 April 2021)

in the bank. It was also noted that we had received £35.00 from Hutton Parish Council and £35.00 from Longton Parish Council as their contributions to the Lengthsman’s Waste Carriers Licence.

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

15/04/21 – Clerk’s salary April £1,024.30 (Cheque no 980).

21/04/21 – Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £795.00 (Cheque no 981).

21/04/21 – LALC Subscription £811.18 (Cheque no 982).

21/04/21 – SRS Gorton Website Admin £270 (Cheque no 983).

29/04/21 – Zurich Municipal £1,512.19 (Cheque no 984).

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

British Gas for BTR field – 22 March 2021 £154.27, and water £213.64 and Pension Clerk – 7 March £54.32.

2) There following invoice was agreed for payment at the meeting: -

Netwise for new Website £1188.80.

£36.00 for St Paul’s Church Hall room hire.

**12. (21/22) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information**

**only**

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that she was looking at whether St Paul’s Bowling Club could get a Covid Grant from the Borough Council to support the Club. She would also be attending the meeting of the Community Hub next week.

County Councillor Michael Green said that as the elections had just been held, he did not have anything in particular to report but the County Council would now focus on the next four years and get on with the job.

**13. (21/22) Clerk’s Report – For Information Only**

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from David Williams at South Ribble Borough Council regarding a Community Hub newsletter and asking for photographs of the Parish Councillors and Clerk. The Clerk agreed to check with David regarding the newsletter including timescales and would circulate it to the Parish Council as necessary.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman asked the Clerk to inform South Ribble Borough Council that he was now the Parish Council representative for the Leyland Towns Fund Board. The Clerk agreed to do this.

The Clerk also informed the Parish Council that due to her recent success in the County elections she would be leaving Farington Parish Council. She would ensure that the accounts had been submitted before handing in her official notice.

**14. (21/22) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 14 June at 7.00 pm. It was noted that this would be held at Halls for All – St Ambrose Church Hall due to the Parish Council requiring a large room for the meeting in accordance with social distancing guidance. Unfortunately, St Paul’s Church Hall would not be available for future meetings, but the Clerk was hopeful that the Parish Council could return to their normal venues from September.