**Farington Parish Council**

**Minutes of the remote Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12 April 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.00 pm.**

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

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

 1 member of the public.

**64. (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.

**65. (20/21) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Buckley.

**66. (20/21) Declarations of interest**

None.

**67. (20/21) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved**

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 March 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).

**68. (20/21) Planning Issues**

Councillor Elaine Robb gave feedback to the Parish Council on the recent Chain House Lane appeal which she had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Elaine Robb thanked everyone who attending the hearing and who spoke out against the proposed development. In particular she thanked local resident Jean Berry and Councillor Mrs Karen Walton who had spoken very professionally at the hearing and gave everyone confidence that the correct decision would be reached by the Planning Inspector. It was noted that we were still awaiting the outcome of the appeal hearing.

Councillor Michael Green also thanked Jean for excellent objection relating to the Chain House Lane appeal. He also advised the Parish Council that the Turbary House Planning Application would be going back to the next meeting of the Planning Committee at South Ribble Borough Council. It was noted that the Parish Council had already reiterated their objection to the application.

**Resolved**

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

**69. (20/21) Parish Council Insurance**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council insurance was due for renewal on 1st June and currently the Parish Council had entered into a three-year deal with Zurich Municipal. The Clerk had checked the insurance documents and the Parish Council agreed that the insurance adequately covered the needs of the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed that the premium of £1,512.19 for the Parish Council insurance should be paid.

**Resolved**

That, the Parish Council agrees that the insurance adequately covers the needs of the Parish Council and approval is given for the premium of £1,512.19 to be paid to Zurich Municipal.

**70. (20/21) Draft Social Media Policy**

The Clerk had circulated a draft Social Media Policy to the Parish Council for comments and approval. A number of comments were made in relation to the moderation of any social media owned by the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed that a Social Media Policy should be adopted in principle and that the Clerk would mark up any suggested changes in red so these could be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council. Both Councillor Chris Wharton-Hardman and Councillor Michael Green agreed to be the nominated Councillors, together with the Clerk for the purposes of establishing and administering the Parish Council social media accounts.

**Resolved**

That the draft Social Media Policy as now presented is adopted in principle by the Parish Council subject to some additional amendments which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**71. (20/21) LALC Training Survey**

The Clerk had circulated to the Parish Council a Training Survey from LALC. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete this on behalf of the Parish Council and would include some suggestions for future courses such as Mental Health First Aid, Social Media training and a general course on what to expect as a Parish Councillor.

**Resolved**

That the Clerk completes the LALC Training Survey on behalf of the Parish Council in line with the suggestions as discussed above.

**72. (20/21) Projects for expenditure 2021/2022**

The following projects were discussed: -

**Parish Council Website –** The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman confirmed that he had contacted the new website provider as agreed at the last meeting and was awaiting a response.

**Hanging Baskets and Plant Troughs –** The Clerk reported that a number of sites had been suggested by members of the Parish Council and these had been circulated for comment. Some additional sites were suggested at the meeting and the Clerk agreed to add them to the list and send to Lancashire County Council for comment/approval.

**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 –** It was noted that there had been no uptake from schools on the provision of computer tablets as promoted in the recent newsletter. However, the Chairman had been contacted regarding a pupil that was home schooled. The Clerk had spoken to the Officer at South Ribble Borough Council and it was apparent that there was nothing the Parish Council or the Borough Council could do to help with pupils who were home schooled as they did not fulfil the criteria. The Parish Council were very disappointed that they could not help this individual on this occasion.

**St Paul’s Park –** The Clerk had advised the Parish Council by email that our application to the Farington Fund for the refurbishment of St Paul’s Park had been successful and we had been awarded £27,334 which was excellent news. However, this did leave a shortfall in funding as originally the Parish Council had applied for £40,000 from the Farington Fund, but due to other successful applications there had not been sufficient funds to award the Parish Council the full £40,000. The Clerk referred to the terms and conditions of the grant from the Farington Fund and advised the Parish Council that this grant was subject to the remaining funds being received. The Parish Council had included on their application form that they wished to complete this project during the Autumn as this was when the playground was not as popular but this would be of course weather dependent. The Clerk had also looked at applying for a grant to the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF). However, expressions of interest needed to be submitted in June but a final decision would not be made by the LEF Board until October 2021. After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Elaine Robb that the Parish Council should fund the shortfall, to ensure that the project is completed. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green and unanimously agreed. Subsequent to the meeting, the Clerk confirmed by email that the maximum shortfall was £49,161.28 and that this would be funded from Parish Council funds.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton also raised the issue of the footpaths on St Paul’s Park as they flooded when it rained. The Clerk agreed to ask the Lengthsman to look at the footpaths on the park.

**Resolved**

i) That, with regard to proposed hanging baskets and plant troughs, that the Clerk forward the list to Lancashire County Council for comments/approval.

ii) 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.

iii) That, with regard to the application to the funding of St Paul’s Park refurbishment, that the Parish Council agree to fund the shortfall of £49,161.28 to enable the project to go ahead.

**73. (20/21) Financial Matters**

**Resolved**

1) It was noted that we had £68,927.30 (bank statement up to 9 March 2021)

in the bank.

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

17/03/21 - Clerk expenses – postage, stationery, ink, domain renewal fee £248.77, as agreed at the last meeting (Cheque no 973).

19/03/21 – Reimbursement to the Clerk for distribution of newsletter (via Door-to-Door Northwest) £450. (Cheque no 974).

21/03/21 – Reimbursement to Cllr Paul Buckley for printing of newsletter £103.55. (Cheque no 975).

26/03/21 – Peter Heise, Lengthsman wages £879. (Cheque no 975).

07/04/21 – Farley’s Solicitors LLP for our Solicitors fees for BTR field, £1,261.60. (Cheque no 977).

07/04/21 – Newgate Nurseries for plants Coote Lane and Bashall Grove £73.38. (Cheque no 978).

09/04/21 - HMRC Tax and NI £573.78. (Q4). (Cheque no 979).

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

British Gas for BTR field – 22 February 2021 £180.87 and Pension Clerk – 5 March £54.32.

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

Sally Gorton Website Admin (04/02/20 – 07/04/21) - £270.00

**74. (20/21) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information**

**only**

County Councillor Michael Green informed the Parish Council that £400,000 had been earmarked for road resurfacing by Lancashire County Council and included Stanifield Lane and Wheelton Lane. The County Council had also included as part of their budget £1m towards Climate Change and Environmental Projects.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman thanked County Councillor Green on behalf of the residents of Farington for the good news regarding road resurfacing schemes in the Parish area.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that she would be attending a remote meeting of the Leyland and Farington Hub on 13 April. She also informed the Parish Council that South Ribble were looking at opening up all walkways and keeping them clear as part of a green links project.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman referred to issues with off road motorbikes around the Wheelton Lane area and informed the Parish Council that the incidents had been reported to the Police.

**75. (20/21) Clerk’s Report – For Information Only**

The Clerk reported that the Coronavirus Regulations regarding remote meetings had not been renewed by the Government and therefore meetings would need to revert to being held in person from the May meeting. As the usual two venues, namely Bashall Grove and St Paul’s CE Primary School would not be suitable due to their nature and size, the Clerk asked the Parish Council for suggested alternative venues. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact St Paul’s Church to see if the church hall would be available for the next Parish Council meeting and if not, then perhaps the meeting would need to be held at the Civic Centre.

**76. (20/21) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 10 May 2021 at 7.00 pm. This meeting was likely to be held in person and the venue would be confirmed when the Agenda is published.