**Farington Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Halls for All next to St Ambrose Church, Moss Lane, Leyland on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:-** Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman (Chairman); Councillor Michael Green (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Paul Buckley; 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

**26. (21/22) Apologies for Absence/Chairman’s health and Safety Announcements**

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman welcomed everyone to this month’s Parish Council meeting, including a member of the public who had come along to listen to the Parish Council meeting as she was interested in applying for the position as Clerk to the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening’s meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman also informed the Parish Council that he wished to include an Item of Urgent Business relating to a Family Picnic event to be held on Farington Park on 20 August. The item was urgent due to the Parish Council not meeting again until September and the decision required related to the Parish Council contributing funding towards the event. This was unanimously agreed and the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said the item would be discussed later on the agenda.

 **27. (21/22) Declarations of interest**

None.

**28. (21/22) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved**

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 June 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**29. (21/22) Adjournment for Public Participation**

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

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton referred to the recent Chain House Lane appeal which had recently been dismissed again and she asked the Clerk to minute the Parish Council’s thanks and appreciation to Jean Berry, the local resident who had worked with the local community to oppose the appeal and also spoke at the appeal hearing. Councillor Elaine Robb agreed with these comments and said that Jean had done a wonderful job.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton also informed the Parish Council that she had attended a community conversations event and had spoken to the police who were also there at the event. She said that the police may look at attending our meetings in the future or at the least submit a report to the Parish Council on crime in our area.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman informed the Parish Council that he had spoken to the Leader and Chief Executive at South Ribble Borough Council regarding the Parish Council paying for the emptying of bins in the Parish. He said that we were the only Parish Council in the whole of the Borough who were charged for this service and he had been assured that this would be looked at as it cost the Parish Council around £4,000 per year. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said he hoped that the Borough Council would agree not to charge the Parish Council going forward and he would update the Parish Council when the decision was known.

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

**30. (21/22) Planning Issues**

As reported under public participation above, the Parish Council were very pleased that the Chain House Lane appeal had been dismissed once again. There were no further planning issues to be discussed at the meeting.

**Resolved**

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

**31. (21/22) Projects for expenditure 2021/2022**

The following projects were discussed: -

**Parish Council Website –** The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman reminded the Parish Councillors, other than those on South Ribble Borough Council, to provide a head and shoulders photograph for inclusion for the website before it was launched. He also asked the Clerk to provide 12 months minutes and also Parish Council policies for inclusion on the new website.

**Shop Local Business Scheme –** Councillor Michael Green informed the Parish Council that he was still looking at the merchandise for the shop local event in August and he would update the Parish Council when he had further information.

**St Paul’s Park –** The Clerk confirmed that the consultation for the new playground equipment would be sent to St Paul’s CE Primary School before the end of term. She also informed the Parish Council that South Ribble Borough Council had also agreed that the tendering for the park could go through the Borough Council’s CHEST scheme.

**Item of Urgent Business – Family Picnic Event, Farington Park.** As agreed earlier in the meeting, the Parish Council discussed supporting the proposed family picnic event on Farington Park. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman explained that South Ribble Borough Council were organizing a family picnic event on Farington Park on 20 August between 11am and 3pm and that the Parish Council had been asked to make a contribution to this event. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman confirmed that this would be similar to the Farington Fun Days that the Parish Council had organized in the past, with story telling and entertainment. However, as it was a South Ribble Borough Council event on South Ribble land, it would be their responsibility to organize the risk assessments and ensure everything complied with health and safety legislation. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the Parish Council should contribute £1,000 towards this event for food for the children and this was seconded by Councillor Paul Buckley.

Councillor Mike Otter asked if this should be funded totally by South Ribble Borough Council via their area committees funding. However, the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman said that South Ribble were providing everything for the event but as the park was in Farington it would be good if the Parish Council could support it.

Councillor Michael Green raised initial concerns but said it would be a good opportunity to engage with the local community and also promote the shop local project.

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton said she was not against supporting the event but had concerns regarding providing food for children. However, it would ultimately be the responsibility of South Ribble Borough Council to provide the food paid for by the Parish Council.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposed £1,000 towards the event should be towards the food for children and also that bags for the food should be provided with the Parish Council logo included. This was proposed by Councillor Paul Buckley and seconded by Councillor Michael Green and unanimously agreed.

**Resolved**

i) That, the update on projects is received and noted.

ii) That, with regard to the Item of Urgent Business, Family Picnic Event, Farington Park, the Parish Council agrees to contribute £1,000 to the event organized by South Ribble Borough Council on condition that the money is used for food for the children provided in printed bags with the Parish Council logo included on them.

**32. (21/22) Financial Matters**

**Resolved**

i) It was noted that we had £82,715.97 (bank statement up to 9 June 2021)

in the bank. The Parish Council were still awaiting the payment of the precept.

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

Room hire for Halls for All at St Ambrose for two meetings for June and July meetings £78.75. (Cheque 994).

Peter Heise Lengthsman wages - £1,230.00. (Cheque 995).

Donna Kidd internal audit fee £70.00. (Cheque no 996).

Q1 Tax and NI - £566.31. (Cheque no 997).

Clerk’s Salary July £1,024.31. (Cheque no 998).

Newgate Nurseries plants £39.36. (Cheque no 999).

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

ICO Date Protection fee £35.00; British Gas for BTR field – 21 May 2021 £149.07. Water for BTR field 1 June £127.36. NEST pension 12 May and 4 June £54.32. All direct debits.

ii) The following invoices were agreed for payment at the meeting: -

South Ribble Borough Council – bulky waste collection £1,015.73

South Ribble Borough Council – Grounds maintenance and hedge cutting to cover periods Oct – Dec 2020; Jan – March 2021; hedge cutting Aug to Nov 2020 = total £1,372.63.

South Ribble Borough Council – annual licence fee for Farington Park outdoor gym - £423.00

iii) The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman proposed that the Parish Council did not pay the following invoices for bin emptying until a decision on the charging for emptying the bins had been confirmed by South Ribble Borough Council. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Buckley and unanimously agreed.

South Ribble Borough Council – bin emptying Feb £55.11 per week total £264.53

South Ribble Borough Council – bin emptying March £55.11 per week total £264.53

South Ribble Borough Council – bin emptying April £56.10 per week total £269.28

South Ribble Borough Council – bin emptying May £56.10 per week total £336.60

iv) Report of the Internal Auditor

The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Audit had been carried out by Donna Kidd and that no matters came to her attention. The Clerk had now submitted the accounts to the External Auditor.

**33. (21/22) Borough Council and County Council reports – for information**

**only**

Councillor Mrs Karen Walton confirmed that she had attended two Community Conversation events organized by South Ribble Borough Council and issues regarding parking, speeding and road surfaces had been raised by local residents.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman reported that dog fouling continued to be an issue across Farington East and that a team from South Ribble Borough Council would be using the dog fouling stencils to high light the issue and encourage people to pick up their dog waste. He also reported that the community clean up of the back streets of School Street and East Street would take place on 14 July. This would not be publicized until the last minute to discourage any further fly tipping. The Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman was also looking at getting the back streets adopted by the Borough Council if possible.

Councillor Michael Green reported that he found the Community Conversations event very helpful and that they may bring forward some good ideas for improvements in the Parish. Councillor Michael Green also reported that Covid cases in Farington had increased by 22%. However, there was a good take up of the vaccine which was good news for our area.

**34. (21/22) Clerk’s Report – For Information Only**

The Clerk reported that the Play Scheme would not be going ahead again this year, but the organisers were hopeful that it would be back in 2022.

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

**35. (21/22) Appointment of replacement Clerk**

It was noted that the advert for a replacement Clerk had been circulated to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) and also to South Ribble Borough Council. The closing date for applications was Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 5.00 pm. The Clerk would then forward the applications to the interview panel which consisted of the Chairman, Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman, Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Elaine Robb. The interviews would then be arranged and carried out as soon as possible.

**Resolved**

That the process and recruitment of a new Clerk be carried out in line with the above.

**36. (21/22) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 13 September at 7.00 pm. It was noted that this was scheduled to be held at Bashall Grove Community Centre, however following discussion it was agreed that the meeting should be held either at St Paul’s CE Primary School or St Ambrose Halls for All depending on which venue was available.