

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7pm, at Lowerfield Community Centre, PR26 6QQ.

Present: - Councillor Karen Walton (Chairman); Councillor Shaun Bradbury (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Tony Green; Councillor Baz Howard; Councillor Phil Lawson, Councillor Haydn Williams.

In attendance: - Lisa Burton - Clerk to the Parish Council
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Pratt
4 Members of the Public

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

Chair Karen Walton read the following statement to the meeting:
Unfortunately, the scheduled full Parish Council Meeting will not be taking place tonight.

The reason for the full meeting not taking place tonight is due to the Parish Clerk not issuing the Statutory documents required for a legal Parish Council Meeting to take place, in a timely manner.

This breaches the Parish Standing Orders Section 3 b and c and the Local Government Legislation 10: 2b. Councillors did not receive the summons specifying the business to be transacted at the meeting on the 2nd October 2023 within the 3 clear days' notice period, resulting in the meeting tonight not being called legally. The decision to continue and hold a meeting tonight was made as it was too late to cancel the meeting at such short notice and Andy Pratt, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was scheduled to attend the meeting to speak to residents and answer any questions.

Only Agenda items 1,4 and 5 and confirmation of the date and time of the next meeting will be taking place tonight. Any other items on the Agenda needing a response or decision would be made illegally and we would be failing in our duties as a Parish Council to make any decisions tonight which could be challenged as illegal. The items not discussed tonight will be brought to the next meeting of the Parish Council for decision.

I hope that the abridged version of the Parish Council meeting still provides you with some important information and I welcome your continued support and understanding.

The following items were discussed:

1. Apologies for Absence & Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements
4. Neighbourhood Policing Team Update
5. Adjournment for Public Participation
11. Next Meeting

Chair.....

Date.....

Therefore the following items were not discussed:

2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Last Meeting
6. Planning
7. Clerk's Report (Including Lengthsmans Update)
8. Financial Matters
9. Projects for 2023/2024
10. Borough Council and County Council reports

68. (23/24)

Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Apologies were received from Councillor Michael Green who is attending the Conservative Party Conference.

Resolved

69. (23/24)

Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner has been invited to attend the Parish Council meeting or to provide an update on issues in the local area.

Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Andy Pratt updated the Parish Council on the main issues currently being prioritised by Lancashire Police: ASB; Violence against Men and Women (an increase of 25% in domestic violence in the home); Sexual Assault; Dangerous Driving; Distraction Driving; Cannabis Use.

Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Andy Pratt advised that out of 3,500 vehicle stops, 1 in 10 are arrested. He visited the local area today and noted that there are now 380 Amazon Vans based in the area, and the North West Ambulance base has also moved to the locality. There needs to be a change in the mindset of drivers. Training is provided in order to work towards this. In the last year there were 1000 casualties and 40 deaths on the roads in Lancashire.

Councillor Phil Lawson mentioned the 20mph speed limits in Wales. Andy Pratt advised that lower impact collisions cause less damage, however it is about teaching Children. The thinking in Wales is that reducing speed will reduce collisions.

Councillor Haydn Williams asked if it was correct the collisions at or below 20mph do not need to be reported. Andy Pratt advised that this has now changed. Councillor Haydn Williams said that Lancashire as a County are good at speed cameras but suggested that more enforcement is required. Andy Pratt advised that 80,000 drivers have been caught by speed cameras, 38,000 are invited to attend a speed awareness course. Wales has taken a blanket approach, but this only works if people behave properly. In Lancashire there are more minor rules, however 50% of accidents are in 20mph zones.

There was a discussion regarding Amazon and Electric Vehicles in general. Andy Pratt advised that the Community Road watch Chief will be carrying out a 3-month monitoring scheme in each area. Farington will be covered by Inspector Mike Moys. It was mentioned that Moss Lane (off Croston Road) needs to be made a 20mph zone.

Chair Karen Walton and Councillor Shaun Bradbury advised that Croston Road should be 30mph from the roundabout all the way through to Leyland.

Chair.....

Date.....

Councillor Baz Howard raised the issue of the traffic lights at the War Memorial Roundabout.

Andy Pratt advised that the Police will prosecute on evidence, which needs to be dash cam or video. There are now 2 dedicated Officers. He will send the details to the Parish Council so that it can be included in the Parish Council Newsletter.

There is lots of work being done to engage children by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

A member of the public advised that the lights on the roundabouts at Sainsburys and Stanifield Road change too quickly. This needs to be reported. Councillor Haydn Williams suggested using the Love Clean Streets App. Councillor Phil Lawson advised of the issues at the Tank roundabout – vehicles jumping the lights as they are following the next set of lights. LCC are to review dash cam footage. Andy Pratt advised to forward to the Police too. Possibly leaflet drop everyone in the area to ensure they are aware. Chair Karen Walton advised that residents are well aware but other drivers are not. Councillor Shaun Bradbury stated that the lights are too close together.

Andy Pratt advised to ask about ASB as there is money available from the Government for extra patrols. This needs to come from Leyland, they need the feedback.

A member of the public advised that PCSO Slater has had a marked car outside of the Primary School over the last 10 months. There hasn't been anyone else, the PCSO's are the only ones being proactive.

Councillor Shaun Bradbury advised that the Neighbourhood Policing Team are invited to the Parish Council meetings every other month. There should have been someone present tonight. The Clerk advised that the Police attendance had been cancelled as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was attending instead.

A member of the public advised that the police are not visible there should be options. Andy Pratt advised that the PCSO strength has been halved as they move on to become PC's.

Chair Karen Walton asked if there could be a written report. Councillor Tony Green agreed that this would be helpful. Andy Pratt said he would advise.

The member of public asked that the Neighbourhood Policing Team not be criticised but there does need to be more visibility.

Councillor Shaun Bradbury stated that vehicles are often seen speeding through.

Andy Pratt advised that he will send links for reporting and recruitment across to the Parish Council, Special Constables need to be recruited.

A member of the public advised that this could be quite successful.

Andy Pratt advised that the next election of the Police and Crime Commissioner is in May 2024. Andy advised that rural crime is also a main priority in the County.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner left the meeting at 7.49pm

Chair.....

Date.....

70. (23/24)

Adjournment for Public Participation

A member of the public advised that the additional planting in Phase 1 (Caddick) is unrealistic. The Chair Karen Walton asked the member of public to email the issues and she will speak to someone regarding the plans. There is a tree over the river, but they are trying to underplant. Lighting is also still an issue. Please email all issues to Chair Karen Walton as Borough Councillor.

A member of the public asked about the consultation for St Paul's Park. He appreciated that it would not be discussed tonight, but would his email be considered please. Would there be an option on the consultation for the area to be left as a green space?

A member of the public raised the issue of speeding on Croson Road. Cars straddle the speed bumps – can they not be expanded? Chair Karen Walton asked for an email as a Borough Councillor.

A member of the public advised that there is a gap in the Church Wall on St Paul's Park and Children are climbing through. Councillor Phil Lawson noted this. The member of public raised the issue of liability for the church wall and advised it needs protecting. The wall belongs to the Church and the Coping stones are loose.

71. (23/24)

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 6th November 2023 at Bashall Grove Community Centre, PR25 4JU.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Local Government Act 1972

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which is specified against the heading to each item, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

The Parish Council advised that they would be holding a Staffing Committee meeting following on from the Parish Council meeting.

Chair.....

Date.....