

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 4th December 2023 at 7.30pm, at Lowerfield Community Centre, PR26 6QQ.

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

In attendance: - Lisa Burton - Clerk to the Parish Council
3 Members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team
5 Members of the Public

86. (23/24)

Apologies for Absence & Chairman's Health and Safety Announcements

Councillor Karen Walton welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the Health & Safety announcements to the meeting.

87. (23/24)

Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to indicate at this stage in the proceedings any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that if the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct) they must leave the room for the whole of that item. If the interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but is such that a member of the public could reasonably regard it as being so significant that it is likely that it would prejudice their judgment of the public interest (as explained in the Code of Conduct) then they may make representations, but then must leave the meeting for the remainder of the item.
Councillor Haydn Williams declared an interest in Item 7 (Planning)

88. (23/24)

Minutes of the Last Meetings

Resolved

That the minutes from the meetings held on 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 14th November and 21st November 2023 to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Item 74 - A meeting with Victoria Plumbing has not been arranged.

Item 77 - SRB Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman stated that Farington Parish Council would be providing funding on £10,000 towards the Stanifield Lane Pedestrian Crossing. A letter from the Leader of SRBC is expected before the monies can be agreed (Minutes December 2022) a letter has not been received. Councillor Michael Green advised that the monies have been budgeted for but no update has been received. Councillor Karen Walton stated that an update is required.

Chair.....

Date.....

Resolved

That the Clerk will write to the Leader of SRBC on behalf of the Parsh Council.

**89. (23/24)
Neighbourhood Policing Team Update**

The Policing team provided the following update: There are 2 Officers on duty every night on weekends mainly patrolling Olympian Way, Golden Hill Lane and Worden Park. 6 extra Officers are provided on any expected surge night. There is currently a push on burglaries, as there is currently a spike in the area. The Public are advised not to leave keys in cold cars unattended. Faraday Bags and Coca Cola Cans are being made available to the public. As it gets colder shops become more of a target. Farington as an area does not really have any issues. The hot spots are around McDonalds and Tesco. Councillor Shaun Bradbury advised that there have been several break-ins on Bispham Avenue. Youths are crossing the river to access the back of properties, currently the water level is too high to allow this. It was advised to keep all windows and doors locked. A member of public stated that the onus was being placed on them.

Signage & CCTV in Leyland would be ideal. A member of public asked if Caddick could put CCTV cameras up for Bispham Avenue. Councillor Shaun Bradbury advised that Victoria Plumbing will probably add CCTV, but the bridge on Mill Lane provides access. Councillor Karen Walton advised that this is a public footpath. A member of public suggested that a breakdown of statistics would be helpful. The police advised that there is 1 PC and 0.5 PCSO to cover a large area. They proactively target areas such as Runshaw for drug issues. No hotspot so no footfall. A member of the public stated that there has been no proactive policing in their area for the last 18 months, can statistics on crime be provided for the next meeting. The Police advised that issues are mainly around Broadfield but can bring some stats to the next meeting.

A member of public said that the supervisors need to be aware, so what stats are available?

A member of public stated that they wish to know about ASB, Criminal Damage, and Burglary – but some positive stories too.

Councillor Haydn Williams pointed out that it is important for the public to report all issues, preferably online – the issues need to be logged.

A member of public advised that recently there were road closures due to a person on a house roof – the police were superb over the 4 days.

Councillor Shaun Bradbury advised that it is important that complacency doesn't set in – do not think that there is no crime.

Resolved

That the report from the Neighbourhood Policing Team is received and noted.

The Policing Team left the meeting at 7.54pm

**90. (23/24)
Clerk's Report (Including Lengthsman Update)**

Defib Update

Defibs checked and reported by Mike Otter weekly

- 1 Farington Conservative Club
- 2 Leyland Business Park (BTR Field) – new case required
- 3 Hope Terrance – new case required (must have key lock as well as digital lock)

St Paul's Play Area

Play and Leisure have advised that they were attending the site on Tuesday 26/09/2023. There has been no follow up to advise on the works completed. The Clerk has attended the site to look at the works.

An email and statement have been received from Play and Leisure.

The Clerk requests approval to pay the remaining balance is requested from the Parish Council

Councillor Shaun Bradbury stated that the play area must be reinspected by the Independent Inspector again to review the work and carry out checks. The cost is £375. The cost of the inspections will be deducted from the payment to be made to Play & Leisure, if there are still issues then the matter will go to arbitration.

Councillor Haydn Williams asked to ensure that there are no surcharges or penalties. Unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to arrange a further Inspection from The Play Inspection Company.

St Paul's Phase 2

A consultation regarding the phase 2 works will be completed.

A draft consultation survey has been forwarded to the Parish Council for review.

The Parish Council agreed that the consultation could now be published. Proposed by Councillor Phil Lawson, seconded by Councillor Haydn Williams.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to publish the Phase 2 Consultation Document.

St Paul's Phase 3

Approval provided to LCC for works to go ahead. CIL funds of £27,921.61 have been allocated.

There is an issue with the boundary fence between the park and the Church Graveyard. The Clerk and Lengthsman have made it safe for now, but there is now a gap in the fence which needs to be rectified. Councillor Shaun Bradbury suggested a site visit to discuss the whole length of the boundary fence. A member of public

Chair.....

Date.....

advised that there is a gap net to a large tree that needs to be filled.
Unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That there should be a visit with LCC and the Contractor to provide a quote.
Consultation with Father Matthew is required. The work will be carried out as part of Phase 3.

Remembrance Day

All completed for 2023. Article to be provided for the Newsletter.

Resolved

That Councillor Tony Green will provide an article about the Remembrance Day Service for the Newsletter.

Bank Mandate

The bank mandate submitted on 13/10/2023 has not been processed (there is no reason given as to why). The Clerk resubmitted the mandate on the 27th November adding Councillors Michael Green, Shaun Bradbury and Baz Howard. The following have been removed from the mandate Mike Otter, Chris Wharton-Hardman, Paul Wharton-Hardman.

Resolved

That all Councillors will carry out the necessary actions to complete the mandate.

Church Lane Project

A site visit carried out and first quote requested from JTW Management – 2 more quotes required. It is noted that there is a plaque in the garden area which commemorates WWI. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council could utilise LCC. The project was discussed and the scope agreed as: Upgrade the footpath, ensuring the bench is on a level with the footpath and has space for a wheelchair / mobility scooter / pram. Landscaping. A plaque to commemorate WWII. Carry out any tree work. Remove the steps to Croston Road if possible. Remove the barriers and replace with something more accessible. Possibly add a cairn or Stone. Proposed by Councillor Shaun Bradbury, seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson.

Resolved

That the Clerk will request further quotes including LCC.

Other

Chair.....

Date.....

- Mike Otter has asked if a notice board and Defib could be installed near the shops on Bristol Avenue – Email sent to Ken Batty (Company).
- Leyland Business Park (BTR Field) – new case required.
Hope Terrance – new case required (must have key lock as well as digital lock).
- The heritage board on Centurion Way has been damaged and requires replacement.
- Mill Street Bobbins – work has been completed on the installation of the concrete bobbins. The Clerk has requested stainless steel rope to be installed.
- Parish Councillor Vacancy – The vacancy has now been advertised for co-option.
- New bench required at Lowerfield.

Completed projects

Updated asset register has been provided to Zurich Insurance.
 Legal cover for Contract/supplier issues added to insurance package (£22.11).
 Councillor Vacancy has been posted on Notice Boards, Website and social media.
 External Audit has been completed.
 Statutory notices have been added to notice boards.
 Keys for notice boards supplied.
 Badges for new Councillors completed.
 Contact details for Parish Councillors added to notice boards.
 Parish Council email addresses implemented.
 Business Cards have been received and distributed.
 Updated job description created and forwarded to the Staffing Committee.
 Letters of thanks provided to Ex-Parish Councillors.
 Draft Consultation Survey Issued.
 Remembrance Service wreaths purchased.
 Letter to PCSO James Slater completed.

91. (23/24)

Financial Matters

It was noted that the Parish Council currently had £316,063.30 in the HSBC Account as at 27th November 2023 (online balance). The CiL monies were £172,739.88 with a balance of £143,323.42.

It was also noted that the following invoices had been paid since the last meeting: -

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Supplier	Description	Minute
06/11/2023	£32.45	£6.49	£38.94	C & W Berry	Maintenance Supplies	2324-102
03/11/2023	£344.79	£17.23	£362.02	British Gas	Electricity	2324-100
03/11/2023	£75.05	£0.00	£75.05	Water Plus	Water	2324-099
05/11/2023	£16.00	£3.20	£19.20	Pete Heise (Peter Heise)	Maintenance Supplies	2324-098
30/11/2023	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	HSBC	Bank Charges	2324-101
19/11/2023	£500.57	£0.00	£500.57	Lancashire County Pension Fund	Pension	2324-103
15/11/2023	£1,797.39	£0.00	£1,797.39	Lisa Burton (Employee 1)	Salary	2324-105
30/10/2023	£130.00	£0.00	£130.00	Nick Worswick (Royal British Legion)	Remembrance Wreaths	2324-097

Resolved

Chair.....

Date.....

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier
15/01/2024	£1,404.37	£0.00	£1,404.37	Salary	Lisa Burton (Employee 1)
26/01/2024	£996.00	£0.00	£747.00	Lengthsman	Pete Heise (Peter Heise)
27/11/2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Electricity	British Gas
27/11/2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Water	Water Plus
31/12/2023	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	Bank Charges	HSBC
27/11/2023	£734.13	£0.00	£734.13	Pension	Lancashire County Pension Fund
15/12/2023	£1,392.73	£0.00	£1,392.73	Salary	Lisa Burton (Employee 1)
29/12/2023	£996.00	£0.00	£747.00	Lengthsman	Pete Heise (Peter Heise)
27/11/2023	£77.00	£0.00	£77.00	Locum Clerk	Alison May (Alison May)
01/12/2023	£996.00	£0.00	£996.00	Lengthsman	Pete Heise (Peter Heise)
04/12/2023	£44.45	£0.00	£44.45	Locum Clerk	Sue Whittam (Sue Whittam)

The following payments/receipts were noted: -

Leyland Albion Football Club £50 received 01/12/2023

Payment to Play and Leisure – 10% of the invoice withheld until all issues are resolved (£8,732.49+VAT). (Councillor Karen Walton & Councillor Shaun Bradbury) Play and Leisure have now advised via email that the works are complete and have submitted a statement for the outstanding balance.

CIL Monies of £27,921.61 have been allocated to Phase 3 of St Paul’s Park which will cover the work carried out by LCC employing Company A as agreed. PO to be provided to LCC

**92. (23/24)
Parish Councillor Vacancy**

One application had been received and they will be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council with a view to co-option in March 2024.

**93. (23/24)
Adjournment for Public Participation**

Representatives from South Ribble Borough Council and other organisations may speak under this item as well as members of the public and local residents. A member of public asked about the openness of the PROW on Mill Lane. Councillor Karen Walton advised that SRBC and LCC are looking into the ownership. Councillor Karen Walton will email Tom Parks regarding CCTV for the area. A member of public said that if there has only been 1 burglary and they have been caught, then the comments (on social media) can be misleading. Before the houses were not noticeable as it was so overgrown. Councillor Karen Walton will ask the question.

A member of public asked about the lighting and screening. Councillor Karen Walton advised that EA Officers should have visited. The member of public advised that no they have not, but pictures have been sent to Jane Clayton. The planting

Chair.....

Date.....

plan states they will plant behind, but this is not possible. Last email 08/10/2023. Councillor Karen Walton advised that the planting has been approved. A member of public said that there are no new plans for planting for Phase 1. Councillor Karen Walton advised that she will email Jane Clayton tomorrow plus if members of public email pictures these will be forwarded to Tom Parks – requesting evergreen planting. A member of public asked why the site is lit up all night? Will Victoria Plumbing be putting up blinds up? Councillor Shaun Bradbury added that photos had been taken in June before the screening was installed.

A member of public asked why the lamp posts on the carpark are 8 meters high?

A member of public asked about the flooding on Croston Road. Councillor Phil Lawson advised that Borough Councillor George Rear has asked LCC to clear the gullies and Councillor Phil Lawson has followed this up with LCC. Councillor Shaun Bradbury has reported the flood outside number 254. The gully is not shown on LCC map, there is something wrong between the drains. Councillor Michael Green added that the flood is at 254 Croston Road and further down next to the gate (not on the map), It is a bigger problem than the gully.

A member of public mentioned the branches on the bridge on the A582 hanging into the road. Councillor Michael Green will report this issue.

Resolved

That Councillor Karen Walton will email Tom Parks regarding CCTV for the area. Councillor Karen Walton will ask the question. Councillor Karen Walton will email Jane Clayton tomorrow plus if members of public email pictures these will be forwarded to Tom Parks – requesting evergreen planting. Councillor Michael Green will report branches on the bridge on the A582 hanging into the road.

3 Members of the public left the meeting at 8.46pm

Councillor Michael Green discussed the requirements for reports to be published on the website. The Clerk advised that all statutory and necessary information is published on the website.

Resolved

That the Clerk will check the legislation .

94. (23/24) Planning

The Clerk will give an update on current planning issues, and any current planning applications may be discussed under this item.

Councillor Haydn Williams left the room during this item.

07/2023/00257/FUL – the Model Farm. This will go to the planning committee at SRBC. It is proposed to develop the site into 16 commercial units.

It is not greenbelt but is classed as previously developed land. Councillor Karen Walton will speak against the size of the development and parking and access at the

planning committee. Councillor Michael Green advised that a Parish Councillor could also speak at the planning committee. It was agreed that Councillors Phil Lawson, Karen Walton and Michael Green will discuss this.

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Application 07/2023/00257/FUL Councillor Karen Walton will speak at the planning committee. Councillors Phil Lawson, Karen Walton and Michael Green will discuss speaking at the planning committee. Councillor Haydn Williams returned to the meeting.

95. (23/24)

Projects for 2023/2024

- i. Training – Civility & Respect Pledge
- ii. Parish Council Newsletter
- iii. St Paul’s Park play area refurbishment
- iv. St Paul’s Park (Phase 2) - Public Consultation date to be set
- v. St Paul’s Park (Phase 3) – additional works required to boundary fence
- vi. Refurb of the Bobbin Seats at Mill Street (Bobbins installed – rope to be installed)
- vii. Trustee to Hutton Grammar School Foundation (Cllr Tony Green) meeting on November 21st. Councillor Tony Green advised that all is well with the Hutton Grammar School Foundation. The next meeting will be held in February.
- viii. Church Lane Seating area – discussed under item 90
- ix. D-Day 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings
- x. LALC Area meeting representatives (Cllr Karen Walton, Cllr Michael Green and Councillor Shaun Bradbury)
- xi. Voluntary Service (Cllr Baz Howard)
- xii. Moss Lane green space. Councillor Karen Walton advised that there will be a meeting with SRBC Officers. They are considering a wildlife area with footpaths, trees and hedges etc. Hoping that after Christmas there will be some good news on the project. Borough Councillor George Rear is leading the project.
- xiii. St Pauls Park Dog Control (Cllr Phil Lawson)
- xiv. Bingo Nights (Cllr Baz Howard)
Councillor Baz Howard advised that the bingo nights have been well received and more are being planned.

96. (23/24)

Consultation on Council Tax Local Discounts & Premiums Policy

The item was discussed and found to be confusing and difficult to understand what feedback is required.

Resolved

Chair.....

Date.....

That the Clerk will advise SRBC that it is not clear what is being requested and to clarify B & D as they are not mutually exclusive.

97. (23/24)

Borough Council and County Council reports – for information only

The Borough and County Council members will give an update on Borough and County Council matters affecting the Parish Council area.

Councillor Karen Walton advised that there is a Public Consultation on Lancashire Devolution for 8 weeks until the 26th January. Councillor Haydn Williams advised that the Leader of SRBC is opposed to the plans. It will cover Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and LCC. Councillor Michael Green advised that if there is no devolution deal in Lancashire then they are being left behind in terms of the economy. There would be new funding opportunities and a place on the starting grid for powers and funding. The proposals do not include an elected Mayor, there will be no change in the structure of local government, there will be no additional Council Tax charges.

A member of the public said so it would be similar to Merseyside and Manchester but without a metro-mayor. Councillor Michael Green advised that yes, but without the same level of power as there would be no Mayor. A member of the public asked who would be the voice of Lancashire? Councillor Michael Green advised that it would become a combined authority with 4 voting members. District Councils do not have a vote but do sit on the authority. Councillor Haydn Williams advised that SRBC will not have a seat at the table. With 15 authorities' people should have their say on it. Councillor Karen Walton updated on Hope Terrace Carpark. The Community Hub and advised that ground has been broken in the development of the Cricket Ground. Councillor Michael Green updated that there is a healthy working relationship between the District Councils and LCC. There is going to be a new drug driving campaign. With regard to the local plan covering Preston, SRBC and Chorley BC this needs to be accelerated. Local Member Grants are available, please contact Councillor Michael Green. There is to be a consultation on Youth smoking and vaping.

Councillor Haydn Williams advised that there will be a Planning Consultation in the new year and there is a draft statement of Community Involvement. From the 11th to the 23rd December Parking Charges will be suspended.

A member of the public suggested that the Parish Council should look at having a LinkedIn profile. Councillor Karen Walton advised this was worth looking into.

2 Members of Public left the meeting at 9.50pm

98. (23/24)

Precept Planning

It was agreed to hold a budget working group on Thursday 25th January at 6.30pm

Chair.....

Date.....

Resolved

That the Clerk will check the availability of Bashall Grove for the budget working group meeting to be held on 25th January at 6.30 pm.

**99. (23/24)
Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 5th February 2024 at Bashall Grove Community Centre, PR25 4JU.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

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.

100. (23/24) Clerk (Para 1).

A confidential discussion took place.