

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Lowerfield Community Centre on Monday 1st July at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk
Councillor Mary Green – South Ribble Borough Council
PCSO Luke Walmsley – Lancashire Police
PCSO James Kilner – Lancashire Police
3 members of the public

31. (24/25) Apologies/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting and briefed everyone on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury read out a statement regarding the General Election period, he said: - "As you are all aware, a General Election has been called for Thursday the 4th July. Whilst there is no specific requirement for Parish Councils to suspend day to day activities, I am mindful that we do not cross over into areas that may be politically sensitive. Whilst we will continue to produce the Newsletter, publication will be delayed until after the 4th July. I have also taken the decision to suspend any reporting from either Borough or County Councillors.

The general business will continue as outlined in the agenda and should any discussion start to move into a politically sensitive area, then I will stop that discussion.

Farington Parish Council is not a political arena and can I ask the cooperation of all Councillors to ensure that this remains the case".

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury informed the Parish Council that a Grant Application from Leyland Playscheme had just been received, and as the Playscheme would be held at the beginning of August he agreed that this should be an Item of Urgent Business, that could not await the next meeting of the Parish Council, and should be considered at this evening's meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

There were no apologies for absence.

32. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Haydn Williams declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6 Planning as a Member of South Ribble Borough Council's Planning Committee. He advised that he

would leave the room if any planning applications were discussed that would be considered by the Planning Committee at South Ribble Borough Council.

33. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes from the Parish Council Meetings held on 3 June and 17 June 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury welcomed PCSO Luke Walmsley and PCSO James Slater to the meeting. It was reported that concerns had been raised about speeding especially around Church Lane and Croston Road. Councillor Michael Green also said that there were similar issues with speeding on Chain House Lane and it was important that residents report any issues so the Police could target resources. Councillor Phil Lawson said that he had also raised issues about speeding and there was a link that residents can use to report speeding issues directly to the Police. Councillor Phil Lawson agreed to send the link to the Clerk so it could be included in the Minutes: - <https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/>

A member of the public raised the issue of motorbikes/quad bikes on Croston Road and the possibility of them trying to access St Paul's Play Park. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury confirmed that the kissing gate installed at St Paul's Park was an accessible gate for prams and wheelchairs/mobility scooters, but would not provide access for quad bikes or motorbikes. The Parish Council were also looking at installing similar gates on BTR field as the field had recently been subjected to vandalism and damage to the grass by motor bikes.

A member of the public also raised their ongoing concerns about the Caddick site and that there had been a number of issues lately with youths and anti-social behaviour. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was aware of a number of issues and youths had been seen climbing on the roof of buildings. These issues had been reported to the Police, but residents were very worried about this ongoing problem.

PCSO James Slater said it was important that these issues are reported to them and they had been out a number of times to the site.

Councillor Karen Walton said that she had been dealing directly with Simon Greary at the management company and that an email contact would be provided for residents to raise any concerns with the company as well.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury thanked the Police for attending the meeting.

35. (24/25) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Phil Lawson raised the issue regarding the “tank” roundabout and the number of accidents and near misses. It was noted that some changes had been made to the sequence and timings of the lights but it still remained an issue and a cause for concern. Councillor Phil Lawson informed the Parish Council that he had received a response from the Highways Officer at Lancashire County Council and that the road markings were going to be refreshed in Summer which would help with this complicated junction. Councillor Lawson said that he was particularly concerned about the increase in traffic predicted over the next two years or so and the possibility of fatalities if nothing was done about the issue. Councillor Haydn Williams commented that any actions undertaken would be data driven so it was vitally important to report any incidents and near misses. As referred to under the Neighbourhood Policing Team update above, residents could report speeding issues directly and it was felt that this information should be shared with residents especially those on Farington Mews, either by social media or by a flyer to go with the newsletter. All incidents should be reported as this would help Lancashire County Council prioritise this junction for further improvements/action.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

36. (24/25) Planning

It was noted that the New Model Farm had applied for storage facilities under permitted development, so it was not subject to consultation. However, Councillor Haydn Williams informed the Parish Council that the original application was likely to be reconsidered by South Ribble Borough Council at their next Planning Committee on Thursday 18th July. The agenda for the meeting would be available the week before the meeting.

As the Parish Council had previously objected to the application, it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman or Vice-Chairman should speak against the application on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council would need to register to speak two days before the Planning Committee meeting.

It was further noted that the site was currently untidy and this would need to be reported to the Planning Enforcement Officer, Mark Bray at South Ribble Borough Council.

Resolved

That, approval is given for the Chairman or Vice-Chairman to speak against the application for the New Model Farm on behalf of the Parish Council, at the Planning Committee meeting to be held on 18th July 2024.

37. (24/25) Grant Application

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following grant applications: -

i) St Paul's Church Farington Moss

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant towards the maintenance of the church hall floor which needed resealing every few years as part of its maintenance. The grant application form and supporting information had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. A quote of £925 had been received which was reasonable for the amount of work involved. Although the request was for a larger amount than the usual £400 awarded under the Parish Council grants scheme, it was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the £925 should be awarded from Parish Council CiL monies, and that the invoice should be paid directly by the Parish Council, as the Parish Council would be able to claim back the VAT if the contractor was VAT registered. This was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

ii) Leyland Playscheme

The Parish Council also gave consideration to a grant from Leyland Playscheme to fund places at a reduced rate and free places for disadvantaged children. The cost of each place on the Playscheme was £85 per child. As the Playscheme was due to take place at the beginning of August, it was agreed that this application should be considered under Urgent Business. A copy of the grant application form was circulated at the meeting.

The Parish Council were very supportive of the Playscheme, which was a registered Charity, and its aim to ensure that as many children as possible had the opportunity to attend this year's scheme. Councillor Andreea Oprea proposed that the Parish Council should fund ten places for children from the Farington Parish area on this year's Playscheme at a cost of £850, although this was higher than the usual amount awarded under the Parish Council grants scheme, it was agreed that the Parish Council could use their discretionary powers in this case. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

i) That approval is given to award St Paul's Church, Farington Moss, £925 for the maintenance of the church hall floor, to be paid for directly by the Parish Council and to be funded from CiL monies.

ii) That approval is given to award Leyland Playscheme £850 to fund ten places for children from the Farington Parish area on this year's scheme.

38. (24/25) Financial Matters

It was noted that the current bank balance at 9 June 2024 was £422,633.43. It was further noted that we had received the precept payment £97,120.00 and CiL payment £669.64.

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

Heartbeat Northwest Cardiac Care grant - £420 (Cheque no 1103).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary May £1,206.52. (Cheque no 1104).

Shot Stopper Ltd (pension admin via Fairman's) £336.00 (Cheque no 1105).

Black Swan NW Ltd (Fairman's audit/accounts) £1,548 (Cheque no 1106).
Peter Heise Lengthsman - £996.00 (Cheque no 1107).
Lostock Hall Carnival grant £400.00 (Cheque no 1108).

Resolved

The following outstanding invoices were agreed for payment: -

Reimbursement to Cllr Baz Howard for 2 defibrillators - £2,887.20.

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary June £1,206.52.

LCC Tree Survey Works - £318.00 (CiL)

LCC Tree Pruning Works - £330.00 (CiL)

Newgate Nurseries £187.08 for planters and plants.

Annual Lease Payment to St Paul's Church - £500.

Hooley Electrical Services Ltd – Defib installation at Mellings (£271.00) and Farington Chip Shop (£142.65) = total £413.65.

Benches for St Paul's Bowling Club. (It was noted that ordering these had been delayed due to works being carried out on St Paul's Park but would be ordered shortly).

It was further noted that the Clerk had paid for the hi-vis vests for the Lengthsman and Parish Councillors (total cost £120.23) and this would be added to the Clerk's July salary.

39. (24/25) Projects for 2024/2025

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

Parish Council Newsletter – It was noted that the newsletter had now been finalised and was being printed. The Clerk had asked for an up-to-date list of roads in the Parish area and the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury would liaise with the Parish Councillors to distribute the newsletters when printed.

St Paul's Play Area – update/annual ROSPA playground inspection.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the works on the play area were now complete and that the contractors had done an excellent job. A Health and Safety inspection had been carried out by Croner and the Parish Council would receive the full report shortly. It was noted that our current lease did not provide access for the Bowling Club, so our Solicitors had been asked to look at the lease and explore potential solutions for pedestrian access to the Bowling Club.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had to have an annual inspection of the play area carried out by a qualified inspector. The Annual Inspection to be carried out by ROSPA would be £78 and this was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

BTR Field - the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that the vandalised cabin had now been removed from the field and there were a number of improvement works that needed to be undertaken, including looking at a new CCTV system. Costings would be obtained for these and it was important that the field was secure and tidy. The Clerk reported that the planning permission for the field was due to expire in December and the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should re-apply for planning permission.

Farington Fun Day 15th September 2024 – Councillor Baz Howard updated the Parish Council on progress with the Fun Day, including entertainment, marquees and portable toilets. He was working closely with the Round Table and local community groups to hopefully have a very successful and enjoyable day. He was having regular meetings to plan the event and would welcome Parish Councillors to attend. Councillor Baz Howard would circulate details to the Parish Council.

Lengthsman's equipment – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that in order for the Lengthsman to carry out his job, he needed to have access to the right equipment. A quote had been received from Northwest Mowers Ltd for a Stihl clearing saw and Stihl blower at a cost of £1208.00, this included the first service for the equipment. It was felt that the equipment should be regularly serviced and maintained and that the right type of fuel should also be purchased which would be an additional cost.

It was proposed by Councillor Baz Howard that the Parish Council should purchase the equipment as outlined above at a cost of £1,208.00 and that in addition to this the fuel is purchased and a regular service plan put in place. This was seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Moss Lane - wilding area – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that a number of residents were still very concerned about the wilding area and the lack of progress, especially with regard to the wire/rubble and Ragwort on the land. A meeting had been held between Officers at South Ribble Borough Council and local Borough Councillors, however the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury was disappointed that he had not been invited to the meeting despite assurances that he would be involved. Councillor Baz Howard agreed that it was disappointing that the Parish Council had not been involved, especially as residents had complained directly to Parish Councillors. However, it was South Ribble Borough Council's land and ultimately they had the responsibility for providing the wilding area.

The Farington Parish Council Shield/Trophy – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he had added this to the agenda just as an idea that needed developing and discussing further. His original proposal was to purchase two trophies for the two schools in the area for pupils, however the Parish Council were aware that the children in the Parish attended a number of different schools in the area. There was also a discussion on if a trophy should be awarded for a community award. It was agreed that this needed further discussion and would be discussed at the next meeting.

Development of new areas within Farington for community use – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury asked the Parish Council to think of any new projects and ideas for community use, so any additional requests could be included in the budget setting in November.

Defibrillators – update – Councillor Baz Howard reported that the defibrillator was now up and running at Farington Chippy and that the other defibrillator was being installed at Mellings Garage. Consideration was given to where further defibrillators could be placed and the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that it was possible that the defibrillator at St Paul’s Church could be located outside but the Parish Council would need to supply a suitable cabinet. Suggestions for other locations included the Anchor Pub, Campbells Caravans or Carr Lane, these would need to be looked at further.

Mill Street – update – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that he had met with Councillor Jacky Alty and Officers to discuss Mill Street backs and the issues raised by local residents. It was noted that Councillor Jacky Alty had confirmed that South Ribble Borough Council would deal with the issues as they were a Borough rather than a Parish matter.

Resolved

i) That with regard to St Pauls Play Park, it was noted that a Health and Safety inspection had been carried out by Croner and that the Parish Council would receive the full report shortly. It was further noted that our current lease did not provide access for the Bowling Club, so our Solicitors had been asked to look at the lease and explore potential solutions for pedestrian access to the Bowling Club. The ROSPA annual play equipment inspection at a cost of £78 was agreed.

ii) That with regard to the Lengthsman’s equipment it was agreed that the Parish Council should purchase the equipment as outlined above at a cost of £1,208.00 and that in addition to this the fuel is purchased and a regular service plan is put in place.

40. (24/25) Clerk’s Report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

41. (24/25) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday Monday 2nd September 2024 at Bashall Grove Community Centre, PR25 4JU.

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.

42. (24/25) Appointment of Clerk (Para 1)

A confidential discussion was held, and it was agreed that Sue Whittam would be appointed as the permanent Clerk to the Parish Council with effect from 1st September 2024.