

## **Farington Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bashall Grove Community Centre on Monday 2 September at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam – Clerk  
PCSO Luke Walmsley – Lancashire Police  
PCSO Adam Heald – Lancashire Police  
12 members of the public

#### **43. (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 confirmed that Sue Whittam had been appointed as the permanent Clerk to the Council with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Green.

#### **44. (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.

Councillor Michael Green declared a personal interest in item 9, Grant Application – Leyland Hedgehog Rescue as he had been involved with them previously via his County Councillor role.

#### **45. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meetings**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury took the opportunity to mention the Extraordinary meeting that had been held on 12<sup>th</sup> August, to discuss with residents the Lancashire County Council Consultation on the proposed improvements to the A582. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he thought the meeting had been worthwhile and had been very well attended by residents. Councillor Phil Lawson said he thought it was an excellent meeting and asked if the Officers from Lancashire County Council had been thanked for their attendance, as agreed. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the Officers to thank them, and that the Parish Council had appreciated their attendance and answering questions and concerns about the proposed scheme.

## **Resolved**

That the Minutes from the Parish Council Meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **46. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury welcomed PCSO Luke Walmsley and PCSO Adam Heald to the meeting. He said that the Parish Council had appreciated the support given by the Police to the issues around Bispham Avenue, and he was pleased that the anti-social behaviour issues had now quietened down. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury also said that he had retrieved a knife on the street which had been handed into the police. The Police confirmed that they had been dealing with a number of issues, and that some of the children involved in the anti-social behaviour were of school age. It was important that residents reported any issues to the Police so that appropriate resources could be allocated to any incidents. It was noted that with regard to the lack of fencing near to the Caddick site, which was exacerbating the anti-social behaviour issues, Councillor Karen Walton and Councillor George Rear in their roles as Borough Councillors had been pushing for this to be sorted, and the Leader of the Borough Council had also asked the Community Safety and Safeguarding Officer at the Borough Council to get involved. This was very much appreciated by the Parish Council.

One member of the public commented that there had been seven youths on Bispham Avenue causing issues and they would be happy when the Caddick area was fenced off and therefore inaccessible to the young people.

Councillor Karen Walton said there had been eleven youths on Hope Terrace Park who had tried to set fire to the shelter, but luckily did not cause too much damage.

Councillor Phil Lawson said he was aware of a current knife amnesty and the Police confirmed that they had a number of knife surrender bins in South Ribble.

Another member of the public referred to an incident on 12<sup>th</sup> August when a group of youths on electric bikes went down School Lane. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reiterated that all incidents needed to be reported to the Police and this could be done easily online, this was important as the data gathered would increase the support provided by the Police. He also said that a new Police Officer was due to start in the Farington area and that further information would be circulated once the Officer had started in his role.

One member of the public said that Farington Bowling Club had been subjected to vandalism with windows smashed and the gutters pulled down, but it had been quiet during the summer months, but would probably start again now that the schools were back. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was happy to go down to the Bowling Club and he asked if the member of the public would leave their contact details with the Clerk at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Haydn Williams said that PCSO James Slater had set up a WhatsApp network where people can report issues and it may be worthwhile looking how this worked and rolling it out to other areas including the Parish.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury thanked the Police for attending and for keeping the Parish Council and residents up to date with issues.

#### **47. (24/25) Adjournment for Public Participation**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Mary Swindlehurst who had come along to talk about her grant application for Leyland Hedgehog Rescue. Councillor Phil Lawson gave some background to the grant application and said that he had first met Mary when he had a number of hedgehogs in his garden that needed some care and he had been impressed by the work that was carried out by Mary and her volunteers. Mary explained that medication for the hedgehogs was very expensive costing around £1,076 every three months. She explained that the number of hedgehogs needing care was increasing due to the number of strimmers being used and people not realising that the hedgehogs were underneath hedges. The majority of hedgehogs could be saved and Mary had a small team of volunteers who helped her with this work. She also explained that she had 20 other fosterers including prisoners at Wymott Prison who helped look after poorly hedgehogs before they were returned back to the wild. Mary said that she had a Facebook Page that people could join and find out the latest information on their work.

Councillor Michael Green said that the Parish Council appreciated all the work that she carried out in saving hedgehogs and asked about the location of hedgehogs that she looked after. Mary said that she had a number of hedgehogs from right across the area including Farington. The “no mow” May event had been wonderful in some ways but once June came there was a huge increase in hedgehogs being hurt. Councillor Haydn Williams said that South Ribble Borough Council had recently approved a Hedgehog Highways Action Plan as it was recognised that hedgehogs were important to biodiversity.

Councillor Baz Howard asked if the volunteers gave talks to schools and other organisations to make people aware of the issues. Mary confirmed that they carried out talks when they could and she also said she would try and arrange for some representation at the Farington Fun Day to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury thanked Mary for attending the meeting and said that the grant would be considered later in the meeting and the Clerk would let her know the outcome as soon as possible. He then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item.

One member of the public asked when Victoria Plumbing would be open and if there was a direct contact with the management company for the site. Councillor Karen Walton said that they had been working proactively with the management company, but they would not currently say when Victoria Plumbing would be open as this was an operational matter.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he had also spoken to the Management Company and that a point of contact for residents would be shared as soon as this was available.

One member of the public said they had recently moved into Bashall Grove and they were looking at how to improve the garden and asked if there was any help available either through grants and volunteers. It was noted that the land was owned by Progress Housing and as such it should be their responsibility to prune the trees and maintain the land. The resident reported that Progress Housing had advised that it was up to the residents to maintain the land. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Progress Housing to ask about the maintenance and to clarify the position with regard to responsibilities. Councillor Phil Lawson thanked the residents for the work they had done on the garden as it was looking a lot better.

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

#### **48. (24/25) Planning**

It was noted that the New Model Farm had received planning permission and was now up for sale.

The Clerk confirmed that she had started the application for the BTR field, to vary condition 2 relating to extending the time period for the changing facilities to be in place. She had “served notice” on the landowner that planning would be applied for which was a legal requirement. It was noted that the current permission expired in February 2025 so there was sufficient time to apply for the renewal.

There were no further planning matters for discussion at the meeting.

#### **Resolved**

That, the update on planning is received and noted.

#### **49. (24/25) Dates of Meetings for 2025**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the draft dates of meetings for 2025 and it was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the draft dates as presented below should be agreed by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Andreea Oprea and unanimously agreed. It was noted that the May meeting, which was the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May due to the bank holiday.

Monday 3 Feb 2025	- Bashall Grove Community Centre PR25 4JU.
Monday 3 March 2025	- Lowerfield Community Centre PR26 6QQ.
Monday 7 April 2025	- Bashall Grove Community Centre PR25 4JU.
Tuesday 6 May 2025	- Lowerfield Community Centre PR26 6QQ.
Monday 2 June 2025	- Bashall Grove Community Centre PR25 4JU.
Monday 7 July 2025	- Lowerfield Community Centre PR26 6QQ.
Monday 1 Sept 2025	- Bashall Grove Community Centre PR25 4JU.
Monday 6 October 2025	- Lowerfield Community Centre PR26 6QQ.
Monday 3 Nov 2025	- Bashall Grove Community Centre PR25 4JU.

Monday 1 Dec 2025 - Lowerfield Community Centre PR26 6QQ.

### **Resolved**

That, approval is given to the dates of meetings for 2025 as set out above.

### **50. (24/25) Remembrance Events 2024**

The Parish Council gave considered the arrangements for the Remembrance Service at Bashall Grove. It was noted that Councillor Tony Green organised the event last year, and although he was unable to be present at tonight's meeting, Councillor Michael Green said he was sure that Councillor Tony Green was happy to take on this role again for this year. The event would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11 am and the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he would speak to Father Simon at St Catherines Church to see if he would lead the prayers and service. The service booklets had been printed last year but they needed a few changes including adding the Parish Council's logo, so the Clerk agreed to look for the original artwork so that this could be actioned.

Councillor Michael Green agreed to order the wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council and it was agreed that five wreaths would be needed. Councillor Tony Green would be asked to arrange the bugler for the service.

With regard to the support for the British Legion for their Remembrance Service and road closure, it was noted that they had not yet confirmed if financial support would be needed this year. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting once confirmation or otherwise had been received from the British Legion.

### **Resolved**

i) That approval is given to the arrangements for the Bashall Grove Remembrance Service as outlined above, and that Councillor Michael Green will order the wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council.

ii) That, with regard to the support for the British Legion for their Remembrance Service and road closure, this would be discussed at the October meeting of the Parish Council.

### **51. (24/25) Grant Application**

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

#### **Leyland Hedgehog Rescue**

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant towards supporting Leyland Hedgehog Rescue to help with their costs towards medication and caring for ill and wounded hedgehogs. As discussed earlier in the meeting, it was noted that Mary Swindlehurst and her volunteers offered a fantastic facility for hedgehogs across the whole of the Borough area, and that a number of hedgehogs from Farington were cared for on a regular basis. It was noted that under the Parish Council's grants

scheme a maximum of £400 could be awarded. However, Councillor Andreea Oprea asked about the Biodiversity Grant that the Parish Council had received from Lancashire County Council and if this could be used to fund the purchase of hedgehog homes and feeding boxes from Leyland Hedgehog Rescue, and if these could be put in St Paul's Park and other areas in the Parish. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury thought that this was an excellent idea.

Councillor Andreea Oprea proposed that the Parish Council awarded £400 towards the cost of medicine/food for hedgehogs, and an additional £300 (from the Lancashire County Council Biodiversity Grant), to fund the purchase of hedgehog homes and feeding stations. This was seconded by Councillor Karen Walton and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

### **Resolved**

That approval is given to award £400 towards the cost of medicine/food for hedgehogs to Leyland Hedgehog Rescue, and an additional £300 (from the Lancashire County Council Biodiversity Grant), to fund the purchase of hedgehog homes and feeding stations.

### **52. (24/25) Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation**

The Clerk reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was currently carrying out a Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan. The Consultation was via an online survey and the closing date for comments was 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. It was agreed that individual Councillors should complete the online survey if they wished to do so.

### **Resolved**

That individual Councillors should complete the online survey in response to the Police and Crime Plan Consultation if they wish to do so.

### **53. (24/25) Financial Matters**

It was noted that the current bank balance as at 9 August 2024 was £407,200.77. We had received the monthly fee of £50.00 per month from Leyland Albion and we had also received £800 from LCC for the PROW/Biodiversity Grants Scheme.

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

Reimbursement to Cllr Howard for Defibs - £2,887.20 (Cheque no 1109).  
Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary June £1,206.52 (Cheque no 1110).  
Hooley Electrical Services Ltd – Defib installation at Mellings (£271.00) and Farington Chip Shop (£142.65) = total £413.65. (Cheque 1111).  
Berry's Lengthsman's materials - £20.35 (Cheque no 1112).  
North West Mowers – Lengthsmans equipment - £1,258.00 (Cheque no 1113).  
Peter Heise Lengthsman - £936.00 (Cheque no 1114).  
LCC Tree Pruning - £330 (Cheque no 1115).  
LCC Tree inspection - £318.00 (Cheque no 1116).  
Leyland Playscheme grant - £850.00 (Cheque no 1117).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary July £1,206.52 + reimbursement for hi-vis vests £120.23 = total £1,326.75 (Cheque no 1118).

PFA Consulting for agreed costs towards the Ulnes Walton prison campaign - £124.80 (Cheque no 1119).

Berry's Lengthsman's materials £153.08 (Cheque no 1120).

Newsletter Refill Store - £430 (Cheque no 1121).

St Paul's Church room hire for Extraordinary meeting £54.00 (Cheque no 1122).

Newgate Nurseries, plants for planters including some outstanding invoices from 2023 - £616.20 (Cheque no 1123).

LCC Groundworks St Paul's Play Park - £44,734.28 (Cheque no 1124).

LCC BTR works removing cabin - £2,310.00 (Cheque no 1125).

LCC Drainage works St Paul's Play Park - £4,136.21 (Cheque no 1126).

Peter Heise Lengthsman - £1,050 (Cheque no 1127).

It was further noted that we had also paid bank charges to 8 June £8.00; bank charges to 8 July £9.40; Monthly fee Croner £315.74; Clerk's pension (True Potential) monthly fee £115.57; British Gas June £558.31 and July £529.81; Water bill for BTR field £62.53. It was noted that the Parish Council would look at reducing the energy costs for BTR field and consider an alternative supplier.

### **Resolved**

The following outstanding invoices were agreed for payment: -

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

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

Fairman's (Black Swan Ltd) for completing leavers information for former Clerk - £500.

Shotstoppers Ltd (Fairman's for pension admin Clerk) £144.00.

Fairman's (Black Swan Ltd) for professional accountancy fees £718.00.

Trophies for Farington Fun Day £272.50.

### **54. (24/25) Projects for 2024/2025**

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

**Parish Council Newsletter** – It was noted that most of the newsletters had been delivered and the Parish Council had received positive feedback. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said thank you to Mr and Mrs Everett who had delivered a number of leaflets on behalf of the Parish Council, this was very much appreciated. The next newsletter would be printed for December and it would include Christmas information, Fun Day pictures, information on the Clerk and other items. The Parish Council would look to sign off the newsletter at their November meeting.

### **St Paul's Consultation/Play Area**

As the works had now been completed on the park, it was agreed to carry out a further consultation on the use of the remainder of the leased field. A draft consultation had previously been agreed by the Parish Council. The Clerk would finalise the consultation with a view to this being available at the beginning of October.

It was reported that the kissing gate had been damaged by a mobility scooter and this had now been repaired. The gate was a fully accessible gate and complied with all relevant regulations and health and safety provisions.

**BTR Field** - the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that works were required to the BTR field and LCC had been asked to provide costings so that the Parish Council could consider these.

**Farington Fun Day 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024** – Councillor Baz Howard updated the Parish Council on progress with the Fun Day, including entertainment, marquees and portable toilets. Copies of the draft posters to promote the event were circulated to the Parish Council and the “red” poster was unanimously agreed. Details of the Fun Day would be shared on social media. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that Councillor Baz Howard had done a fantastic job in organising the event and this was wholeheartedly supported by the Parish Council.

It was noted that St Paul’s School were also holding an event on 14<sup>th</sup> September and it was agreed to put their poster on our noticeboards.

### **Mill Street Lighting – joint project with South Ribble Borough Council**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that an approach had been made by South Ribble Borough Council to look at a joint project to fund lighting on Mill Street. The Parish Council were awaiting further details, so this would be discussed further once more information had been received.

**The Farington Parish Council Shield/Trophy** – The Parish Council had agreed in principle that this was a good idea but it needed to be discussed further with regard to the involvement of schools and the type of award. Councillor Baz Howard referred to the Good Citizen Award and said he would find out further information for the Parish Council. Councillor Karen Walton would make an initial approach to St Gerrard’s School to see what they thought of the idea and likewise Councillor Phil Lawson would approach St Paul’s Farington Moss, to gauge their opinion/advice.

### **55. (24/25) Clerk’s Report – for information only**

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report. However, Councillor Karen Walton asked to raise a couple of items for information. With regard to the wilding area at Moss Lane, Councillor Karen Walton reported that hedge planting would be done over the winter period and that prices for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the works would be approved shortly. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said it was positive that some works were going ahead but he was disappointed that the Parish Council had been excluded from all discussions after assurance that they would initially be included. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was reluctant to make a formal complaint but this behaviour did not encourage joint communication and working together for the benefit of residents.

Councillor Karen Walton also said that Skin Deep would consider a defibrillator outside their premises which was in a good location, and the Clerk said she would add this to next month’s agenda.



## **56. (24/25) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Lowerfield Community Centre, PR26 6QQ.