

## **Farington Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Lowerfield Community Centre on Monday 4 October at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam – Clerk  
PCSO Dewhurst – Lancashire Police  
PCSO Rawsthorne – Lancashire Police  
9 members of the public

#### **57. (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.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Michael Green, and apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Green and Councillor Haydn Williams.

#### **58. (24/25) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Michael Green declared an interest in Item 10 – Crossing Stanifield Lane, as this would be presented to Lancashire County Council Cabinet for approval, and he was the Cabinet Member for health for that authority.

#### **59. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meetings**

##### **Resolved**

That the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **60. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury welcomed PCSO Dewhurst and PCSO Rawsthorne to the meeting. He said that the Parish Council were aware of a number of incidents with off road bikes and he asked the Police to provide an update. PCSO Rawsthorne said that off-road bikes continued to be an issue across the Borough and they had recently had a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner to see what could be done. It was reported that there had been a terrible incident in Bamber Bridge when a pregnant lady was seriously injured and her unborn baby had sadly died. PCSO Rawsthorne said there had also been an increase in robberies in the area.

One member of the public reported that some high-end cars were seen parked on Croston Road and then disappeared. They also said that speeding continued to be in issue in the Parish. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was

concerned about the burglaries in the Parish and would be interested on how the Police and Crime Commissioner was going to tackle the increase in crime. He also referred to the Lengthsman's cabin on the BTR field which had been broken into and attempts had been made to set it on fire. The Parish Council had taken action by removing the cabin to minimise the risk. However, there were still ongoing issues with youths targeting the area. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he had also met with representatives from Caddick regarding the fencing and hopefully the gap in the fencing would be resolved shortly, as this also encouraged youths to access the site. The Police said they were aware of the issues at Caddick. Councillor Karen Walton said there had been no recent reports of people being down there but it was important for this to be kept an eye on.

Issues were raised regarding the blind corner at Bannister Lane/Croston Road junction, as this was a near miss hotspot. This had been reported to Lancashire County Council but the Police were asked if anything could be done about this. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was pushing for the whole of Croston Road to be reduced to 20 mph. Concerns were also raised regarding the amount of HGV's using Croston Road which had a 7.5 tonne weight limit when they should be using the bypass, and the Police were asked if they could have a look at this as well. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that anything that could be done to slow down the traffic would be welcomed.

One member of the public appreciated the Police attending the meeting but highlighted that information was needed on the crime statistics for the Farington Parish area and not the wider Borough area, as the local information was more relevant to the residents. He also asked what was being done about the off-road bikes, as Police initiatives in London had resulted in over 100 bikes being seized if the rider was caught travelling above the 15 mph speed limit. He also asked for the Police to have some presence in the area and tackled issues regarding anti-social behaviour and bikes racing through the Bannister Lane, Croston Road, Church Lane and Fowler Lane areas. He said that high visibility was needed by the Police as this would help deter crime in the Parish. The Clerk agreed to contact Sgt Atkinson to ask for regular updates on parish crime statistics. Other residents also raised their concerns especially about the off-road bikes. Residents felt that action was needed and they reported that Andrew Snowden the previous Police and Crime Commissioner had been very supportive. The Clerk agreed to contact Clive Grunshaw, the current Police and Crime Commissioner to see if he would attend a meeting of the Parish Council and to ask what was being done about anti-social behaviour and off-road bikes.

One member of the public raised the issue of a burglary near their home and also concerns about people knocking on doors pertaining to be from a charitable organisation. They asked if this was allowed. Councillor Michael Green said that they were entitled to knock on doors unless it was a "No Cold Calling Zone", but it was important to ask for ID and the Charity number to ensure that they were legitimate.

Councillor Phil Lawson said there had been a lot of graffiti lately and some of it was on the war memorial at the roundabout. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said there had also been similar graffiti on the Parish Council noticeboards.

One member of the public raised the issue of parking on Croston Road close to the school and asked about the hardstanding on St Paul's Play Park and why it was closed to vehicles. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury explained that a number of incidents and near misses had happened on the park relating to vehicles and children. The Parish Council had initially closed the hardstanding temporarily due to health and safety issues, but following a survey carried out by the School's Head Teacher with parents of the school, they had asked the Parish Council that the area remained closed and the Parish Council had agreed to this on safety grounds. The member of the public said there was a lot of issues with parents who just abandoned their vehicles when dropping their children at school. However, it was the parents' responsibility to park safely. The member of the public said that the bus very often had to stop in the middle of the road to let passengers on and off the bus, as other cars were parked near the bus stop. It was noted that there were no road markings for the bus stop and Councillor Michael Green said he would speak to Lancashire County Council about this.

Councillor Phil Lawson said that his children attended the school and the best option was to park at the Church. He said that the number of near misses had been terrifying and that the Head Teacher definitely did not want the hardstanding reopened. It was noted that all schools had similar issues with parking and that this was difficult to manage. The Clerk agreed to contact the Head Teacher to ask if he could remind parents to respectfully park their vehicles and not to obstruct residents' drives/footpaths. One member of the public said that the issue was not as bad when the Bowling Club was closed, however it was noted that the bowling season was due to start.

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

### **61. (24/25) Adjournment for Public Participation**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything else to raise that had not already been raised with the Police.

One member of the public asked about the cutting of hedges and the encroachment onto footpaths. It was noted that hedges were not cut during nesting season and it was the responsibility of the landowner to cut their own hedges and reduce encroachment.

Councillor Karen Walton said that if the hedge belonged to a private resident and was causing an issue, South Ribble Borough Council would write to the resident to ask them to cut their hedge. Councillor Michael Green said that if the hedge was blocking a footpath or site line, then Lancashire County Council could deal with this as an emergency. One resident asked if the hedges on the empty property on

Croston Road (no 152) could be looked at and Councillor Karen Walton said she would look into this on the resident's behalf. The resident also asked about the future use of the property and it was noted that the Parish Council were not aware of any intended change of use and that there was no current planning application in respect this site.

One member of the public asked if some blinds could be put on the windows at Caddick before winter as the lights were constantly on, or even if the lights could just be turned off at night. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was working closely with the Borough Councillors, Councillor Karen Walton and Councillor George Rear to try and arrange a meeting with Caddick and Victoria Plumbing to discuss the ongoing issues.

One member of the public asked about the responsibility for the large trees at Bashall Grove. Councillor Karen Walton said she would speak to the Officer at South Ribble Borough Council and find out who was responsible for them.

It was also noted that there had been a bad odour coming from the waste plant and this had been reported to Environmental Health at South Ribble Borough Council. However, it could have been emanating from the waggons which were parked up after visiting the site. Councillor Michael Green said he would speak to Councillor Shaun Turner, the Cabinet Member responsible for the Environment at LCC about this.

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

## **62. (24/25) Planning**

There were no current planning applications for discussion at the meeting. The Clerk reported that she had submitted the Planning Application to extend the use of the BTR field and she would keep the Parish Council up to date on progress with the application.

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

### **Resolved**

That, the update on planning is received and noted.

## **63. (24/25) Parish and Town Council Conference/LALC AGM**

It was noted that the Lancashire Town & Parish Council Conference would be held at County Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November between 9.30 am and 2.00 pm and would be followed by the LALC AGM in the afternoon. Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Karen Walton agreed to attend the Lancashire Town & Parish Conference on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk agreed to book their places at the Conference.

It was noted that if any Parish Councillors wished to attend the LALC AGM then they should advise the Clerk accordingly who would book a place for them.

## **Resolved**

- i) That approval is given for Councillor Michael Green and Councillor Karen Walton to attend the Lancashire Town & Parish Conference on behalf of the Parish Council.
- ii) That with regard to the LALC AGM if any Parish Councillor wished to attend, they should advise the Clerk accordingly who would book a place for them.

## **64. (24/25) Remembrance Events 2024**

It was reported that the British Legion had not contacted the Clerk to ask for the Parish Council's support for their Remembrance Service road closure, so it was hoped that they had secured funding for their Remembrance event.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he would arrange a Priest to carry out the service at Bashall Grove on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11 am. It was noted that the Priest at St Catherines had recently also taken responsibility for St Mary's at Euxton. With regard to the order of service, the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the original artwork had now been found and that he would update this with the Parish Council logo and arrange the printing.

Councillor Michael Green confirmed that he would order the wreaths for the Parish Council, and also confirmed that Councillor Tony Green would arrange the poppies as per last year.

## **Resolved**

That the update on Remembrance Events 2024 is received and noted

## **65. (24/25) Financial Matters**

It was noted that the current bank balance as at 9 September 2024 was £350,337.84. We had received the monthly fee of £50.00 per month from Leyland Albion.

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

Trophies for Farington Fun Day £272.50, John Harrison. (Cheque no 1128).  
Peter Heise Lengthsman - £1050.00. (Cheque no 1129).  
Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary August £1,206.52. (Cheque no 1130).  
ROSPA Play Safety for St Paul's Play Park inspection £117.60. (Cheque no 1131).  
Fairman's (Black Swan Ltd) for professional accountancy fees £918.00. (Cheque 1132).  
Peter Heise Lengthsman - £1010.50 (£1000.50 wages; £10.00 keys) – note should have been £1050.00 wages so £49.50 owing for next month. (Cheque no 1133).  
Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary September £1,206.52 + stationary £28.90 and filing cabinet £182.58 = total £1,418.00. (Cheque no 1134).  
PKF Littlejohn External Audit Fee £756.00 (Cheque no 1135).  
Leyland Hedgehog Rescue, grant and purchase of hedgehog homes/feeding stations £700.00. (Cheque no 1136). (To be handed to Cllr Lawson at tonight's meeting).

St Paul Farington Moss, £500 lease payment. (Cheque no 1137). (To be handed to Cllr Karen Walton at tonight's meeting).

We have also paid bank charges to 8 August £7.40; Monthly fee Croner £315.74; Clerk's pension (True Potential) monthly fee £115.57; British Gas August £512.62 Water bill for BTR field £78.01. We have received notification from our Accountants that the VAT claim has been submitted for the last financial year and we should receive £3,057.34 shortly.

### **Resolved**

1) The following outstanding invoices were agreed for payment: -

Shotstoppers Ltd (Fairman's for pension admin Clerk) £192.00.

Fun Day reimbursement to Cllr Shaun Bradbury – Climbing Wall £395.00 + Scoop/Taz £495.00 + Face Painter £195.00 and marquee £1,074.00 = total £2,159.

South Ribble Borough Council for routine grounds maintenance for April to September 2023 £1,434.73 + routine grounds maintenance for April to September 2024 £1,308.91 = total £2,743.64.

Lancashire County Pension Fund £3,500.

C & W Berry Limited – for Lengthsman's materials £45.40.

Fun Day reimbursement to Cllr Baz Howard – ScreenandDesign £180.00 + Forget me Not £40.00 + Bouncelona £475.00 = total £695.00

2) Report of the External Auditor

The Clerk reported that due to the additional meeting held to approve the accounts, which was later than the normal date for approval, the External Auditor had provided the following with the audit conclusion: -

To note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2024/25 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights. As a result, the smaller authority must answer "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 and ensure it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2025/26.

It was noted that the report and all documents were on the Parish Council website.

### **66. (24/25) Projects for 2024/2025**

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

**Parish Council Newsletter** – It was noted that articles needed to be ready, and sent to the Clerk by the end of October to be signed off at the November meeting.

#### **St Paul's Play Area/Christmas event**

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury suggested that a Christmas event could be held at St Paul's Play Park. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that this was

an excellent idea and it was agreed that this would be held on Saturday 14 December from 4pm until 7pm. There would be carol singing, Father Christmas, a local choir etc and the details would be finalised at our November meeting.

With regard to the damaged gate which had been reported as criminal damage, the cost for the replacement gate, which again had to be a fully accessible gate and compliant with all current health and safety legislation was £2,240. Information regarding the replacement gate was circulated to the Parish Council. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the Parish Council purchases the new gate as quoted via Lancashire County Council at a cost of £2,240 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies, this was seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson and unanimously agreed.

**BTR Field** - the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that as reported at the last meeting, a number of works needed to be carried out on the field. Two quotes had now been received via Lancashire County Council and the information had been circulated to the Parish Council. The quote from Dodds appeared to be more cost effective, and it was therefore proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the quote from Dodds for works on the BTR field at a cost of £8,160 including VAT should be accepted, and that this should be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. It was noted that this would be phase 1 of the planned works required on the field.

**Farington Fun Day 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024** – Councillor Baz Howard said that in spite of the weather he was really pleased with our first Fun Day as everyone had enjoyed the event. Councillor Michael Green said that Councillor Baz Howard had done a fantastic job in organising the event and so had the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury, as both of them had made the event a fantastic success. Councillor Baz Howard also said a huge thank you to Donna and Nick Everett, and asked that it was placed on record the Parish Council's appreciation for all their fantastic help with the event.

The Parish Council agreed that next year's event would be held on 14 September 2025. Councillor Baz Howard said he would forward a list of people/organisations who needed to be thanked to the Clerk.

**Defibrillators** – Councillor Karen Walton informed the Parish Council that Andrea from Skin Deep was willing to have a defibrillator on the front of her shop, this was very much appreciated by the Parish Council. Councillor Michael Green proposed that the Parish Council purchase a defibrillator for the front of Skin Deep and this was seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

**Crossing Stanifield Lane** – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that an official request had now been received from the Officer at South Ribble Borough Council asking to confirm that the Parish Council would contribute £10,000 towards a new crossing on Stanifield Lane. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was disappointed that there had been no consultation about the proposed crossing and no involvement/engagement with the Parish Council. He had been aware of a petition on social media regarding the crossing, but having checked with South Ribble Borough Council, it was noted that the petition had dated back to 2016, had not been instigated by South Ribble Borough Council nor had any results been published. It was surprising that this had been recirculated recently.

A copy of the letter from South Ribble Borough Council and the report from Lancashire County Council on the two possible locations for the crossing had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that no up-to-date speed surveys had been carried out, and some concerns were raised that the installation of the crossing could make the road more dangerous. However, the Parish Council had earmarked £10,000 in 2019 towards the proposed crossing and the Parish Council needed to rely on the highways experts to ensure that the road was safe for all users. It was noted that the remainder of the funding for the crossing would be allocated by South Ribble Borough Council and this would be subject to a Cabinet decision at that authority at a meeting to be held on 16 October 2024.

The Parish Council recognised that £10,000 was a lot of money to contribute to one scheme, but were also aware that resident's safety was of paramount importance. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury proposed that the Parish Council approves the contribution of a maximum of £10,000 towards the Stanifield Lane crossing on successful completion of the project, to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also agreed that any further information or publicity, such as press releases or social media postings regarding the project, is directed to either the Parish Clerk or Chairman, for approval, prior to any decision or publication being made.

### **Resolved**

- i) That, with regard to the December newsletter, articles should be submitted to the Clerk by the end of October for sign off at the November meeting of the Parish Council.
- ii) That, approval is given to hold a Christmas event at St Paul's Play Park on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December between 4pm-6pm.
- iii) That, approval is given to purchase the replacement gate for St Paul's Play Park at a cost of £2,240 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.
- iv) That, approval is given for the works to be carried out on BTR field by Dodds at a cost of £8,160 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.
- v) That, agreement is given to holding the Farington Fun Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- vi) That, approval is given to the purchase of a defibrillator outside of Skin Deep on Croston Road, Farington Moss.
- vii) (a) That, with regard to the Stanifield Lane crossing, approval is given to the contribution of a maximum of £10,000 towards the crossing on successful completion of the project, to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.
- vii) (b) That, any further publicity such as press releases or social media postings regarding the project, is directed to either the Parish Clerk or Chairman, for approval, prior to any decision or publication being made.



### **67. (24/25) Borough and County Council reports – for information only**

Councillor Karen Walton reported that the tenders for the work on Moss Lane had now been considered and the works would be taking place soon. She also reported that there had been a Scrutiny meeting with United Utilities and the Environment Agency to discuss the River Lostock. It was also noted that there would be two by elections in South Ribble to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> (Bamber Bridge West) and 24<sup>th</sup> October (Middleforth).

Councillor Michael Green referred to the Moss Side environmental damage at Paradise Park. He also reported that the new cricket pitches in Farington were progressing well. He was also pleased to report that the Government had agreed the devolution deal for the County Council which would establish a County Combined Authority.

### **68. (24/25) Clerk's Report – for information only**

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Octopus Energy as recommended by a resident at the last meeting, but unfortunately due to the type of meter on the BTR field they were unable to take over our electricity account. The Clerk said she would contact British Gas to look at changing the meter.

The Clerk also reported that Paul Foster MP had replied regarding the A582/B5253 dualling and had said that he remained committed to the dualling as an absolute priority. He also said that he would keep the Parish Council informed of any updates and would continue to lobby for the investment required for the full dualling.

### **69. (24/25) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 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.*

### **70. Clerk's Pension (para 1)**

A confidential discussion was held and it was unanimously agreed that the outstanding contribution to the LCPS should be paid.