

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bashall Grove Community Centre on Monday 4 November at 7.00pm.

Present:- Councillor Shaun Bradbury (Chairman); Councillor Baz Howard (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Michael Green; Councillor Tony Green; 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

Councillor Mary Green – South Ribble Borough Council

11 members of the public

71. (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 absence were received from Councillor Phil Lawson.

72. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Haydn Williams declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6 Planning, as a member of Planning Committee at South Ribble Borough Council. He advised the Parish Council that he would leave the meeting if any planning applications were discussed.

73. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meetings

Resolved

That the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury welcomed PCSO Luke Walmsley and PCSO Adam Heald to the meeting. They informed the Parish Council that the new Community Beat Manager PC Matt Rothwell was currently off because he had broken his leg, they hoped he would be back to work in Farington shortly.

PCSO Walmsley had produced the crime statistics for the Parish for the periods 2/8/24 – 2/9/24 and 2/10/24 – 2/11/24 and copies were available at the meeting. This was appreciated by the Parish Council as this had been requested by a resident at the previous Parish Council meeting. It was noted that crime in the area was relatively low but there were issues of concern. It was noted that the statistics did not include incidents of anti-social behaviour, and the Parish Council were also aware of

criminal damage at Farington Bowling Club. The Parish Council asked if statistics relating to these issues could be included in the future.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury explained that due to issues of criminal damage, works had been carried out on BTR field to remove the dug-outs and clear all brambles and shrubbery to make it a clear line of sight from the Business Park next door, so they could see any issues of anti-social behaviour or criminal damage.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury also explained that works had been carried out on St Paul's Play Park to ensure that off road bikes could not access the site. However recent damage to the accessible gate had resulted in the Parish Council having to replace this, and this would be put in place shortly.

One resident said that it was important that the police were seen in the Parish, as it did make a real difference to crime in the area. It was also important that the Police were familiar with their patch and if they were wearing hi-vis jackets they were more noticeable. One resident said that they had seen young people using electric bikes and riding on one wheel, which was dangerous. It was important that this was reported either online or by using the 101 number. The Police said they were looking at how these electric bikes could be dealt with including Police being trained on using similar bikes. There was also the possibility of using drones to catch offenders.

Councillor Haydn Williams asked about the statistics on theft and asked about thefts from shops. The Police said that it was important for everyone including shop owners to report any theft or issues as it was only by having accurate data that they could target their resources.

Councillor Andreea Oprea said that she was grateful for the Police for attending the meeting but highlighted an incident at her shop regarding a customer who was being very abusive. She agreed with comments made earlier that the Police should be seen in the area, and said that the more visible they are would deter crime.

Councillor Karen Walton also thanked the Police for attending and asked that the statistics could also include Hope Terrace which was part of the Parish Council area.

Councillor Michael Green said that in his role as a County Councillor he was carrying out test purchasing on knives, vapes etc and that he would appreciate any information which would help with the illegal selling of these products.

One resident asked if there was a particular time that the burglaries were carried out and the Police confirmed that there was no specific pattern.

One resident reiterated the need for Police to be seen on foot patrol in the Parish area and asked if information could be provided on how many days and what areas were patrolled each month.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reminded all residents to report all crime online and he thanked the Police for attending the meeting.

75. (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 fencing at Caddick and if there had been any progress. Councillor Karen Walton said she was waiting information about the new contact and as soon as she could she would share this with residents. She said the handover of the site had not happened as yet, but she had reported the lights issue to the Enforcement Officer at South Ribble Borough Council. The resident said that the lights were a lot better now and thanked Councillor Karen Walton for taking this up with South Ribble Borough Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he was still working to arrange a meeting with Officers at the Borough Council together with Borough and Parish elected representatives, and it was important that we all worked together. He also said that he would like the Landlord of the site to have an open day, where residents could look round and see the site for themselves.

One resident raised the issue of the sign on Croston Road going North saying "slow" and said that this should be coming South not North. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the Parish Council were pushing to put measures in place including making the road 20 MPH. The issue of speeding near Bannister Lane was also raised and Councillor Michael Green said that this had been reported but LCC Officers had said that there was no further action warranted at this time. It was important that any issues were reported to LCC so that the data was accurate and appropriate action could be taken.

One member of the public raised the issue of leaves at Bashall Grove that blocked the drains, he reported that a blind lady had been struggling due to the leaves being wet and slippery. He asked if he could raise this at the Borough Council meeting. It was noted that there was an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and that contact should be made directly with South Ribble Borough Council, to arrange to speak at the Council meeting if appropriate.

One resident commented that the work done by the Parish Council with regard to St Paul's Play Park had made a significant difference to resident's lives, especially with regard to closing the hard standing area which had significantly reduced anti-social behaviour and other issues. They thanked the Parish Council for all the work that they had done, and continued to do. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the Parish Council were here to provide help and support to residents and the comments were very much appreciated.

One resident informed the Parish Council that Farington Bowling Club had been broken into again and that a number of items including crisps and bottles of pop had been taken. It was noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be meeting with the resident the next day to discuss what could be done to help the Bowling Club.

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

76. (24/25) Planning

There were no current planning applications or planning matters for discussion at the meeting.

77. (24/25) Farington Parish Council Social Media

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that the Parish Council had previously adopted a Social Media Policy in May 2021, however the Parish Council had not progressed with any social media pages. The Clerk had revised the previously agreed Social Media Policy and this had been circulated to the Parish Council, any suggested changes had been marked in red on the document. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that although Councillor Phil Lawson could not be present at the meeting this evening, he had indicated that he would be happy to be the responsible Councillor for the Parish Council's FB page. Councillor Phil Lawson and the Clerk would be the administrators of the FB page.

Councillor Andreea Oprea asked if the Parish Council should consider joining LinkedIn as this was used by many professional organisations. Councillor Haydn Williams asked if all Parish Councillors should have admin rights as information would need to be posted quickly. The Clerk explained that the FB page would usually be used for posting information such as a link to the agenda and information regarding events organised by the Parish Council. It was not for use for general comments or any contentious issues. The Clerk also said that messages could be sent to the Parish Council but these would be via a private message and not in the public domain. The Parish Council unanimously agreed the Social Media Policy as presented and to set up a FB page as outlined above, with Councillor Phil Lawson and the Clerk as the administrators for this. This would be reviewed in 12 months. A copy of the Social Media Policy is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to setting up a FB page for the Parish Council as outlined above, and that the draft Social Media Policy as now presented is adopted by the Parish Council. A copy of the Social Media Policy is presented in the Minute Book.

78. (24/25) Financial Matters

It was noted that the current bank balance as at 9 October 2024 was £348,058.60. We had received the VAT reimbursement of £3,057.34. We had also 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: -

Shotstoppers Ltd (Fairman's for pension admin Clerk) £192.00. (Cheque no 1138)

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. (Cheque no 1139).

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. (Cheque 1140).

Lancashire County Pension Fund £3,500. (Cheque no 1141).

C & W Berry Ltd, Lengthsman's materials (2 invoices) total £45.40. (Cheque no 1142).

Fun Day reimbursement to Cllr Baz Howard – ScreenandDesign £180.00 + Forget me Not £40.00 + Bouncelona £475.00 = total £695.00. (Cheque no 1143).

Peter Heise Lengthsman wages £1,062.00 + £49.50 owing from last month, + £25.00 fuel for machinery. (Cheque no 1144).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary October £1,206.52. (Cheque no 1145).

We have also paid bank charges to 8 September £9.00; Monthly fee Croner £315.74; Clerk's pension (True Potential) monthly fee £115.57; British Gas September £579.66 Water bill for BTR field £78.01. We have paid the CPRE membership £36.00.

Councillor Haydn Williams asked about the Clerk's salary and how this was paid. The Clerk confirmed that Fairman's undertook all payroll including sorting the tax and NI, and each month when they had sent through the pay slip, the Parish Council then issued the cheque. This would be done by BACS once the new bank account was set up. It was noted that the new bank account was also a priority and would be sorted shortly.

Resolved

The following outstanding invoice was agreed for payment: -

Fairman's (Black Swan Ltd) for accounts £427.50.

It was noted that Councillor Shaun Bradbury had paid for the benches for St Paul's Bowling Club and would need to be reimbursed for the expenditure.

79. (24/25) Projects for 2024/2025

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

Parish Council Newsletter – It was noted that some articles had been received, and that the Clerk would send the articles to the printer after the Remembrance events so an article on the events could be included.

St Paul's Play Park - update

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that arrangements were progressing with the plans for the Christmas event arranged for 14th December at St Paul's Park with Father Christmas, and the sleigh now arranged. The children's choir, band and hospitality were currently being finalised. The Parish Council were looking at providing a selection box or an alternative Christmas gift for the children who visited Father Christmas. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the Parish Council should allocate a maximum budget of £500 for the

Christmas event and this was seconded by Councillor Karen Walton and unanimously agreed. It was noted that if there were any selection boxes/fruit left over from the event that this would be donated to local food banks.

It was reported that the Parochial Church Council at St Paul's Church had asked for a meeting regarding the hard standing and that the Parish Council had asked for suggested dates and details regarding the meeting and representatives. The Chairman of the Parish Council and the Clerk would represent the Parish Council at a meeting. It was noted that the Parish Council were also awaiting legal advice.

Crossing Stanifield Lane – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that following confirmation that the Parish Council would contribute £10,000 towards the new crossing on Stanifield Lane, he was disappointed that South Ribble Borough Council had not officially informed the Parish Council regarding the decision made by Cabinet and that there had been a number of social media postings which gave no acknowledgement to the money allocated by the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he had contacted the Chief Executive at South Ribble Borough Council to raise his concerns about this and had been advised that this was due to the Borough Council being in purdah, so subsequently they had been unable to confirm the decision by the Cabinet. Any social media posts by individual Borough Councillors were individual postings and not from the official decision from the Borough Council. However, the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury felt that South Ribble Borough Council could have written to the Parish Council to confirm the decision of Cabinet, even though at that time due to Purdah a joint press release regarding the decision could not be issued.

Councillor Haydn Williams said that Cabinet is a public meeting and as such all decisions are made in public. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that it was a lack of respect to the Parish Council that we had not been officially informed about the decision. He also asked the Parish Council if advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer regarding the issue around purdah and if an official complaint should be made from the Parish Council. Councillor Haydn Williams said that all Parish Councillors had not seen the correspondence between the Chairman and the Chief Executive and asked if this could be circulated to the Parish Council before a decision on further action was agreed. This was agreed by the Parish Council. It was noted that a press release had been drafted by South Ribble Borough Council and that the Chairman and Clerk had provided input to the press release which would be issued shortly.

Defibrillators – It was noted that the new defibrillator for the front of Skin Deep would be arranged shortly. It was reported that St Paul's Bowling Club had asked about a defibrillator at St Paul's Play Park. However, the Parish Council's criteria for a community defibrillator were that it was easily accessible and preferably on a main road, as per the ones recently installed by the Parish Council. Due to St Paul's Play Park not having any lighting, not being open 24 hours to the public and the cost of installing electricity to the site, it was agreed that this was not a suitable location for a community defibrillator.

BTR Field - the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that the works had now been carried out at BTR field and that the contractor had done a fantastic job. The dug-outs had been removed and the overgrown foliage cut back which would help deter anti-social behaviour which had been a problem on the field recently. The

Parish Council would now work with the football team to ensure that the field was kept tidy.

Remembrance Event 11 November – the Parish Council finalised the arrangements for the Remembrance Event to be held on Monday 11th November starting at 10.45 am at Bashall Grove Memorial Garden. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that Father Joe Bibby had kindly agreed to conduct the service at the Remembrance Event.

Noticeboard Mill Lane – It was reported that the noticeboard at Mill Lane needed replacing and this was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Farington Bowling Club – update – as reported earlier at the meeting, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed to meet a resident at the Bowling Club to look what could be done to make the Club secure. A further report would be provided to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Asset Tags – The Parish Council discussed having asset tags on all the Parish Council assets as this was seen as best practice for Parish Councils. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the Parish Council should purchase asset tags at a cost of between £150 - £200. This was seconded by Councillor Tony Green and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Hedgehog boxes/feeding stations – It was noted that the Parish Council had now received the hedgehog boxes and feeding stations purchased from Leyland Hedgehog Rescue, the Parish Council were asked to think about the locations for these and let the Clerk know of any suitable locations.

Resolved

- i) That, approval is given to a maximum budget of £500 to be allocated to the Christmas event at St Paul's Play Park on 14th December 2024.
- ii) That, approval is given to replacing the noticeboard at Mill Lane.
- iii) That, approval is given to purchase of asset tags at a cost of between £150 - £200.

80. (24/25) Borough and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Karen Walton reported that the works on Moss Lane would commence in November and would be completed by Christmas. This was funded by the UKSPF. Councillor Karen Walton also reported that the parking restrictions had been changed at Hope Terrace car park due to resident feedback that the costs were having a negative effect on shopping in the area.

Councillor Michael Green said that Lancashire County Council were again giving funding to warm spaces and that all the pot had almost been allocated.

81. (24/25) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she had circulated the Polling Station Review sent from South Ribble Borough Council, but there were no further comments received.

The Clerk also reported that she had received a response from the Head Teacher of Farington Moss St Paul's Primary School regarding parking issues near the school

and the school would include in their weekly newsletter a message to parents about responsible parking.

82. (24/25) Next Meeting

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

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following items 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.

83. Parish Council Solicitors (para 5)

A confidential discussion was discussed.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

84. St Paul's Play Park (para 5)

A confidential discussion was discussed.

Resolved

That approval is given to an independent Risk Assessment to be carried out.