

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bashall Grove Community Centre on Monday 3 February 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk
Councillor Mary Green – South Ribble Borough Council
17 members of the public

97. (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 advised that he was putting forward an Item of Urgent Business to the Parish Council relating to the consultation on the Central Lancashire Local Plan. He informed the Parish Council that the plan would be consulted on shortly and that the closest drop in event arranged by South Ribble Borough Council would be at Lostock Hall Library, and that as a number of sites were in the Farington Parish area, he intended holding a resident's meeting to discuss the Local Plan Consultation and to listen to the views of residents. He also said that the Parish Council would invite the Officers to attend from South Ribble Borough Council. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury proposed that this meeting should be arranged as soon as possible in line with the above, this was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Haydn Williams and for lateness from Councillor Michael Green who had been attending another meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting.

98. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Michael Green declared an interest in Item 9 relating to the quotes received from the Lancashire County Council Asset Management Team, as he is the County Councillor for the area.

99. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2024 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

100. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update/Adjournment for Public Participation

Unfortunately, there was no one present from the Neighbourhood Policing Team at the meeting and no current crime statistics available. The Clerk reported that the Police had intended being present and had probably been delayed due to operational duties.

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

One member of the public said that he come along to raise his concerns about the potential play area at Croston Meadows. He explained that when he had purchased his property, they had been told that there would be no play area and that the area would be trees only. He had replied directly to the consultation being undertaken by South Ribble Borough Council but he had come along to the Parish Council meeting to hear their views.

Councillor Karen Walton said that South Ribble Borough Council had consulted on the potential site for a play area, and it was really difficult to find any land that could be used. Currently the land was owned by Miller Homes, but if residents were supportive of a play area, then South Ribble Borough Council would negotiate with Miller Homes to purchase the land. Some residents raised their concerns that the area was unsuitable especially as it would be very close to some homes. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the Parish Council had been given extra time to put forward comments on the consultation due to the fact that the Parish Council did not have a meeting in January. The purpose of including the item on the agenda this evening was to listen to residents and then send a response to South Ribble Borough Council. The Parish Council recognised that there was a shortage of play areas in Farington but wanted to ensure that any new play areas were put in the right place and ideally planned when new homes were being built. Further concerns about the potential play area were raised by residents including the loss of wildlife and that Croston Road was an extremely busy road with a constant flow of vehicles. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

One member of the public said that Farington Bowling Club had again been broken into, but the Club had now managed to secure a grant towards the purchase of CCTV.

One member of the public asked if there were any further update about when Victoria Plumbing would be opening and also if there had been any progress with the fence on the Caddick site. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that unfortunately there had been some negative comments on social media and it appeared that it may involve some litigation. However, it was noted that there had been no more issues of anti-social behaviour and that the Police were keeping a close eye on the area.

The Clerk had circulated an update on the River Lostock from the Environment Agency. It was noted that there had been no pollution incidents since November 2024, and that the Environment Agency as part of their investigation had carried out extensive dye tracing and camera work as well as knocking on doors in the area. The Parish Council appreciated the update and there were no further questions raised.

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

101. (24/25) Planning

There were no current planning applications for discussion at the meeting. The Clerk reported that she had now received confirmation that the Planning Permission for the steel cabins/changing rooms on BTR field had been granted and would expire on 5 February 2030.

The Parish Council gave consideration to establishing a Working Group to look at the local plan and formulate the potential response from the Parish Council. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury to establish a Local Plan Working Group, this was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. Councillor Baz Howard, Councillor Tony Green, Councillor Andrea Oprea and Councillor Phil Lawson all agreed to be members of the Local Plan Working Group. It was noted that the Working Group would report back with any recommendations to the Parish Council.

As discussed earlier it was agreed that a residents meeting should be held in the Parish area to discuss the Consultation on the Local Plan and provide as much information as possible to local residents to help them complete their responses to the Local Plan.

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

Resolved

- i) That approval is given to the establishment of a Local Plan Working Group to formulate recommendations to the Local Plan Consultation for Parish Council approval; and that the Working Group comprises of Councillor Baz Howard, Councillor Tony Green, Councillor Andrea Oprea and Councillor Phil Lawson.
- ii) That approval is given to hold a resident's meeting to discuss the Consultation on the Local Plan and to listen to the views of residents. Officers from South Ribble Borough Council would also be invited to attend.

102. (24/25) Financial Matters

It was noted that the current bank balance as of 9 January 2025 was £367,178.25.

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: -

Reimbursement to Cllr Shaun Bradbury for selection boxes for Christmas event £330.40 (Cheque no 1150).

Refill Store for newsletter printing £430.00 (Cheque no 1151).

Reimbursement to Cllr Michael Green for Remembrance wreaths £122.25 (Cheque no 1152).

Cheque 1153 spoiled cheque.

Lancashire County Council for BTR field works £8,976 (CiL) (Cheque no 1154).

Reimbursement to Cllr Shaun Bradbury for benches for use by Farington Moss Bowling Club and asset tags £1,891.64.

Society of Local Clerks membership fee £150.00 (Cheque no 1156).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary December £1,242.43 (Cheque no 1157).

Peter Heise, Lengthsman wages December £787.50 (Cheque no 1158).

Peter Heise, Lengthsman wages January £787.50 (Cheque no 1159).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary January £1,242.43 (Cheque no 1160).

South Ribble Borough Council bins for Fun Day £61.00 (Cheque no 1161).

We had also paid bank charges to 8 November £9.40 and 8 December £7.00; Monthly fee Croner £315.74; Clerk's pension (True Potential) November £115.57 and December £145.18; British Gas November £610.54; British Gas December £660.32; Water November £78.01 and December £290.16.

Resolved

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

C & W Berry for Lengthman's materials - £17.54

Whitehill Direct for noticeboard Mill Lane - £1,167.60.

2) It was agreed to defer the update on CiL as the Parish Council were awaiting further information from South Ribble Borough Council.

3) It was noted that progress had been made with the transfer of the Parish Council bank account to Barclays and that all paperwork had now been completed. It was hoped that the Parish Council would receive confirmation shortly.

103. (24/25) Consultation on Proposed Play Area for Croston Meadows

As discussed earlier under public participation, the Parish Council had been given extra time to consider the consultation on a proposed play area at Croston Meadows. Taking into account the comments made by residents and the emails received, the Parish Council agreed to make the following comments.

The Parish Council were concerned about the proposed play area due to the fact that in the original planning permission there was no play area planned, and residents purchased their homes based on the fact that the area would be a wild meadow/open area for the benefit of the residents.

The Parish Council understands that currently South Ribble Borough Council do not own the land and are in negotiation to purchase the land from the developer, but taking into account the residents views that we had received, it did appear to be the case that the proposed play area was not in the right place.

The proposed location was extremely close to the houses on Lingard Close, which is a quiet cul-de-sac inhabited predominantly by older residents. The proposed play area could cause significant noise pollution for the residents, particularly when older children and teenagers use it.

Croston Road is a busy road with a constant flow of vehicles, there are issues with speeding vehicles, the traffic turning into the junction tends to be fast moving. This junction is the main arterial route into the Croston Meadows Housing estate, the houses on Heatherleigh, and also some of the houses on the newer Tilia estate (adjacent housing estate to Croston Meadows estate) with even more houses currently under construction.

The current public open space is a home to a lot of wildlife, which includes protected species of bats, hedgehogs and a large variety of birds and insects. A play area at that location would have a negative and damaging effect on the existing wildlife.

The Parish Council do recognise that play areas are much needed in Farington, but it was really important that these play areas are planned at the time of development being granted, and are in the right place for all our residents.

Resolved

That, approval is given to the Clerk to respond to the consultation on the proposed play area at Croston Meadows in line with the above.

104. (24/25) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Part III Recording of Public Bridleway on Farington Moss from Moss Lane to Bannister Lane

The Parish Council gave consideration to a consultation by Lancashire County Council on the recording of a Public Bridleway on Farington Moss from Moss Lane to Bannister Lane. A copy of the consultation and the associated plan had been circulated to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council did not have any objection to the proposals but did wish to raise a few concerns, in particular about the bridleway being useable for both horses and pedestrians, due to the fact that the bridleway was very close to the main road. The Parish Council were aware of plans by Lancashire County Council to alter the road

layout, and also if the dualling of the A582 went ahead then the bridleway would be too close to speeding vehicles and traffic noise.

Resolved

That, approval is given to the Clerk to respond to Lancashire County Council regarding the recording of a Public Bridleway on Farington Moss from Moss Lane to Bannister Lane, in line with the above.

105. (24/25) Projects for 2025/2026

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

BTR Field – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that costings for the improvement works on the BTR field had now been received from the Lancashire County Council Asset Management Team. The details had been circulated to the Parish Council. The proposed works were as follows: -

To install and create a perimeter footpath to the field approximately 400m x 1.5m, minimum of 100mm deep, to include timber edgings.

To extend existing hard standing area approximately 50m x 15m with MOT type 1 and to finish in dust.

Create an emergency vehicle access road to porta cabins approximately 90m x 2m, with MOT type 1 and a dust finish.

Install stock fencing to area identified as Environmental Area approximately 90m and develop a suitable planting scheme.

Install 2 no timber accessible kissing gates.

Install 1 x 14 gate to allow vehicle access (this is to replace the current gate).

Install 2 retractable metal bollards.

Install replacement height restriction barrier to entrance.

Drainage works as required.

The total costs of the proposed works were £38,450 + 10% to be allowed for contingency. It was noted that these costs were also subject to VAT which would be claimed back by the Parish Council. It was also noted that the Clerk would contact the landowner to obtain their permission for the works to be carried out and would also check if planning consent was required.

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the works on BTR field should be carried out in line with the above, and that delegation be given to the Chairman and Clerk to progress these works, subject to the necessary agreement by the Landlord and any planning consent. The proposed works at a cost of £38,450 + 10 % to be allowed for contingency would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

St Paul's Play Park – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that costings for the resurfacing of the hard standing had now been received from the Lancashire County Council Asset Management Team. The details had been circulated to the Parish Council. The proposed works were as follows: -

Resurface existing hard standing to create (30 mm surface course) - £7,000 + VAT

Provisional sum for the installation of thermoplastic play area markings (design to be confirmed) £1,000.00.

It was noted that the hard standing needed resurfacing due to pot holes and it would make it safer to walk on. There was discussion about the installation of thermoplastic play area markings and it was felt that the children at Farington Moss St Paul's Church of England Primary School should be approached for ideas on what they would like to see marked onto the hard standing, such as hop scotch/chess or other games. Councillor Phil Lawson said he was happy to liaise with the school. Any ideas would be brought back to the Parish Council for approval.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury proposed that the hard standing on St Paul's Play Park should be resurfaced at a cost of £7,000 + VAT, and that delegation be given to the Chairman and Clerk to progress these works. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

With regard to the provisional sum of £1,000.00 for the thermoplastic play area markings, it was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that this should be agreed in principle, subject to any comments by the children at Farington Moss St Paul's Church of England Primary School and agreement by the Parish Council at a future meeting. This would also be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Phil Lawson and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Farington and District Bowling Club – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that costings to install fencing at the Bowling Club had been received from the Lancashire County Council Asset Management Team. The details had been circulated to the Parish Council. The proposed works were as follows: -

Install 2400 high profile mesh fencing in green, to include 2 no 1200mm pedestrian gates, 1 no 3000mm vehicle access gate.

Install bollard on corner to prevent damage to fence if required.

It was noted that the total cost of these works was £7,840 + VAT. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the works at the Bowling Club should be carried out to prevent any further burglaries and anti-social behaviour, 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.

War Memorial St Paul's Play Area – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that as the land at the corner of Church Lane was owned by Lancashire County Council, the Parish Council were looking at where they could have a small war memorial/peace garden to remember all those who had died in conflicts. Councillor Karen Walton said it would be lovely to have a nice peaceful area that people could sit, remember and reflect. The Parish Council supported the idea in principle and it was agreed to bring back further ideas to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

1) That with regard to BTR field that approval is given to the works on the field being carried out in line with the above, and that delegation be given to the Chairman and Clerk to progress these works, subject to the necessary agreement by the Landlord

and any planning consent. The proposed works at a cost of £38,450 + 10 % to be allowed for contingency would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

2) That with regard to St Paul's Play Park that approval is given to the hard standing on St Paul's Play Park being resurfaced at a cost of £7,000 + VAT, and that delegation be given to the Chairman and Clerk to progress these works. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

With regard to the provisional sum of £1,000.00 for the thermoplastic play area markings, that this is agreed in principle, subject to any comments by the children at Farington Moss St Paul's Church of England Primary School and agreement by the Parish Council at a future meeting. This would also be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

3) That with regard to Farington and District Bowling Club, that approval is given to installing a fence at the Bowling Club in line with the above at a cost of £7,840 + VAT. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

4) That with regard to a war memorial/peace garden at St Paul's Play Park, that approval is given in principle subject to further ideas being presented to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

106. (24/25) Borough and County Council reports – for information only

Councillor Michael Green updated the Parish Council on the temporary road closure planned between 31 March and 27 June, he explained that Stanifield Lane would be one direction during this period and the works were not solely for the construction of the new entrance to the cricket facility but included new footpaths, road surfaces, upgrading the street lighting, two crossings and drainage works. There was a significant amount of work to be carried out which accounted for timescales for the works.

Councillor Karen Walton said that she had a potential site for a new bus shelter and agreed to send the Clerk a picture/further details.

Councillor Karen Walton also said that the School Lane plaque needed some attention and the Clerk agreed to get the Lengthsman to look at this.

107. (24/25) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the batteries and pads needed replacing in our original defibrillators in June and she would order the replacements as soon as possible. The Clerk also said that the power was off at Lostock Hall toilets and although the defibrillator had a manual override, she needed to get South Ribble Borough Council to reinstate the power supply. Councillor Karen Walton agreed to provide the name of the relevant officer to the Clerk.

The Clerk also reported that she had received the form from Electricity North West to downgrade the meter on BTR field. She would complete the form and put in the request. There would be a charge for replacing the meter but she would advise the Parish Council once further information was received.

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the Chairman's name to LALC for this year's Kings Garden Party. All names received went into a ballot, as there were only a couple of places available.

108. (24/25) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 3rd March 2025 at Lowerfield Community Centre, PR26 6QQ.