

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Lowerfield Community Centre on Monday 3 March 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk
Councillor Mary Green – South Ribble Borough Council
PC Ben Rowland – Lancashire Police
PCSO Cassiopia Dewhurst
6 members of the public

109. (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 Andreea Oprea.

110. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Haydn Williams declared an interest in Item 5 Planning and advised that he would leave the room if any Planning Applications were discussed, as he was a Member of the Planning Committee on South Ribble Borough Council.

111. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 February 2025 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

112. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update/Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury welcomed PC Rowland and PCSO Dewhurst to the meeting who had come along to provide an update to the Parish Council on police activities in the Parish area. PCSO Dewhurst had produced some statistics which she passed to the Clerk.

It was noted that there had been some incidents of anti-social behaviour, but it was reported that the Caddick estate was relatively quiet at the moment. However, e-bikes continued to be an issue across the whole Borough.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury outlined the anti-social behaviour on the BTR field and improvements to the field which should reduce any further problems. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury also referred to the damaged gate on St Paul's play park that had been replaced to prevent e-bikes accessing the area. The police reported that incidents at Farington Bowling Club had also decreased and that the Bowling Club had been successful in obtaining some funding from the police for CCTV. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury informed the police that the Parish Council had agreed to pay for fencing around the Bowling Club which would also act as a deterrent and keep the area secure. It was hoped that the fence would be installed shortly.

The police said that the young people had nowhere to congregate and they were discussing with South Ribble Borough Council the potential to provide a shelter where young people could gather. Reference was also made to keeping property secure from travellers who were passing through the area.

One member of the public asked if there was an update on Caddick and in particular the fence and asked if the police could put pressure on Victoria Plumbing to install the fence. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the land belonged to the Caddick Management Company and as far as the Parish Council were aware it was not a public footpath so could be fenced off. However, due to possible legal implications this was a matter for Caddick/Victoria Plumbing and South Ribble Borough Council to sort. The police said it was really important for residents to report any incidents either by ringing 101 or reporting online. This would ensure that resources were targeted to the right area.

One member of the public asked police about their anti-social behaviour action plan, and if this covered active patrolling at ASB hotspots. They said that the police needed to be more visible in Farington and to patrol the streets wearing hi-vis jackets. The police said they would include this information in the statistics provided to the Parish Council.

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

One member of the public asked if there was an update on the proposed play area at Croston Meadows and it was reported that there had been no response received from South Ribble Borough Council regarding the consultation.

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

113. (24/25) Planning

There were no current planning applications for discussion at the meeting. It was noted that the New Model Farm had been sold and that the current planning permission went with the property. If the new owner wanted to make any changes to

the planning permission, then they would have to apply for planning to South Ribble Borough Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury explained that the Parish Council had arranged a residents meeting to discuss the Consultation on the Draft Local Plan which would be held on Thursday 6th March at 7.00pm at St Paul's Church Hall. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that this was not an official meeting of the Parish Council, but a meeting with residents to hear their views on the Draft Local Plan. It was noted that Officers from South Ribble Borough Council had been invited to attend the meeting, but if they could not attend then hopefully copies of the plans and information relating to the Consultation would be available at the meeting.

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

Resolved

That the update on planning issues, including the residents meeting to be held on 6th March is received and noted.

114. (24/25) Financial Risk Assessment

The Parish Council gave consideration to the updated Financial Risk Assessment that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the Financial Risk Assessment as now presented should be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Tony Green and unanimously approved by the Parish Council. A copy of the approved Financial Risk Assessment would be placed in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Financial Risk Assessment as now presented and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

115. (24/25) Financial Rules and Regulations

The Parish Council gave consideration to the updated Financial Rules and Regulations that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Councillor Haydn Williams asked about the quarterly reports and the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury explained that our accountants were sorting out the regular reporting and going forward these would be presented to the Parish Council.

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury that the Financial Rules and Regulation as now presented should be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Karen Walton and unanimously approved by the Parish Council. A copy of the Financial Rules and Regulations would be placed in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Financial Rules and Regulation as now presented and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

116. (24/25) Financial Matters

It was noted that the current bank balance as of 9 February 2025 was £361,773.07. 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: -

Whitehill Direct for noticeboard Mill Lane - £1,167.60. (Cheque no 1162)

Peter Heise, Lengthsman wages February £1,050. (Cheque no 1163)

C & W Berry for Lengthman's materials - £17.54. (Cheque no 1164).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary February £1,242.43. (Cheque no 1165).

We had also paid bank charges to 8 January £7.40; Monthly fee Croner £315.74; Clerk's pension (True Potential) January £119.28; British Gas January £695.43; Water January £81.52.

Resolved

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

St Paul's Farington Moss – room hire for residents meeting 6 March £48.00.

Printer/scanner and ink for Clerk £314.96 – reimbursement to Cllr Shaun Bradbury.

South Ribble Borough Council – routine grounds maintenance October-December 2024 - £654.46.

Fairman's bookkeeping £367.50.

Defibrillator for outside Skin Deep - £1,159.20 reimbursement to Councillor Baz Howard.

2) It was agreed to transfer £100,000 from the Parish Council's HSBC account to the new Barclays account that was now up and running. As the Parish Council were unable to transfer to the new account using the switch guarantee, the Clerk would start the transfer via cheque to the new account, and any Direct Debits/Standing Orders would be changed to the new account.

3) The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting some information from South Ribble Borough Council relating to CiL payments, so hopefully this would be received and the updated CiL information would be presented to the next Parish Council meeting.

4) The Parish Council unanimously agreed to appoint Fairman's Accountants and Tax Consultants to carry out the internal audit of the Parish Council accounts.

117. (24/25) Projects for 2025/2026

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

VE Day Celebrations 2025 – Councillor Baz Howard proposed that the Parish Council hold an event to commemorate VE day and he suggested holding this on Saturday 10th May 2025 between 1-3 pm at St Paul’s Play Park. A street party/picnic event was discussed where residents could bring their own food and possibly dress in 1940’s costumes. Councillor Baz Howard agreed to arrange this event and include children’s entertainment. The budget as agreed at the December meeting had included a budget for events. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury proposed that a budget of £500 should be allocated to this event. This was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Parish Council newsletter – there was an initial discussion regarding the June Parish Council newsletter, it was agreed to include some information on the defibrillators and also the new Eco Town at the Farington Waste Plant. It was also agreed to look into the costs of distributing the newsletter. It was noted that the newsletter would be signed off at the May meeting of the Parish Council.

Allotments – Councillor Phil Lawson had asked for this item to be added to the agenda. It was noted that the Parish Council did not currently have any land that could be used for allotments but if any land did become available then the Parish Council would look at potentially securing the land and using this for allotments.

Picnic Tables St Paul’s Play Park – Councillor Phil Lawson informed the Parish Council that he had been approached by a number of parents about the possibility of having some picnic tables on St Paul’s Play Park. Information had been circulated to the Parish Council about some accessible picnic tables from the same company that supplied the benches on the park. It was proposed by Councillor Phil Lawson that the Parish Council should supply two accessible picnic tables for St Paul’s Play Park at a cost of £2,000 including installation, to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Karen Walton and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

BTR field update – The Clerk confirmed that the owner of the field that was leased to the Parish Council, was happy with the proposed works. The Clerk had contacted Planning at South Ribble Borough Council and they had advised that planning permission was needed for some of the works. The Contractor (Lancashire County Council) who were carrying out the works on behalf of the Parish Council was currently liaising with the Planning Officer at South Ribble Borough Council to ascertain if planning consent was required.

Farington and District Bowling Club – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that the new fence at the Bowling Club would be installed shortly.

War Memorial St Paul's Play Area – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that Lancashire County Council were currently drawing up some ideas for the peace garden and this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

1) That approval is given to hold a VE Day Celebration on Saturday 10th May between 1-3pm at St Paul's Play Park, and that a budget of £500 is allocated to this event.

2) That approval is given to the purchase of two accessible picnic tables at a cost of £2,000 including installation, to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

118. (24/25) Clerk's Report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

119. (24/25) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 7th April 2025 at Bashall Grove Community Centre PR25 4JU