

Farington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Lowerfield Community Centre on Monday 13th May at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk
PCSO Debbie Thompson – Lancashire Police
Councillor Mary Green – South Ribble Borough Council
9 members of the public

1. (AP24/25) Apologies/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Walton welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting and briefed everyone on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baz Howard and Councillor Andreea Oprea.

2. (AP24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Walton welcomed PCSO Debbie Thompson to the meeting who gave an update on issues in the Parish area. Debbie informed the meeting that there had still been some issues with BTR field and that a child's phone had been taken off them by other youths. There had also been some recent vandalism to the Lengthman's cabin which was now unfit for use and would be removed. Debbie said that the Parish Council may wish to consider improving security at the site and possibly linking with other CCTV systems run by the Local Authority. There was also the possibility of funding either through LANPAC or the Anti-Social Behaviour Fund run by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he had spoken to the football team about the overgrown vegetation at the side of the Business Park and hopefully when this was cut back it would provide a clearer sight of the field so any potential incidents involving youths could be clearly seen.

Debbie also informed the Parish Council that some off-road bikes had been confiscated, however it was unsure if these were the same bikes that had caused damage to the BTR field. One member of the public said that a mini moto type of bike had been riding around St Paul's Park recently.

The Chairman, Councillor Karen Walton thanked PCSO Debbie Thompson for attending the Parish Council meetings and said that both the Parish Council and residents were very appreciative of her attendance and the information provided.

3. (AP24/25) Chairman's Report 2023/2024

The Chairman, Karen Walton said it had been a great privilege and honour to have been given the opportunity to represent the community of Farington as Chairperson again during the past year, and that she had enjoyed representing the Parish at events during the year at the Remembrance Day Services at Leyland and Lostock Hall, a number of LALC meetings, the Leyland Towns Deal and Central Villages Community Hub.

She said that on behalf of the Parish she would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newest member of the Parish Council, Andreea Oprea. The Chairman hoped she would enjoy being part of the pro-active Councillor team of Farington Parish Council.

The Chairman expressed her sincere thanks to all Parish Councillors for their continued hard work and support during the year, to try and improve the Health and Wellbeing for the residents of Farington, Farington Moss, parts of Lostock Hall and Whitestake. She said that without all your hard work and enthusiasm, the list of improvements and achievements would not be so long and rewarding, and she hoped that the good work would continue over the coming year.

The Chairman reported that as a Parish Council we had a number of good reasons to celebrate our achievements over the past year, we continued to support the Leyland Albion Football Team in developing the BTR field, the Annual play Scheme held in August and we had supported residents with a number of complicated planning issues. The refurbishment of St Paul's Play Area phase 1 had been completed and Phase 2 of the project, to create a new pedestrian entrance off Croston Road, new paths and upgrades of the existing paths, including a new entrance gate from St Paul's close and the replacement of the wall between the grave yard and play park were all due to commence on Wednesday of this week. The next stage of this project would be to consult with residents on how we could improve the park for the future use of all our residents. The Chairman said that we had continued to upgrade the bus shelters, noticeboards, refurbished the Bobbin seats at the end of Mill Street and supported a new defibrillator at the shops on Bristol Avenue. We also supported many local charities with Grants to help them provide essential services to our residents and supported St Paul's Bowling Club with grants to provide extra facilities to support the health and wellbeing of residents in providing a safe inviting environment that everyone could enjoy.

The Chairman reported that the past year had been a difficult year for the Parish Council. Lisa, the Parish Clerk left her employment with the Parish Council and the Chairman thanked Lisa for all her work in the role of Parish Clerk. The Chairman also expressed her sincere thanks to Sue, who stepped in to help the Parish Council continue in conducting its business at very little notice, and had continued in this important role for us. Also, to Councillor Bradbury for his unending support during this very difficult time, but she said we were now able to move forward and continue with all the exciting plans for the future.

The Chairman reported that at the end of the financial year our accounts were in a healthy state so as a result of this, the Parish were actually able to reduce the annual precept paid by our residents for the financial year 2024/25 whilst still maintaining the budget to resource all the projects we wished to complete in the future. She thanked everyone for their hard work in presenting such a positive budget for this financial year.

The Chairman also thanked Peter, the Lengthsman, who kept the Parish neat and tidy for all of us and to the Police who attended our meetings, providing us with support and useful information about the Parish Council area.

The Chairman also said she would like to sincerely thank our local residents who had continued to support the Parish Council. You are the eyes and ears of this Council, your attendance and input at each meeting, for listening and supporting the work of the Parish has been valued by all members of the Parish Council and she hoped this would continue into the future.

Lastly the Chairman thanked the committees of the Community Centres at Bashall Grove and Lowerfield for the use of their premises for our meetings.

Councillor Michael Green then thanked the Chairman for leading the Parish Council over the last year and showing commitment to the Parish Council during difficult times. Likewise, the Vice-Chairman had provided tremendous support.

One member of the public said that the Chairman had not had an easy job, especially over this last year and congratulated her on her professionalism and commitment to the Parish.

Councillor Shaun Bradbury thanked the Chairman for her fantastic work and support to him as Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Haydn Williams also thanked the Chairman for the help and support she had given to him in his first year as a Parish Councillor.

4. (AP24/25) Matters raised by the Electors

There being no further matters raised, the Chairman Karen Walton closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.18 pm.

**Councillor Karen Walton
Chairman Farington Parish Council**