

## **Farington Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bashall Grove Community Centre on Monday 7 April 2025 at 7.00pm.**

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

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

#### **120. (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 said that due to purdah for the County Council elections to be held in May, the Parish Council would not be discussing anything political at tonight's meeting and he asked all to respect this.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phil Lawson, Councillor Andreea Oprea and Councillor Karen Walton.

#### **121. (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.

Councillor Michael Green declared a personal interest in the Central Lancashire Local Plan.

#### **122. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

##### **Resolved**

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

#### **123. (24/25) Neighbourhood Policing Team Update/Adjournment for Public Participation**

The Clerk reported that the Police were unable to attend this evening's meeting and had sent their apologies. Unfortunately, there were no crime statistics available.

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 was disappointed that the Police could not attend this evening's meeting and said that they needed to be present to reassure the community. He added that the lack of support from the Police & Crime Commissioner who had also declined to attend a meeting of the Parish Council gave the wrong message to Police Officers, especially as there were a number of residents' concerns with regard to local issues such as anti-social behaviour. The presence of the Police would help in alleviating some of the concerns raised by the community.

One member of the public also said that when the Police do attend, they should be the Police from the local area, who had knowledge, expertise and relevant information relating to the Parish area. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he would in conjunction with the Clerk, contact the Police & Crime Commissioner and the local Police again and ask for their attendance at Parish Council meetings.

One member of the public asked about the Caddick site and progress with sorting out the outstanding issues. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the razor wire had been referred to Councillor Karen Walton, who unfortunately could not be present at tonight's meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that he had confirmation via the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council that the footpath at the site was not a public footpath, but clarification was needed from the Leader and Chief Executive of the Borough Council regarding any ongoing legal procedures. It was the responsibility of South Ribble Borough Council and not the Parish Council to deal with the ongoing issues. It was noted that there had been further issues of criminal damage and the lifebuoys had been thrown into the water.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that as a proactive Parish Council we were happy to try and arrange a meeting involving the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council, the Member of Parliament for the area, representatives from Caddick and the Management Company involved, the local Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors to discuss the issues relating to the site and look at potential solutions. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that this was the only way to get things sorted as the issues had been going on for such a long time. One member of the public said that they had video footage showing the banging and clanging coming from the site, there were also issues with lighting shining onto people's properties and genuinely disturbing residents. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said it was important to get the right people to the meeting and then things could move forward.

Councillor Michael Green said that the Parish Council were very limited on what they could do, as it was in the main a South Ribble Borough Council matter. He advised residents to report any incidents to Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health at South Ribble Borough Council as the issues that the residents were facing were

unacceptable. Councillor Haydn Williams agreed with this approach. Councillor Mary Green asked if the Enforcement Officer should be included in the meeting, and also advised that planning conditions usually had time restrictions for periods of operation/working on them and it could be that rules were being broken, so action by the Enforcement Officer was needed. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said he was also going to contact the Chief Executive and Leader of South Ribble Borough Council about the lack of response from Officers.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reiterated that he was proposing to arrange a residents meeting involving the Member of Parliament, the Leader of South Ribble Borough Council, representatives from Caddick, the Ward Councillors, the Management Company, the Parish Council and the Police to address the ongoing issues. This was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

One member of the public raised the issue of odour coming from the Farington Waste Plant. Councillor Michael Green said there had not been any changes to the operation of the plant, but he would raise this with Councillor Shaun Turner, the Cabinet Member for Climate and the Environment at Lancashire County Council.

One member of the public raised their concerns about the recent road works on Croston Road carried out by Cadent. It was noted that details of planned roadworks should appear in the Lancashire County Council Highways bulletin, but if works were extended or emergency works these were not necessarily included in the bulletin.

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

#### **124. (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 there had been no planning application for change of use put forward at this present time.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reported that the Parish Council had held a residents meeting on 6 March to discuss the Consultation on the Draft Local Plan. He said it was disappointing that Officers from South Ribble were unable to attend the meeting, but they had provided large plans and forms to help the Parish Council facilitate the meeting. The meeting had been well attended by residents and a number of comments and concerns had been raised. The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Parish Council's Local Plan Working Group had been held on Teams and the Working Group were recommending to the Parish Council that narrative comments were sent in response to the Consultation on the Local Plan. This was due the Parish Council not having the expertise to confirm whether the plan was technically sound or if it had complied with all necessary legislation. The Clerk explained that there was an opportunity to provide comments and the Working Group had felt that this was the best way forward. It was the Parish Council's

opportunity to put forward the concerns raised by residents at the recent meeting. There was not an option to put forward a formal objection to the plan but the Working Group recommended that concerns about the proposed significant development in Farington Parish without the appropriate infrastructure in place should be highlighted.

There was a general discussion about the response to the Consultation on the Local Plan, and it was agreed to provide the following comments: -

- The draft Local Plan proposes significant development for Farington Parish and the Parish Council are particularly unhappy about the size and scale of development.
- The Parish Council and residents would wish to see appropriate infrastructure being put in place before any new houses are built.
- Farington already has major traffic issues and on many occasions traffic is at a complete standstill.
- The new cricket ground and potential new hospital will significantly contribute to the already congested roads. The hundreds of more houses planned without new roads, such as the dualling of the A582 will mean that the whole area will be gridlocked.
- There is a lack of school places, dentists, doctors and community buildings (including health centres), all which need to be built to support the needs of our residents.
- There is a lack of detail just a list of identified sites. The Parish Council would need reassurance about the issues raised before supporting any large-scale development in Farington.
- The Parish Council recognised that new homes are required across the whole of Central Lancashire, but the size and scale of development should not be focussed on one part of South Ribble's Borough Council area.
- The Parish Council also wished to ask what had happened to the proposed Garden Village and why the Park Hall site was not being developed.

The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury proposed that the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman responds to the Local Plan Consultation in line with the comments above. This was seconded by Councillor Baz Howard and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission would be needed for part of the BTR scheme, and the Officer at South Ribble Borough Council had advised to put an application in for the whole scheme. The Clerk would arrange to have the plans drawn up and the Planning Application submitted to South Ribble Borough Council and this was unanimously approved by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the costs would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

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

## **Resolved**

- i) That the update on planning issues is received and noted.
- ii) That the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury, responds to the Consultation on the Draft Local Plan in line with the above comments.
- iii) That approval is given to the Clerk to appoint an architect/agent to draw up the plans for the BTR scheme and submit a Planning Application to South Ribble Borough Council. The costs to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

## **125. (24/25) Financial Matters**

It was noted that the current bank balances were: -

9 March 2025 £357,059.78 (HSBC account)

7 April 2025 £198,747.69 (Barclays) account

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

### **HSBC Account: -**

St Paul's Church Hall room hire - £48.00 (Cheque no 1166).

Transfer to Barclays account (9<sup>th</sup> March) - £100,000 (Cheque no 1167).

South Ribble Borough Council – routine grounds maintenance October-December 2024 - £654.46. (Cheque no 1168).

Transfer to Barclays account (27<sup>th</sup> March) - £100,000 (Cheque no 1169).

Cheque no 1170 not used as yet.

Sue Whittam, Clerks Salary March £1,242.43 (Cheque no 1171).

Reimbursement to Cllr Baz Howard for defib outside Skin Deep £1,159.20 (Cheque no 1172).

We had also paid bank charges to 9 February £6.60; Monthly fee Croner £315.74; Clerk's pension (True Potential) February £119.28; British Gas February £701.58; Water February £81.52.

We had received the monthly fee of £50.00 per month from Leyland Albion, and they had amended their standing order so it would be credited to the Barclays account with effect from 1/4/2025.

### **Barclays Account: -**

Peter Heise Lengthsman wages - £1,050.

Hooley Electrical Limited for PAT testing BTR field and defibrillator installation at Skin Deep.

C & W Berry Ltd for Lengthsman's materials £72.11.

Barclays Charges 04/04/2025 £1.20

### **Resolved**

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

Fariman's for book keeping/payroll administration £511.50

Shotstoppers for Clerk's pension £240.00

SRBC Waste Annual Charge BTR field £1,210.00

Annual Licence Fee for outside Gym and inspection £423.00

Netwise for Website £588.00

2) It was noted that the Direct Debits were currently being changed over to the Barclays bank account.

3) The Clerk presented an up-to-date spreadsheet on CiL which was approved by the Parish Council.

4) The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury presented the updated income and expenditure for the Parish Council based on information provided from Fairman's. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury explained that he had amended some of the headings to replicate the headings in the approved budget. This was unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

### **126. (24/25) Projects for 2025/2026**

The Parish Council considered the following projects: -

**Church Lane Corner** – The Clerk reported that Lancashire County Council had now confirmed that they did not own the land on Church Lane. It was noted that the Parish Council had maintained the area for over 25 years until issues around ownership had been raised by the previous Clerk. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury said that the area was in need of a good tidy and also some new paving flags and the bench to be reinstated. The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury proposed that the Parish Council should get costings from the Asset Management Team at Lancashire County Council to tidy the area and make it safer under foot. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Green and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

**War Memorial/peace garden St Paul's Play Area** – A copy of the draft ideas/design had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that the design was disability/access friendly. It was suggested that the paths were slightly extended to

the benches to allow easier mobility. It was also noted that the final planting scheme would need to be agreed, but would not include a laurel hedge as it was important to ensure that all planting was children/pet friendly. It was agreed that the area would be a peace garden rather than a formal war memorial and that costings would now be obtained for approval by the Parish Council.

**Widget Symbol Signage, St Paul's Play Area** – As Councillor Phil Lawson could not be present at tonight's meeting, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**VE Day Celebrations 2025** – Councillor Baz Howard reported that as there were a number of VE Day Celebrations happening in the Borough area, he suggested that the Parish Council cancel their proposed event. The Parish Council would look at having an event to commemorate VE day later in the year. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

**Parish Council newsletter** – The Chairman, Councillor Shaun Bradbury reminded Parish Councillors to write their newsletter articles and submit these to the Clerk, as the newsletter needed to be signed off at the May meeting of the Parish Council.

**BTR field update** – This item had been discussed earlier under planning. It was noted that once planning permission was in place, the Parish Council would be able to progress this project.

### **Resolved**

- i) That with regard to Church Lane corner, that approval is given to obtaining costings for improving the area and making it safer under foot.
- ii) That with regard to the peace garden at St Paul's Play Area that approval is given to obtain costings based on the initial designs with slight changes as outlined above.
- iii) That the widget symbol signage is deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- iv) That the Parish Council's VE Day Celebration is cancelled and that the Parish Council would consider having an event to commemorate VE day later in the year.
- v) That with regard to the Parish Council newsletter, that articles are submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible to enable the newsletter to be signed off at the May meeting of the Parish Council.

**127. (24/25) Clerk's Report – for information only**

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator outside Skin Deep had now been installed. The Clerk would ask the Parish Lengthsman to check the defibrillator on a weekly basis and she would also register the defibrillator on The Circuit.

**128. (24/25) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Annual Parish meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm at Lowerfield Community Centre. This would be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.