

## Forton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held at

**Methodist Church Hall, Hollins Lane on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm**

<b>Present:</b> Cllrs Janet Huddart, Peter Young, Wes Wilson, Neil Wigglesworth, June Farebrother, Sue Tresilian, Borough Cllr Charlotte Walker.	Note
<b>In attendance:</b> Mrs H Alcock - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer.	Note
<b>2019. Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllr Lesley Dodgson, Cllr Andrew Redmayne, County Cllr Matthew Salter, PCSO Denise Creighton	Note
<b>2020. Notification of Interests</b> There were no declarations of interest nor any request for a dispensation for any item on the agenda.	Note
<b>2021. Minutes of the last Meeting</b> The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025 were confirmed and signed as a true record.	Note
<b>2022. Public Participation</b> There were 0 members of the public present.  Borough Councillor Charlotte Walker advised she had spoken to Shireshead Cricket Club regarding the Jigsaw funding opportunity link not working, a second link has been sent for them to commence their application. An update was given on the recent Full Council Meeting held around devolution, Borough Councillor Walker confirmed that its expected Parish Councils will play a big role and have a great involvement in the future.  Volunteer Celebrations was also discussed, Borough Councillor Walker hopes that Parish Council volunteers could be put forward in future years, an enquiry has been made to the Wyre Council Portfolio Holder, it was suggested Fortons litter pickers could be put forward.	Note  Note  Note
<b>2023. Planning</b> No applications for discussion this month.	Note
<b>2024. New Community Hall Updates</b> Ongoing - no updates this month.	Note
<b>2025. AGAR 24 / 25 submission sign off</b>	

<p>The Clerk confirmed year end accounts for tax year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 had been signed off by the auditor, concerns were highlighted to the Clerk around the funding stream for the New Community Hall, a timeline along with a breakdown of where the funding is coming from was provided to satisfy the audit process.</p> <p>The annual governance statement (Section 1) and accounting statements (section 2) for the Annual Audit 2024/25 including the Annual Internal Audit Report for the tax year ending 31st March 2024, was reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p> <p>An analysis of variances and bank reconciliations including the exercise of public rights would be fully completed and published on the Parish website.</p>	Note
<p><b>2026. Finance</b></p> <p>The following payments for June were checked and agreed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy Website - £58.08</li> <li>• Zurich Insurance - £427.35</li> <li>• Julie McLoughlin - £39.99</li> <li>• Cllr Wigglesworth expenses - £91.19</li> <li>• Cllr Young expenses - £13.50</li> <li>• Laburnum Nurseries - £76.44</li> <li>• Cllr Huddart expenses - £13.50</li> <li>• Clerks Wages - £376.08</li> <li>• Clerks expenses - £26.00</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk requested approval for the following payments: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hollins Lane Methodist Church – Room Hire - £60</li> <li>• Ron Smith – Repairs to bench - £90.31</li> <li>• Clerks expenses – mileage - £10.80</li> </ul>	Note
<p><b>2027. Parish Reports / Issues from Councillors</b></p> <p><u>Parish Maintenance</u></p> <p>Litter picking – June report received and circulated; a total of 10.75 bags has been collected. Cllr Tresilian had spoken to a resident on Hollins Lane who was interested in assisting with litter picking in the village, Cllr Wilson to make contact, Clerk to order a litter picker.</p> <p><u>SPID</u></p> <p>Cllr Tresilian provided reports for April, May &amp; June and asked if the Clerk could provide previous data collected by Don McLoughlin.</p>	<p>Cllr Wilson Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>2028. Cllr Huddart updates</b></p> <p><u>War Memorial Benches</u></p> <p>Ron Smith has completed the repairs to the bench previously located at the war memorial, the bench was then placed by the noticeboard in Hollins Lane temporarily, discussions to take place with Village Hall Committee on the possible siting of the bench in Village Hall play area. Costs were circulated for two new replacement benches for the War Memorial, and it was voted and agreed that two new benches from Maison &amp; Garden to be purchased at a cost of £838.00.</p>	Clerk

<p><u>Preservation &amp; future position of carvings of bench formally at pond</u></p> <p>The remainder of the bench sited at the pond which had been carved by school children is being preserved by Ron Smith, Cllr Tresilian advised that two of the panels were in bad condition and would confirm when works complete. Possible locations for carvings were suggested either for School or Village Hall.</p>	Note
<p><u>Info on future of Hollins Lane Methodist Chapel</u></p> <p>Members of Forton Parish Council are invited to two events to be held to celebrate 203 years of worship in the building and will be the last ones organised by members of Hollins Lane Church on the site. On 5.9.25 there will be a concert by the Gladly Solemn Sound followed by supper taking place at 7pm. On 6.9.25 a celebration service led by Rev. Colin Marchment, speaker will be Rev. Phil Gough, followed by tea.</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting to take place on 1.9.25 as Methodist Hall will still be available. Future meetings could be held at upstairs at Shireshead Church, arrangements to be confirmed at the next meeting.</p>	Note
<p><u>Future involvement of Parish Council at Forton Field Day</u></p> <p>Cllr Wilson had volunteered to assist in setting up for field day, but organisers didn't need any support on the day. Members of the Parish Council were encouraged to have a greater involvement in next year's field day and consider holding a stall or joining the parade.</p>	Note
<p><u>Progress on footpaths</u></p> <p>Cllr Wilson confirmed he was 25% complete and was trimming back vegetation as and when he visits paths, Clerk confirmed she had not received a response from Public Right of Way Team at Wyre and will follow up again about getting a supply of footpath dials.</p>	Clerk
<p><u>Road closures</u></p> <p>Road works ongoing in our area, no issues have been reported to us.</p>	Note
<p><u>Future of County</u></p> <p>The Clerk was asked to recirculate the LALC Conference slides around reorganisation.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>2029. Clerks updates</b></p> <p><u>Surface water removal plans – update from UU</u></p> <p>The Clerk had received an email from UU confirming works were planned to start on site at School Lane Pumping Station at the end of July or early August. The works will involve the installation of two above-ground mobile storage units, and we expect to be on site for approximately eight weeks.</p> <p>Letter drops and visits to residents surrounding the site, including properties on Willow Close, Chapel Close, School Lane, and Bowland Gardens (those backing onto the site) have been conducted to inform them of the upcoming works and gather any feedback prior to starting on site.</p>	Note
<p><b>2030. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Cllr Wigglesworth had recently visited Ribchester War Memorial and circulated a copy of a plaque that he would like to replicate at Fortons memorial, the plaque reads: - So, when the bright red berries fall from the Hawthorn tree and you are safe in Lancashire, please pray for me.</p>	Note

<b>2031. Date &amp; Time of Next Meeting(s)</b> The date of the next meeting is Monday 1st September 2025 at 7pm. Items for the agenda and reports, to reach the Clerk before 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2025.	Note
There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at	Note

**Minutes prepared by:** ..... Hilary Alcock (Clerk)

**Approved by:** ..... Janet Huddart (Chairman)

**Date:** .....