

Forton Parish Council

Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Hollins Lane on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 7pm

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| Present: Cllr P Young, S Tresilian, J Farebrother, N Wigglesworth, County Cllr M Salter | Note |
| In attendance: Mrs H Alcock - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer. | Note |
| 1718. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs J Huddart, L Dodgson, PCSO Denise Creighton, Borough Cllr C Walker | Note |
| 1719. Notification of Interests No disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting were received. | Note |
| 1720. Minutes of the last Meeting The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 th June 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record. | Note |
| 1721. Public Participation Five members of the public present. County Cllr Salter gave an update on the Hollins Lane flooding and suggested that when flooding occurs, Cllr Salter's email address was passed on to residents so that he can forward to Highways and a true log of occurrences can be kept. Cllr Young asked Cllr Mathews if he would press Highways for action on this flooding which we have reported on for a long time. Cllr Tresilian agreed to include in Village Voice. Cllr Salter agreed to review speed limit signage on new Kingswood and Laurus Developments. Clerk to forward report references previously sent to LCC following concerns of road condition in Stony Lane for Cllr Salter to discuss with Highways. Cllr Salter requested the Parish Council to email him with a list of roads where there are major concerns of speeding. David Ryall, Project Development Manager for B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North) provided an overview on their not-for-profit Community Benefit Society which works with communities to build fibre broadband networks in hard-to-reach areas the commercial companies don't cover. David advised they have an approved funding package in place from DSIT and are planning to expand their coverage west from their existing footprint in Quernmore, Dolphinholme and Nether Wyresdale. It was agreed that Alice Jesmont would assist David in | Clerk |

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| <p>organising a public meeting in the village hall in addition to including in next edition of Village Voice and adding to the village Facebook page.</p> <p>Borough Cllr Walker who sent her apologies to the meeting provided the following update which was circulated:-</p> <p>Since the last Parish Council meeting I have been on a walkabout in Forton with Parish Council Chair Janet Huddart, who was kind enough to show me around the parish, point out areas of interest, and give me some background on issues and history in and around the area. I would like to thank Janet for giving up her time, it was greatly appreciated.</p> <p>I have been in contact with local residents discussing the large-scale development on School Lane and the pedestrian crossing on the A6, which are two issues that keep being raised. I have spoken to the planning department about the residential build on School Lane and have been told that they have been in back-and-forth discussions with the developers over the layout of the residential properties for some time. They hope to have a satisfactory plan agreed on soon, which will hopefully allay some of the residents' concerns. I have also been in contact with MP Cat Smiths office to discuss the A6 and we are currently working on a campaign to try and get better road crossings in place.</p> <p>I have been fortunate to have been contacted by local residents who asked me to drop by for tea and a chat, to discuss the local area and help build my knowledge of issues that are affecting people. I thank everyone who has contacted me for your kindness and support in my role as Ward Councillor.</p> <p>On Saturday 24th I popped down to Forton Field Day to watch the Crowning of the Rose Queen and enjoyed a hot dog and ice cream on the field. It was lovely to have local residents come and speak to me on the day about issues concerning them, and I would like to congratulate the Field Day Committee on organising such a fantastic day for all residents. I hope the winners of my handmade felted items were happy with their prizes from the tombola, and I look forward to next year's event.</p> <p>I am in contact with the headteacher at Forton Primary School to arrange a date to visit the school and see how I may be of help to staff and pupils in the future.</p> <p>I am also currently in the process of completing Wyre Councils public spaces survey for the whole of Wyresdale and appreciate any comments that the Parish Council can offer to me, in relation to Forton, before the deadline closes.</p> <p>I have been contacted in relation to one of the planning applications for the proposed build of holidays homes in Forton and have added my objection to the build on the grounds of road safety.</p> | Note |
| <p>1722. Planning The following planning applications were received after the agenda was issued.</p> <p>Application Number: 23/000596/FUL Proposal: Change of patio arrangement</p> | |

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| <p>Location: 28 Bowland Gardens, Forton Resolved: No objections</p> <p>Application Number: 23/000560/FUL Proposal: Erection of Equine / agricultural building Location: Moor House Ratcliffe Wharf Lane Forton Resolved: No objections</p> <p>Cllr Young confirmed that Borough Cllr Walker would be commenting on the views submitted by a Councillor at Hambleton with regards planning application 23/00243/LMAJ, 37 proposed holiday lodges behind Chapel Close.</p> | Note |
| <p>1723. Noticeboards update The Clerk confirmed an order for £1,380 had been placed with Stuart Williams for a new noticeboard on Hollins Lane.</p> | Note |
| <p>1724. Community Hall update It was agreed that an order would be placed with Arrow Energy for a feasibility study on energy options at a cost of £2k plus vat. The Village Hall committee confirmed they have arranged a topo survey on the existing village hall which they would be paying for themselves. A public consultation is to be arranged in September when the architect will present his work so far on the new Community Hall. Cllr Young is putting together a timeline for ongoing fees, meetings, etc,</p> | Clerk |
| <p>1725. Progress on Persimmon Homes – Cllr Young Cllr Young provided the following update: -</p> <p>A number of documents have been put on the Persimmon application file 22/00735/RELMAJ since our last meeting.</p> <p>A revised site layout which shows no significant change to previous versions.</p> <p>A lengthy letter from United Utilities in which they say that the surface water drainage plan and the sewerage design are acceptable to UU.</p> <p>There is no sign of a revision of the surface water plan to meet objections from Forton Parish Council and residents.</p> <p>Letter from LCC Highways in which they say that Highways have no objection to the Persimmon plans and say that the development will have no significant impact on highway safety, capacity or amenity. This ties up with their detailed submission in 2020.</p> <p>I believe we are in the last stages where Persimmon seek compliance with the 29 planning conditions attached to the outline planning permission. A planning decision to likely in August / September</p> | Note |
| <p>1726. New Homes Bonus</p> | |

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| <p>Cllr Young confirmed that Borough Cllr Walker had carried out some investigations into the New Homes Bonus and provided the following update: - The Councils formula grant was reduced by central government in order to fund the New Homes Bonus some years back. The bonus is a less generous, but still unringfenced grant which is announced as part of the local government finance settlement. In order to set a balanced budget, the council has needed to 'live off' the NHB allocation, which has become the norm for local authorities across the country due to austerity measures experienced since 2010.</p> <p>In the early years of its inception, the NHB coincided with an initiative from the then government to freeze council tax and although limited financial support was offered to councils that froze council tax it was not ongoing. The early years of NHB was used to cushion the council from the impact of freezes.</p> <p>The ongoing shortfall in income of more than half a million pounds annually resulting from the historic period of council tax freeze, has been financed using the NHB.</p> <p>The NHB was not ring-fenced and so councils could spend the money as they saw fit, and although central government may have had an aspiration that funding be used for other purposes, the reality for Wyre is that it has been necessary to use it to support service levels in order to avoid cutting them.</p> | Note |
| <p>1727. AGAR 2022/23 Submission</p> <p>The Chair reviewed the Internal Audit and all of the other documents related to the Annual Governance Review for the year 2022/2023. The Annual Governance Statement was thoroughly reviewed, checked, and approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. The return will be submitted for external audit and the notice of public rights, and all documents will be added to the Parish Council website and placed on the Parish Noticeboard this week.</p> | Note |
| <p>1728. Councillor Vacancies x 2</p> <p>Following the recent advertisement of two Councillor vacancies, Paul Slater and Wesley Wilson were elected as Parish Councillors with immediate effect. The Clerk was asked to find out about training opportunities available. The Chairman congratulated both of them on their election and wished them well. Cllr Young offered the new councillors some tuition on handling planning applications. Could they let him know if they would like this.</p> | Clerk |
| <p>1729. Finance</p> <p>The following payments were checked and agreed: - Easy Website - £27.60 Clerks expenses - £14.10 Laburnum Nurseries - £389.04 Clerks wages - £438.40 Clerks expenses - £26 A further invoice received from Laburnum Nurseries for plants provided for the village was approved for payment. An invoice from GJ Brookes for topo survey was approved for payment.</p> | |

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| Cllr Tresilian queried the cost of the recent plant payments, and the Clerk was asked to provide copies of the three invoices totalling £431.76. | Clerk |
| 1730. Parish Reports / Issues from Councillors <u>Parish Maintenance</u> Cllr Young confirmed he had carried out some maintenance of the public footpath next to pond on School Lane. It was reported that the signage around the village is quite dirty. Coronation Avenue / Spring Vale Road condition is very poor. Salt bin on Lunesdale Drive needs re-filling. | Note |
| 1731. Clerks Update The Clerk confirmed the following reports had been made: - Footpath gate issues on land next to pond in School Lane – PRW-146534 Stony Lane – road erosion – Ref 3510507 | Note |
| 1732. Cllr Huddart updates Cllr Huddart confirmed dates for ‘Chats with Cat’ sessions are as follows: - 15.7.23 (10am – 12pm) Scorton Village Hall | Note |
| 1733. Agenda for Next Meeting Cllr Tresilian suggested alternating the meeting venues between the Methodist Church and the Pavilion or Village Hall, Clerk to confirm with Chair and arrange. Next Meeting will be on Monday 7 th August 2023, at 7pm, at Methodist Church, Hollins Lane. | Note |
| The meeting closed at 8.35pm | Note |

Minutes prepared by: Hilary Alcock (Clerk)

Approved by: Janet Huddart (Chairman)

Date: