

Forton Parish Council

Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held at

Methodist Church Hall, Hollins Lane on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7pm

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| <p>Present: Cllrs Janet Huddart, Peter Young, Lesley Dodgson, Andrew Redmayne, June Farebrother, Wes Wilson, Sue Tresilian, PCSO Denise Creighton, PCSO Pete Atkinson, County Cllr Matthew Salter.</p> | Note |
| <p>In attendance: Mrs H Alcock - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer.</p> | Note |
| <p>1968. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Neil Wigglesworth, Borough Cllr Charlotte Walker.</p> | Note |
| <p>1969. Notification of Interests There were no declarations of interest nor any request for a dispensation for any item on the agenda.</p> | Note |
| <p>1970. Minutes of the last Meeting The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd February 2025 were confirmed and signed as a true record.</p> | Note |
| <p>1971. Public Participation There was 1 member of the public present.</p> <p>Borough Cllr Walker was unable to attend the meeting due to a compulsory Wyre Labour Group meeting, but provided the following written update:-</p> <p>As discussed at the last meeting I emailed Cat Smith MPs office to ask her to investigate Section 106 monies and let us know how decisions are made on how the money is allocated and spent in certain areas. Unfortunately, her support staff replied on her behalf saying that it is not something Cat would have knowledge of, and we need to speak with Wyre Council.</p> <p>I have written to Wyre Council again to ask for a Section 106 training and question and answer session for both Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors, so that we can all try and get a better understanding as to how it works.</p> <p>I contacted County Cllr Matthew Salter in relation to the road markings at the end of School Road and the A6, his response was as follows:-</p> <p>At time of writing, we cannot justify the introduction of new road markings at this location. The junction has been marked out to national standards. It has been independently safety audited, and there have been no reported issues. Whilst left and right arrows could be used, they are not necessary. We would generally only use them at a junction with some ambiguity, such as a third direction of travel.</p> <p>When considered alongside the area's excellent road safety record, we would be remiss not to target those locations with an evidenced safety issue. Without diminishing your</p> | Note |

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| <p>concerns at this location, we have other areas that have been prioritised for safety measures.'</p> <p>I have been corresponding with an officer at Wyre Council regarding possible funding streams for Parish Councils. An email has been circulated to all Councillors on opportunities, and I will continue to pass on any further updates as they arise.</p> <p>County Cllr Matthew Salter confirmed that both himself and Lancashire Constabulary had spoken to Highways regarding the traffic islands on A6 with no success. The issue has also been raised with the Highways Cabinet Member, video footage has been shared and has been asked to escalate to Senior Highways Officers. Cat Smith has also raised with Highways. County Cllr Salter to share update once a formal response is received.</p> <p>County Cllr Salter confirmed that Highways are committed in continuing to jet the drains on Hollins Lane and urged residents to continue reporting the issue to Love Clean Streets when flooding occurs. Cllr Tresilian advised she felt the drains are affected further down the road now as far as Shireshead Gardens. Cllr Tresilian was asked to send her Love Clean Streets reported reference numbers to County Cllr Salter for him to take up with the team.</p> <p>PCSO Pete Atkinson was welcomed to the meeting and confirmed there were no logs of interest and no trends, he advised that any dangerous driving witnessed with photos or footage should be sent to Operations Snap on Constabulary Website, where fines can be imposed. PCSO Atkinson also advised that bike marking was due to take place on Saturday 8th March (am in Booths) and (pm in Garstang Community Academy).</p> | |
| <p>1972. Vehicles overtaking stationary buses on A6</p> <p>An email from Cat Smith dated 24.2.25 addressed to a resident was circulated to all:-</p> <p>It's alarming to see HGVs travelling at speed on the wrong side of the A6 to avoid the island, and I am sure that concerned residents will want to see some action from Lancashire County Council to put measures in place to increase road safety.</p> <p>It is frustrating that the County Council flat out refused to entertain my push to make Forton a 30mph village, with adapted speed camera operation and welcome signage at either side of the A6 to notify drivers to please drive carefully. This would help to unite the residents and amenities on both sides of the village, and make Forton a much safer village to live in, especially in the light of increased housing.</p> <p>The County Council maintain their policy of only reviewing potential changes or action where there is a fatality or serious incidents, which I think is completely backwards and is a reactive policy with no regard for prevention. Sadly I do not see this County Council policy changing without some drastic change within LCC itself.</p> <p>I would hope that the footage would give pause to the County Council to rethink their position on this, and take some action to increase road safety. My fear is that ultimately, the County Council will simply remove the island and residents will be back to square one with a 50mph road and no mid-point crossing; I'm not sure if this is something residents want given the previous longstanding worries about child safety when crossing the A6.</p> <p>I have been in touch with LCC sharing the Facebook video, asking they revisit my campaign to make Forton a 30mph village, and I will update you with their response</p> | <p>Note</p> |

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| <p>1973. Planning Application Number: 25/00099/FUL Proposal: Erection of three pitched roof dormers to existing western roof slope and extension to existing flat roofed dormer to eastern roof slope with existing external walls to dwelling rendered white (pursuant to variation of condition 2 to change the dormer from 3 dormers to 1 dormer on planning application 24/00222/FUL Location: Jackson Hill Bungalow, Ratcliffe Wharf Lane, Forton</p> <p><i>Resolved: Clerk to advise planning the Parish Council do not object to this application</i></p> <p>Application Number: 25/00150/COUQ Proposal: Prior approval for proposed change of use of an agricultural building to 2 no. dwelling houses (C3) with building operations under Class Q of the GPDO Location: Land adjacent to Moor Head Farm, Ratcliffe Wharf Lane, Forton</p> <p><i>Resolved: Clerk to advise planning the Parish Council do not object to this application, however members shared concerns around no consultation with the tree officer over hedge loss and surrounding environment.</i></p> <p>Application Number: 25/00147/FUL Proposal: Proposed garage and accommodation following demolition of existing garage and store. Location: Home Farm, Stony Lane, Clifton Hill, Forton</p> <p><i>Resolved: Clerk to advise planning the Parish Council do not object to this application</i></p> <p>Application Number: 25/00173/FUL Proposal: Proposed rooftop telecommunications installation upgrade, including the installation of 3No. Antennas following removal of 3No. existing antennas. The erection of 1No. GPS Node, 1No. Cabinet and associated works. Location: Forton Service Area North M6 Lancaster Services</p> <p><i>Resolved: Clerk to advise planning the Parish Council do not object to this application</i></p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>1974. New Community Hall Updates Alice Jesmont confirmed that a response from Sport England was not supportive of the planning application due to loss of the playing field. Wyre Borough Planners are expected to determine the application Monday 10th March with standard conditions and once outline permission is received, Len Harris suggests a meeting to discuss the compensation land. A reserved matters application will then to be prepared.</p> <p>Persimmon Homes Sales Team confirmed that 25 plots have been sold to date including 8 which have been sold to a Housing Association. The next Village Hall Committee Meeting is due to take place Monday 10th March 2025.</p> | <p>Note</p> |
| <p>1975. Finance The following payments for February were checked and agreed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy Website - £58.08 • SLCC annual membership renewal - £110 | <p>Note</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerks Wages - £405.08 • Clerks expenses - £26 | |
| 1976. Parish Reports / Issues from Councillors | |
| <u>Parish Maintenance</u> Litter picking – February report received and circulated, a total of 18 bags have been collected. | Note |
| <u>SPID</u> SPID data was shared to members and discussion took place around speeds and times. Cllr Tresilian advised that we would not be able to loan our SPID cameras to Scorton Parish Council as they cannot be moved. | Note |
| <u>Hollins Lane</u> The Clerk was asked to resurrect the correspondence around the bin on Hollins Lane play area. County Cllr Salter agreed to raise the issue again with Laurus Homes over a bollard at the end of the slope coming away from the play area as the last discussions were February 2023. | Clerk County Cllr Salter |
| Cllr Farebrother to provide County Cllr Salter with information on blocked drain on Stony Lane which has been previously reported to LCC. | Cllr Farebrother |
| <u>LALC</u> No updates | Note |
| 1977. Cllr Huddart updates | |
| Cllr Huddart advised that overhanging trees have been reported at the triangular piece of land on border of Bowland Gardens and Willow Close, however with bird nesting season upon us it may be too late. Contact had been made to the Parish Council from the owner of Shireshead Studios at St James Church about the imminent sale of the building, due to the studios relocating to Morecambe. Matter referred to Parochial Church Council at St James. | Note |
| 1978. Clerks updates | |
| The Clerk confirmed she had been unable to make a donation to Lancashire Constabulary for the Electric assisted bikes due to no bank details being provided. Sgt Elliott Jones is away on annual leave until 4.3.25, so will chase again on his return. | Clerk |
| 1979. Date & Time of Next Meeting | |
| The date of the next meeting is Monday 7 th April 2025 at 7pm. Items for the agenda and reports, to reach the Clerk before 30 th March 2025. | Note |
| There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.06pm | Note |

Minutes prepared by: Hilary Alcock (Clerk)

Approved by: Janet Huddart (Chairman)

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