

Forton Parish Council

Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held At Forton Village Hall on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Huddart, Taylor, McLoughlin, Dodgson, Young, Farebrother.
A Nicholls - Clerk to the Parish Council and four members of the public

1374. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Salter, Cllr. Leech. Jenna Metcalfe

1375. NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors were asked to disclose any pecuniary and nonpecuniary interests on matters to be considered at this meeting. None were raised.

1376. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: The update of the Parish Council meeting, held on 7th June 2021, was agreed.

1377. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was adjourned. Residents raised concern about speeding down School Lane and the dangers of turning out of Springvale Road. The Clerk advised Highways and the Police will not act without statistics. It is important all near misses are reported to Lancashire Road Safety.

www.lancsroadsafety.co.uk

On the website you need to raise a concern. Please read the rules carefully you cannot keep raising the same concerns on exactly the same stretch of road.

Reporting minor incidents to the police

www.lancashire.police.uk/contact-us

It is vital all minor incidents are reported by the concerned residents. The Police and Highways will only act on statistics. If there is no statistics they will never agree there is an issue.

The Planning department use the information above when making decisions about new housing developments.

To build up the evidence will take some considerable time probably at least a year. At the next Lalc meeting details of local Police action groups will be raised.

A resident reported a road safety issue regarding overgrown grass verge on corner of Ratcliffe Wharf Lane and the A6. It has badly affected the sight lines when trying to pull out onto the busy A6 from Ratcliffe Wharf Lane and Cockerham direction. He is concerned an accident is just waiting to happen.

Road signs have been just left there for many weeks after a diversion and may also interrupt the line of vision.

The Chairman agreed to photograph the issue and the Clerk would report it to Highways.

The Chairman and Cllr. Dodgson have been in touch with the development team at Hollins Green. There is still in the region of £5000 in the Community pot, one suggestion to improve footpaths through the church and seats by the tubs in Hollins Lane. Questions were raised on who would be responsible for maintaining the play area.

There is an issue of an overgrown hedge on the A6 opposite the junction of School Lane before turning to Whinney Brow. The Chairman will photograph it and the Clerk will report it to Highways.

1378. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No current planning applications.

1379. The Parish Council would like any newbuilds to include solar panels and electric charging points to counteract climate change. These actions points will be included in Planning replies and the profile of climate change will be raised in the Village Voice

1380. Reports/issues from Councillors –

- Parish Maintenance- Chris Taylor is currently, very busy and cannot take on anymore work at the moment. A local person has been approached re the stile repair.
- In Hollins Lane there is no update on the SPID's the Clerk will write to Highways again to chase
- Nothing to report Lune Valley Rural Housing Association/Lancashire Association of Local Councils Next Lalc meeting is by Zoom on July 28th.
- Village Hall and Playing Field Committee nothing new to report as they postponed their last meeting and are awaiting updates.
- Cllr. Salter does not have any major updates but would welcome comments on the culvert replacement work on school Lane. He still doesn't have a date for resurfacing School Lane as it was due to 'programmed in' once the culvert replacement is finished, is hoping it will be in the Autumn.
- The parish council may be interested to know that safety enhancements have been taking place on the A588 (Lancaster to Pilling) carried out by LCC with central government funding, which includes better road lining, and led cats eyes among other measures, and although out of the parish will be a road of some use for Forton residents

1381. United Utilities made a Zoom presentation to the Parish Council on their plans to increase the capacity of the treatment centre to ensure the water quality for the new developments. There should be their plans to go to committee in December and the work will start next summer.

They want to hold a public meeting. The Parish Council would like to give all working people the opportunity to attend. The Clerk was asked to contact United Utilities for public meeting Wednesday 15th September 2021 4pm to 8pm at the Village Hall and one on Hollins Lane at the Methodist Church Hall.

1382. Discussion on the website was held over to the next Parish Council meeting to enable more time to collect information.

1383. With the Electoral Commission changes to boundaries Wyre is likely to disappear and merge with Lancaster. More information would be sought for the next meeting from Cllrs. Salter and Leech.

1384. The Chairman asked Sandra Bryne from Wyre for a second litter bin in Hollins Lane. She was informed Wyre do not have the time or resources available to action the request at the moment.

1385. Parish Councillors discussed residents' concerns about Hedgerow destruction Land/Hedge Row on Cockerham Road, (Canal Bridge), Forton and Tansy Lane. The closure of School Lane for the culvert work was dealt with by Mark O'Donnell B.Eng. (Hons) I. Eng. FIHE, Operations Manager, Highways and Transport Wyre Borough Council.

Very late on in the planning process, the Estates Manager Paul Macintyre was approached by a local landowner Mr Whittingham, regarding his issues on access for his vehicles into his farm nearby. The issue Mr Whittingham had, was that if School Lane were to be closed, his deliveries / vehicles would not be able to turn in to School Lane from Cockerham Rd.

The meeting Parish Council meeting was adjourned, to hear Mr Whittingham's concern over the upset caused in the village. Mr Whittingham believed the hedgerow belonged to Highways and the family had acted on their instructions. The tree officer was not informed of the work to be carried out by the Whittingham's because they did not own the hedge. The Whittingham's were financially impacted by cutting down the hedge and tree because they lost a government subsidy.

The second corner tree that was cut down, had gone through the drains and this was the only way to repair the drains. Following this Mr Whittingham carried out work on the drainage going under the canal bridge this year after consulting the canal trust. The work carried out will only partially improve the situation as the water will still run into a very narrow six inch culvert under the canal

bridge. Mr Whittingham confirmed he has agreed to reinstate hedgerows with mature trees and hedges in Autumn which is a better time for transferring trees.

The work that has been carried out will allow the Whittingham's to access their land with machinery without the need to travel through the centre of Forton village.

Mr Whittingham has been in the village all of his life and is looking to improve communications and work with the Parish Council to enable him to run the farm and fit in and understand residents' needs.

The meeting was reinstated. The Chairman offered Mr Whittingham the opportunity to explain the farming needs while trying to ensure the wildlife and the countryside was maintained.

Highways to be asked how this situation came about and to ensure resurfacing work would be carried out in the area and when the drainage would be improved. The Clerk was asked to ask Highways to put down yellow lines to avoid parking in the area.

The Chairman said the appointment of the new Parish Councillors would take place late July and be formally agreed at the September meeting.

1386. Ash die back was discussed there were no concerns in the Village.

1387. FINANCE

The following payments have been made:

Zurich	Insurance	£498.78
Wyre Borough	Green Waste	£35.00
Clerks Wages	Based on average 6hrs per week	£330.98
Clerks Expenses	Working from home	£18.00
HMRC	Tax payments	£0

The Bank Reconciliation June 2021

Opening Balance Reserve	£40,416.09
Opening Balance Current Ac	£6,857.32
Add Receipts in the year	£23,104.90
Less payments in the year	-£2,190.40
Total	£68,187.91

Current Ac	£2626.98
Village Voice O/S	£144.00
Deposit Ac	£65416.93
Total	£68187.91

Resolved: The above transactions were agreed.

1388. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

To ask Cat Smith for a Village Bus to connect both sides of Forton

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:45pm

Chairman: Date:

The date of the next Meeting is Monday, 6th September 2021.