

Forton Parish Council

Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held at Forton Village Hall on Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Huddart, Young, Wigglesworth, Tresilian, Farebrother, McLoughlin, Dodgson.
Borough Cllr. Leech & County Cllr Salter.

A Nicholls - Clerk to the Parish Council (6 members of the public)

1458. Apologies for Absence Cllr. Whittingham,

1459. Notification of Interests

No disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting were received.

1460. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 10th January 2022, were agreed.

1461. Public Participation

Road Safety A6

Martin Dean a Governor of Forton Primary School presented an A6 road safety campaign. On the 13th January 2022, an accident involving a child did take place, on the A6 which could easily have been a fatality. The road is unsafe to cross due to the speed & density of vehicles. Elderly residents and school children especially are put in danger, when crossing the A6 to use school & public transport services. Martin presented various ideas to prompt discussion.

Cllr. Salter agreed to take the proposals to Highways. Cllr. Salter agreed to work with the Parish Council and residents taking forward their concerns with some of the suggestions being more achievable in the short term and others long term goals.

There has been a long history of complaints about overgrown hedges in Forton which narrow footpaths and obscure vision. It is always the landowner's responsibility to maintain their hedges/vegetation. All issues re hedges/vegetation should be reported on the Lancashire County Council "Report it" web page. LCC will send a letter to the landowners and if no action is taken will follow up with another reminder. If landowners refuse to take action LCC will cut the hedge and bill the landowner. It should however be noted hedges cannot be cut in the bird nesting season unless there is a health and safety issue. Cllr. Salter advised the Parish Council to contact him if there are any safety issues that do not get resolved.

Cllr. Salter agreed to follow up the suggestion of the relocation of signage on Southbound A6 with Highways.

It was agreed that the School 'Panda Zone' Campaign was something that could work and be considered right away.

Some suggestions in the presentation are really viable good ideas but will take a lot longer to achieve due to the costs and procedures:-

Immediate reduction in speed limit under TTRO
Installation of traffic island
Widening of footway from Whinney Brow to Hollins Lane
Relocation of bus stops further from junction.

Cllr Young said that two of Martin's ideas – the traffic islands on the A6 and the two bus stop relocations - have been agreed by Highways as part of the A6/School Lane improvements. This will be paid for by a S278 agreement between Highways and the developer of the land off School

Lane. Also Highways have agreed an average speed camera system on the A6 from the M6 junction to Cabus paid for by S106 money from new housing in Forton

Discussion took place about the date and timing of the traffic survey undertaken by LCC to reinstate the Lollypop person. Cllr. Salter agreed to discuss with Highways. At the date of the survey very few primary school children were seen on the A6. This was however due to peoples concerns about road safety causing them to unnecessarily use cars for short journeys.

Village Hall

Alice Jesmont Treasurer of the Village Hall agreed to write to Kompan who have installed the Village Hall Trust's play equipment asking them to remove the Parish Clerk's name and address from their records. This will stop the company pursuing the Parish Council for the debt. The Parish Council have already paid over the £10,000 contribution for the play equipment to the Village Hall. The Parish Clerk has spoken to HMRC about claiming the VAT on behalf of the Village Hall HMRC confirmed this was not allowed. Written confirmation has been sought to close the matter.

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council can't reclaim VAT on other organisations purchases. The only claim can be on the council's own purchases, which have been ordered and invoiced to them. The Parish Council do not own the Village Hall Trust or playground. This has been verified by LALC

Cllr. Leech gave an example of when Garstang Town Council were unable to reclaim VAT on behalf of the Christmas Lights Committee Charity even though the Town Council originally owned the lights.

Update from Cllr. Leech

Cllr. Leech is going to a LCC Highways meeting on the 19th March 2022. The group is looking at adding climate change /carbon related conditions into the planning conditions for larger developments. Parish and Town Council Conference: 'Highways Special' Saturday 19th March in The Exchange, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston. 09:30 to 14:30 including lunch. Excellent presenters on a range of highways related matters including Andy Pratt MBE, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and County Councillor Charles Edwards, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. There is also senior Lancashire County Council highways officers attending the conference who will hold discussions about the concerns that you have raised with us. e.g. road safety, flooding and pot holes.

Proposals had been put forward to amalgamate Lancashire County Council with the Borough Councillors with an elected mayor similar to Greater Manchester. This was rejected because of the diversity of the population across Lancashire. Instead, a Prosperity Board was proposed with the areas economically working together

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Margaret Mansfield put forward proposals for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. She proposed the Parish Council purchase a commemorative mug for each child in Forton.

Margaret Mansfield & Cannon Peter Ballard proposed a family picnic/ barbecue after the Open Air Village service which is being held on the playing field on Sunday 5th June 2022.

The Village Hall, a toddler group / school parents / field day committee / scout are working on a village street party event on Sunday 05th June from 1pm up on the playing field just for the afternoon, this will include bring your own food / drink, fun and games for the children (royal themed craft areas organised by some parents in the village who have offered their help) we have provisionally booked a bouncy castle and an entertainer for the children with some background music on the field throughout the afternoon.

It was agreed to put it on next month's agenda for a Village coordinated approach for a once in a life time event.

Hollins Lane

Two residents from Hollins Lane raised concerns about the Parish Council's proposal to install benches next to the flower tubs on Hollins Lane. The residents said they tended and watered the flowerbeds keeping their area neat and tidy removing litter. They believed the seats would affect their privacy because they would cause loitering and litter. They said there was no aesthetic view people would just be looking directly into their homes. The residents had spoken to everyone directly affected on Hollin's Lane and nobody wanted the seats,

1462. Planning

Application Number: 21/00032/DIS

Approval of details reserved by Condition 3 - Electric charging point specification sheet, Condition 5 - Landscape and Habitat Creation and Management Scheme, Condition 8 - Landscaping scheme on planning application 21/00032/FUL

Land On The West Of Hollins Lane, Hollins Lane Forton Preston PR3 0AA

Resolved: Clerk to advise Planning the Parish Council have no objections. The Parish Council agrees with Tree Officer that the removal of a low value group of conifers is acceptable providing that replacement standard tree plant is secured. It has been suggested that this could be rowan or field maple which the Parish Council agree are suitable native tree species choices.

1463. Audit 2022

It was discussed the Clerk and Chairman would review the Parish Council's assets 2022

It was discussed and resolved to agree the Parish Councils Financial Regulations 2022

It was discussed and resolved to agree the Parish Councils Risk Management 2022

It was discussed and resolved to agree the terms of reference for the Internal Auditor 2022

It was discussed and resolved to appoint John Hallas as the Internal Auditor at a Fee of £100 for 2022

1464. Finance

It was discussed and resolved since Forton Parish Council is a smaller authority, where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure does not exceed £25,000 to apply for the exemption certificate from External Audit.

1465. Hollins Lane Seats

It was discussed and resolved the resident's views should be considered. It was agreed the Chairman would look into a second proposal of planting ten Acer trees an approximate cost of £2,500. Three quotes had not yet been sought as it was at this stage only a proposal.

1466. United Utilities

There will be a Parish Council meeting with United Utilities at the Methodists Church Hollins Lane on Wednesday 16th February to receive a more detailed notification of United Utilities proposals.

1467. A6 road safety

The explanation of the road safety ideas from Martin Dean, Forton school governor and local resident was listened to in public time. The Parish Council and Cllr. Salter will work with the proposals.

1468. Local Jubilee Celebration

Details of Forton's local celebration of the Queen's 70 years as monarch will be on the March agenda. Information will be sought from all organisations within Forton.

1469. Forton Parish Council News

The hard work and dedication of Rhona and David editing the Village Voice for the last seven years was discussed. The council were aware that many people in the village had expressed their disappointment at the editors resignation. They deserve a real special thank you for the Village Voice always being on time and never late. It was agreed Cllr. Young would approach them to see if they were able to continue with their excellent editing work and the advertising could move to another person as had previously occurred.

1470. Delivery roles for building the new Village Hall

It was discussed and resolved to arrange a three way meeting with Wyre Borough Council the Village Hall and the Parish Council. Cllr Leech agreed to contact Len Harris about the meeting and to approach Wyre Borough Finance team .

He suggested that the meeting might ask whether Wyre could take it on the role of managing the finances to build the new Village Hall.

1471. Parish Reports/Issues from Councillors

Parish Maintenance The Chairman had asked Forestry and Grounds to look into cost of inspecting four TPO trees on the Laurus Site 3 Ashtrees and 1 Oak. It was agreed the work can be carried out.

Hollins Lane Update
Flooding

SID Sign The SID sign near the Scout Hut is still not working. Cllr. McLoughlin will try again to see if this can be resolved.

The Clerk was asked to request Highways re whiten the 30 mph roundels on Hollins Lane and provide additional small roundels for the lamp posts

Report from LALC The Chairman had attended the LALC meeting and had asked if a Police presence would be possible at Forton Field Day.

The Police has noted an increase in drug related crime in the local area.

The Police suggested the public report crimes to CrimeStoppers on **0800 555 111** if you have information about crime or criminal activities and wish to report it anonymously or alternatively fill in the CrimeStoppers online form.

Village Hall & Recreation Ground Committee/Trust update

The Play Area is still waiting for drier weather so that the surfaces can be laid by Kompan and the work finished off by Graham Mollart.

The sinks have now arrived for the ladies toilets in the village hall and work is to be arranged in the near future.

They had received notification from the Parish Clerk re claiming VAT on the Village Hall playground.

The Village Hall flooring is still under investigation.

The following payments have been made:

Easy websites	Monthly Maintenance	£27.60
Colin Cross	Village Voice	£396.00
Clerks Wages	Based on average 6hrs per week	£351.26
Clerks Expenses	Working from home	£18.00
Stamps	Village Voice invoices/ reminders	£7.92

Reconciliation of bank balances at Nat West	
<u>as at 31st January 2022</u>	
Current and Deposit Accounts	2021 - 2022
Balance as BANK STATEMENT	
Current Account	£5,929.28
Less unrepresented cheques	£0.00
Plus unrepresented receipts	£0.00
Total Current Account	£5,929.28
Bonus Saver Account	£45,420.02
Total Resources	£51,349.30
<u>Cash Book</u>	
Opening Balance Reserve	£40,416.09
Opening Balance Current Ac	£6,857.32
Add Receipts in the year	£25,237.51
Less payments in the year	-£21,161.62
Total Cash Book	£51,349.30

Resolved: The above transactions were agreed.

1473. Agenda for next meeting

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Village Events

Outcome of the Village Voice

The meeting closed at 10:25pm