

Forton Parish Council Update – 14 April 2020

This update is to replace the usual Parish Council meeting in April due to the Coronavirus Outbreak.

Chair's Update

1. Noticeboard has been repaired (better than original).
2. Temporary TPO put on trees at Cleveland's A6 (info sent to members).
3. Concern re dispersal of water from "The Hollies" by Hollins Lane residents. Following enquiry to Karl Glover & info received, letters given to Winder Lane residents about possible flooding when water is sent under A6 to Winder Lane.
4. Meeting with British Rail (after concerns re destruction of embankment) confusion over date set and then cancelled.
5. Councillor training: Peter Young sent out info on reasons for decision making to everyone.
6. Green bin: to go on Pavilion land. Chris has made a lock for it and is keeping the bin until stickers arrive (I will sort out rota for getting it to kerbside each fortnight).
7. No Village Voice - printers closed. Rhona & David have said they will make a revised version omitting dates. This will go to Neil for the website.

Masterplan

The virus situation has slowed progress. The meeting of PPWG on March 19 was cancelled. (This is the cross-party group of Wyre councillors to which Jonny Leech is linked). Len Harris is seeking clarification from the members on the way forward. So I think it unlikely that the MP will be considered by Cabinet at their April meeting. Len will update us as soon as possible.

Wyre Councillor

The planning policy working group that was scheduled to meet to discuss the Forton masterplan was cancelled. As yet I am still unsure when this has/will be rescheduled for but when I know I will inform you of its outcomes. Hope you and your families are all safe and well.

County Councillor

Unfortunately I've not got anything to add, it is not really possible to get anything done LCC wise at the moment as the focus understandably is on keeping social care going. Hope everyone stays safe.

Planning

20/00192/FUL Centre Farm Cockerham Rd Forton
Conversion of agricultural buildings to provide 5 live/work units
Letter sent to planning with Councillors comments following email consultation.

20/00275/FUL The Redbrick Barn Wallace Lane
Formation of New Vehicular Access and Boundary fencing to Red Brick Barn
No objections letter sent to Planning.

20/00962/FUL Woodlands Wallace Lane
Retention of existing building as domestic outbuilding for Woodlands and change of use of land to domestic curtilage
No objection letter sent to Planning.

I have written to Planning asking if the application process is running as normal in the current situation as we cannot consult fully with parishioners re applications. David Thow has advised - [The most recent advice that we have received from central Government is as follows \(I have highlighted the most relevant bits\)](#):

Decision Making

We understand that some councils are concerned about the implications of COVID19 for their capacity to process planning applications within statutory timescales. It is important that authorities continue to provide the best service possible in these stretching times and **prioritise decision-making to ensure the planning system continues to function**, specially where this will support the local economy. We ask you to take an innovative approach, using all options available to you to continue your service. **We recognise that face-to-face events and meetings may have to be cancelled but we encourage you to explore every opportunity to use technology to ensure that discussions and consultations can go ahead.** We also encourage you to consider delegating committee decisions where appropriate. The Government has confirmed that it will introduce legislation to allow council committee meetings to be held virtually for a temporary period, which we expect will allow planning committees to continue. We encourage you to be pragmatic and continue, as much as possible, to work proactively with applicants and others, where necessary agreeing extended periods for making decisions.

I assume that the legislation will equally relate to PCs as well as LPAs.

We will continue to receipt and validate applications and carry out the statutory consultations on them. This will mean that they will also go on our web site and may be viewed by the public who can submit representations. The PC is not required to consult with Parishioners but the PC as a body should still make every effort to respond to the statutory consultation within the required timescale if possible. Whilst decision making may experience some additional delay, we will not be able to hold off making a decision solely on the basis of a lack of or waiting for a PC response.

Finance

A thank you has been received from the Ramblers Association for the donation of £100. Village Voice Payment received £60 – Computer Help At Home.

Dec, Jan, Feb Interest - £22.63

Invoices that have been paid, as agreed after consultation with Cllr Huddart:-

DR Tree Surgeons	£1920.00
Handyman – Noticeboard	£ 266.67
Handyman - Green bin lock	£ 45.19
Handyman - PROW	£ 146.00
LALC Subscription	£ 285.99
Microsoft Office sub	£ 59.99
Wyre BC Green Bin	£ 22.50
Clerk Expenses	£ 18.00
L Hall March Wages	£ 241.60

6.3.20 Transferred £5,000 from Business Reserve to Current Account to cover payments.

February Current Account	£ 4,148.18
Supported by Cash Book	
Receipts	£35,498.58
Payments	£31,350.40
Total	£ 4,148.18
March Current Account	£ 4,148.18
Supported by Cash Book	
Receipts	£40,498.58
Payments	£37,067.84
Total	£ 3,430.74

Business Reserve Account £40,392.38

Village Hall

LEF Funding - The Village Hall Committee have received this. Following the announcement to lock down the country to prevent the spread of Covid -19, the Fund has made the decision to postpone the deadline for submission of funding applications on 9th April. LEF has not taken this decision lightly as we appreciated that you will have put considerable time and effort into preparing your application. We will be reviewing our position at the end of the current period of lockdown in April. Please bear with us and we will endeavour to get our application process up and running again as soon as practically possible. LEF will contact you by email with revised dates in due course.

All meetings with playground providers have also been postponed.

Clerk Update

The Police and Crime Election due to take place on 7 May has been cancelled.

All AGMs/APMs are postponed. Vote in chair/vice chair via email for extended year.

The annual audit has been postponed by the external auditor PKF Littlejohn.
Awaiting guidance.

Two SPIDs will be ordered once the precept has been received and the Coronavirus lockdown has stopped, this was agreed at the March Parish Council meeting.