**Forton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held at**

**Methodist Church Hall, Hollins Lane on Monday 2nd December 2024 at 7pm**

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| **Present**:  Cllrs Janet Huddart, Peter Young, Lesley Dodgson, Sue Tresilian, Neil Wigglesworth, Andrew Redmayne, Wesley Wilson, Borough Cllr Charlotte Walker, County Cllr Matthew Salter. | Note |
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| **In attendance:**  Mrs H Alcock - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer. | Note |
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| **1926. Apologies for Absence**:  Cllr June Farebrother, PCSO Denise Creighton. | Note |
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| **1927. Notification of Interests**  There were no declarations of interest nor any request for a dispensation for any item on the agenda. | Note |
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| **1928. Minutes of the last Meeting**  The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2024 were confirmed and signed as a true record. | Note |
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| **1929. Public Participation**  There were no members of the public present.  Borough Cllr Walker confirmed she had received no response to her email regarding video footage of several cars passing the bus and going around the pedestrian island onto the other side of the road on 18.10.24 from Lancashire Police or LCC and would follow up again.  County Cllr Salter advised that the dangerous driving incidents should be treated as police matters.  County Cllr Salter provided an update on ongoing flooding issues at Haighlands, advising that LCC’s Highways Drainage Team are still committed and will do what they can to keep the drain clear but that ultimately the responsibility is with the landowner.  An update was given on A6 highway improvements between J32 & J33. County Cllr Salter gave his suggestions:-   * Reduction in speed limit – Hollins Lane / Whinney Brow * Pedestrian crossing – connecting Hollins Lane to Forton   It was suggested that Councillors should highlight our priorities to County Cllr Salter.  Cllr Wilson expressed his concerns once again with regards lane layout at the junction of School Lane and A6 and the fact that both lanes can be used to turn left or right onto the A6. | Note |
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| **1930. Planning**  **Application Number:** 24/00985/REM  **Location:** Land east of Oak Lodge and north of School Lane  **Proposal:** Reserved matters application for No. 1 dwellings (appearance, landscaping, scale and layout) following planning permission 21/01437/OUT  ***Resolved:*** *Clerk to advise planning the Parish Council do not object to this application*  Cllr Young provided the following planning updates:-   * The Persimmon Homes site is being built in five phases (18/00469/DIS3) at present work is confined to phase one which is 63 houses from Coronation Avenue to Forton Bank House. Phases 2 and 3 will complete the North field, Phases four and five would be on the South field. * The application 24/00357/FUL to demolish the Holly Pub has now come up against a new Wyre Planning Policy – Biodiversity Net Gain. A project ecology report on BNG has been submitted which predicted a net loss in biodiversity and so it may be necessary to purchase biodiversity credits instead. * Application 24/00119/OULMAJ for 110 houses on diocese land is also grappling with BNG. Apart from that there are no more updates on this application. | Clerk  Note |
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| **1931. New Community Hall Updates**  Cllr Young provided the following update:-  An earlier update on the community hall application showed that highways had not yet approved the new access to the site from School Lane. At the VHC committee meeting on 11.11.24, the architect Paul Duckett said that his consultant was now in contact with highways and was confident that these concerns would soon be resolved. On 4.12.24 Alice Jesmont had heard from Paul Duckett and highways now accepted the submission this is yet to appear on the application file.  Paul Duckett also said on 11.11.24 that the first costing estimate for the build should be ready by January / February.  The application for the community hall also includes a noise assessment report from Arrow Energy. However, the Wyre Environment Health Officer said this report was not made using the BS4142 standard. | Note |
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| **1932. Finance**  The following payments for November were checked and agreed: -   * Easy Website - £58.08 * Kath Walling - £20 * Laburnum Nurseries - £55.39 * Cllr Huddart expenses - £5.49 * Cancer Research donation - £100 * Clerks Wages - £405.08 * Clerks expenses - £26   Approval was requested and agreed for the following items to be paid:-   * Laburnum Nurseries - £9.48 * Mason Gillibrand - £435.96 * Cllr Young expenses (printer ink) - £19.50 | Note |
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| **1933. Parish Reports / Issues from Councillors**  Parish Maintenance  Litter picking – Novembers report received and circulated, a total of 18 bags have been collected, 16 litter & 2 fly tipping. A request has been made for an additional bin at old Mediterranean Holly Pub. The Clerk to request a new bin through Wyre Council.  The Clerk was also asked to contact the Homeownership Officer at Laurus Homes with regards the bin at the play area overflowing, it was suggested that if their landscaping contractor is not able to empty the bin on a regular basis, it should be removed.  The Clerk was also asked to send an end of year thankyou to our volunteer litter pickers for all the amazing work they do for the village!!  Hollins Lane updates  Cllr Huddart reported that Hollins Lane chapel may be closing in September 2025 due to dwindling numbers attending. Colin Marchant to attend Januarys meeting following his meeting with the minister regarding valuations, etc, The Clerk was asked to circulate a document titled ‘nominating an asset’ as an expression of interest could be made from community groups.  Cllr Dodgson reported that a couple of landowners on Hollins Lane have received letters from Rachel Crompton (Principal Flood Risk Officer) at LCC advising an inspection on the condition of the drainage work and watercourse within land on East side of Hollins Lane was due to take place on either 4.12.24 or 5.12.24.  Cllr Dodgson reported that James Taylor of Conder Mount had very kindly tidied the seat area by bridge on Stony Lane, the area looks great. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to James for his efforts.  SPID  Cllr Tresilian advised there was no data this month due to health reasons, but a two-month report would be provided at the next meeting. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Note  Clerk  Note |
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| **1934. Cllr Huddart updates**   * Flowers in the village – area at junction of Winder Lane & School Lane to be maintained by Cllr Wigglesworth. * War memorial – to be maintained by Cllr Huddart & Cllr Wigglesworth. * Hedge on Hollins Lane behind our noticeboard has been cut back by James Pickering (kept at recommended height of 6/7 foot for Wildlife). * A TPO has been placed on three trees at rear of Mardale. Order dated 15.11.24 circulated to councillors. | Note |
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| **1935. Clerks updates**  The Clerk provided the following updates:-   * The Clerk advised she had received a letter from LCC via Borough Cllr Walker dated 15.11.24 with regards the incorrect speed signage on Winder Lane in which the aim was to rectify the incorrect signage within 10 working days of the letter. **(Post Meeting Note – Signage has now been replaced on 3.12.24)** * An enquiry had been received from a member of the public with regards tracing Coventry Place in Forton, a gentleman named Thomas Smith, is recorded in the 1851 census as living with his parents William and Ann in Coventry Place, Forton.   (Listed in the census return as one of two properties in Coventry Place, between Smithy House, Coventry House and Green End) William was a master joiner employing 2 men, any info on Coventry Place would be useful.  **(Post Meeting Note – Oliver Westall provided some further details which has been forwarded on to initial enquirer and all Councillors)** | Note |
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| **1936. Any Other Business**  The Christmas Tree in Hollins Lane is being switched on at 6.30pm on 6.12.24 in conjunction with the School Lane tree being lit.  The Clerk reminded Councillors that the precept deadline is due 8th January so will need to be resolved at Januarys meeting. The Clerk to circulate documentation in advance of meeting.  The Clerk to circulate the PROW documents which we have successfully received a contribution of £800 to spend on improvements. | Note  Clerk  Clerk |
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| **1937. Agenda items for Next Meeting**   * Precept * Visit by Colin Marchant re Hollins Lane Chapel | Note |
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| **1938. Date & Time of Next Meeting**  The date of the next meeting is Monday 6th January 2025 at 7pm. Items for the agenda and reports, to reach the Clerk before 28th December 2024. | Note |
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| There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm | Note |

**Minutes prepared by: ……………………………………………. Hilary Alcock (Clerk)**

**Approved by: ……………………………………………….….. Janet Huddart (Chairman)**

**Date: …………………………………**