

## Forton Parish Council

### Draft Minutes of the Forton Parish Council Meeting held at Forton Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Huddart, Taylor, McLoughlin, Dodgson, Farebrother, Young, Wigglesworth, Tresilian. Borough Cllr. Leech.  
A Nicholls - Clerk to the Parish Council and two members of the public

#### **1401. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Salter, Jenna Metcalfe

#### **1402. New Parish Councillor**

Josh Whittingham was formally appointed as Parish Councillor. He signed the declaration of acceptance of office in the meeting which was counter-signed by the Clerk.

#### **1403. Pecuniary Interests**

Josh Whittingham completed the Notification by a Member of Parish/Town Council of disclosable pecuniary interests.

#### **1404. Notification of Interests**

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

#### **1405. Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, was agreed.

#### **1406. Public Participation**

The Chairman has received three complaints from residents re the shooting of ducks down School Lane. This is upsetting pupils at the primary school and causing serious concerns about public safety. Spent cartridges have been found on a child's trampoline in a nearby property.

In general, it is against the law to shoot within 15m of a road, public place or in a highly-populated area. It is illegal to breed and shoot domesticated ducks.

The Parish Council asked the Clerk to write to the landowner to ascertain if the group is licenced to shoot wildlife and a full Risk Assessment is in place. The Parish Council requires a scale drawing of the pond in relation to the road, the public footpath and residential properties and a copy of the Risk Assessment. While further investigations are taking place the Parish Council requests shooting is restricted to when pupils are not in school.

Cllr. Leech reported the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Wyre Borough Council. The Committee has raised concerns about the lack of enforcement in Wyre and there are currently two hundred and seventy outstanding enforcement issues. Analysis of the current cases show three quarters of them to be low impact. Priority is being given to the high impact cases. A positive note is the number of prosecutions has increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2020.

Three years ago, there was only one part time Enforcement Officer. Now there are two full time Officers. The number of enforcement complaints have increased due to the Covid Pandemic because people are spending more time at home and more extensions/ home offices are being built. The number of complaints has also increased because it has now become easier to file a complaint on the Planning Portal. Cllr. Leech will continue to monitor the progress of the enforcements

Cllr. Leech also talked about the Borough wide environmental review on the carbon per head of population in Wyre. Winmarleigh was the highest because they are mainly two car families, have oil fired heating and have to travel for everything. The survey highlighted that building in rural areas has a major environmental impact. Overtime urban areas will increase in Planning priority and Brownfield site will be used.

Cllr. Salter has enquired about the 30mph roundels on the road surface on Hollins Lane and will ask how many repeater signs can be put on lampposts within the regulations

#### **1407. Planning**

**Application Number:** 21/01123/AGR Laburnum Nurseries Lancaster Road Forton  
Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building.

Resolved: Clerk to advise Planning the Parish Council have no objections.

#### **1408. Safety Concerns about the pond down School Lane opposite Chapel Meadow Houses**

The Landowners have agreed to fence the pond off from the public footpath to mitigate the risk of a child wondering in and falling in the pond. They are currently working on the drainage issues. Once this work is complete they will come back to the Parish Council for ideas to bring it back into public use.

Cllr. Wigglesworth left the meeting.

#### **1409. CPRE membership**

It was discussed and resolved the Clerk should renew and pay for the CPRE membership online at a cost of £36

#### **1410. Village Christmas tree**

The Chairman will speak to the Village Hall Committee about the Parish Council sharing the cost of the Village Christmas Tree.

The Clerk has been notified by Wyre Borough that a licence is required to install a tree on the Highway. The Clerk will inform Wyre Forton that the Christmas Tree will be on private land by the War Memorial.

#### **1411. Safety issue re School Children crossing the A6**

There was an issue re the overgrown hedge in front of the disused BT Building near the bus stop on the A6 which has now been resolved. The Clerk was asked to write to BT re the vandalised control box.

Cllr Salter has written to the Chairman and said the restoration of a lollipop lady/ person would be welcome if there was someone from the village willing to volunteer. The Parish Council did not agree it was a realistic option because School Crossing Patrols need to be recruited, trained and appropriately supervised, with adequate records and the site risk assessed to ensure it is appropriate and safe.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 (section 508A) puts a duty on schools to promote sustainable travel to school and School Crossing Patrols are one option that can contribute to this duty

Families from Hollins Lane are struggling to get children to school without a car. Hollins Lane has no footpaths and it is unsafe to walk with small children.

The A6 is an accident hotspot. With the additional housing across the whole area the number of cars on the road has significantly increased. The A6 is getting busier and it is very dangerous to cross. Families need to feel safe. Everybody should be able to cross the road safely, directly and without delay

The Chairman agreed to speak to the Headteacher at the School to ascertain the extent of the problem, with this information the Clerk will write to Cat Smith to ask for assistance. The Clerk will also ask for assistance from the Police with a PSCO.

#### **1412. Clerk's permanent appointment after the probationary period**

It was agreed the Clerk has passed the probation period and now would be on the top of the scale for a qualified Clerk

#### **1413. Parish Councillors contact details on Website & Village Voice**

It was agreed the Parish Councillors need to be identified with a picture on the website and email or telephone contact details on the Website and Village Voice

#### **1414. Parish Reports/Issues from Councillors**

**Parish Maintenance** The Chairman had spoken to Sandra Bryne at Wyre Borough Council new bins on Hollins Lane. The response was they only install bins where there are shops. The Chairman will continue to pursue.

It was discussed and agreed that Cllr McLoughlin has a £100 budget to purchase two Tommy's acting as a focal point in bringing the village of Forton together in Remembrance. They will be securely displayed at the War Memorial.

**Hollins Lane** During the recent bad weather Hollins Lane has experienced serious flooding issues. The gullies between the drains are blocked and the issue is getting worse.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. McLoughlin for the tremendous amount of work he has done re the SPIDs.

The SPID near the New Holly has to be returned for repairs. In the period 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 there were 9981 vehicles average speed 29.6mph and highest speed 59 mph.

The trees near the Scout Hut have only recently been cut so the data from that SPID is not as significant currently. The average speed in that area is currently 24mph with the highest speed 50.5mph the device needs calibrating.

**Lune Valley Rural Housing Association** No recent information

**Lancashire Association of Local Councils** A meeting is taking place this month

**Village Hall & Recreation Ground Committee/Trust.** The focus now needs to change from the playground to the new Village Hall. Neil Adams did an excellent job on progressing with the new Village Hall. Now he is no longer able to a new person needs to take the lead.

**Police.** Cllr Leech reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was working towards opening Police Stations in rural areas and Clitheroe would be the first.

**Website** Good progress is being made on the new website. The Clerk and Chairman will review it prior to next month's meeting.

**1415. Finance**

The following payments have been made:

Clerks Wages	Based on average 6hrs per week	£351.26
Clerks Expenses	Working from home	£18.00

The following payments still need to be made

£10,000 the Parish Council contribution to the Village Playground

£65 to Kirkland Parish Council for 50% of the SLCC subscription

£22 to Cllr. Mcloughlin replacement tubs

The Bank Reconciliation October 2021 before the above transactions are made, £10,000 will need to be transferred from reserves to the current account.

Opening Balance Reserve £40,416.09

Opening Balance Current Ac £6,857.32

Add Receipts in the year £24,276.60

Less payments in the year £ 5510.42

Total **£66039.59**

Current Ac £5620.96

Deposit Ac £60418.63

Total £66039.59

**Resolved: The above transactions were agreed.**

**1416. Agenda for next meeting**

Launching the new website. Progress with the School Crossing Patrol.

**Date of the next Meeting is Monday, 4th November 2021.**