

# FARLAM PARISH COUNCIL

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The **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held **Virtually** on **TUESDAY, 4th MAY, 2021** at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting is accessible by logging on to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and using Meeting ID 894 3795 1646 with the passcode **625475**. The meeting can also be joined by telephone by dialling one of the following numbers -0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196 or 0203 051 2874 or 0203 481 5237. Please aim to arrive at the meeting by 6.50pm in case of connectivity problems.

**Members of the public are welcome to attend.**

*Steve Bowles*

Chairman

## AGENDA

1. **MINUTE** - To note the Minute of the meeting held on 8th May, 2019.  
(copy herewith)
2. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** (copy herewith)
3. **OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS.**

**N.B.** The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held immediately after the conclusion of this meeting.

**MINUTE of the FARLAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in HALLBANKGATE VILLAGE HALL on WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2019 at 7.30 p.m.**

## **PRESENT**

Councillors: S. Bowles (Chairman) (in the Chair), R. Hinton, C. Skeates, C. Marsh, R. Foster and A. Murray.

**IN ATTENDANCE** – Clerk to the Parish Council

## **MINUTES**

The minute of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2018 was submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minute.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Bowles gave his Chairman's Report as follows:-

At the May 2018 annual parish meeting I was re-elected as Chair, with Alan Shaw as vice chair. Alan decided to not seek re-election to the council and I would like to record my sincere thanks to him for his service over the past 32 years! I am sure we can all agree this has been a tremendous contribution and we wish him and Eileen well. My thanks also go to Charles Raine who decided, after many years of service, not to stand again. At the May elections a total of six councillors were elected leaving five vacant seats. I welcome our new and returning councillors and note that it would be helpful to fill the remaining vacancies as soon as possible. Details of how to become a Parish Councillor are shown on our website [www.farlamparishcouncil.com](http://www.farlamparishcouncil.com).

During the past year, members of the council have attended wider forums such as Cumbria association of local councils, Carlisle Parish Councils association and Brampton and beyond community trust. Throughout the year the council has considered all planning applications, making observations where appropriate. Routine business, as detailed in the minutes of each meeting, has been conducted in an orderly manner with the support and advice of our Clerk, Allison Riddell, to whom I also give thanks. The minutes are no longer printed in the village news, which is now published quarterly, but they are available on the website in the archives section.

Concern has been expressed by residents about speeding through Hallbankgate and also about careless parking next to the play area. Some residents have organised their own signs – e.g. Twenty's plenty – although there remains some disappointment that the signs are being ignored. The council has stated that if residents set up a speed-watch group then it will be fully supported. The play area itself is also an issue of concern. There has been some vandalism, which has been expensive to repair, but also certain structures are now showing their age. Ideally parishioners could come together to form a "friends of the playground" group; such a group would be in a position to seek grant funding from diverse sources which are not open to requests from the council, whose own funds are extremely limited. Sadly it appears that we will not benefit from the community fund set up by the operators of the Halton-Lea-Gate quarry. They have no statutory duty for this and have decided that any limited funds that are available will be donated to that community.

The issue of littering, and especially of dog mess, has caused anxiety. I would appeal to all members of our community to act with responsibility for our mutual benefit. The council is unable to provide or empty bins; everyone knows what is right so I ask that we all act appropriately in this respect. An issue with regard to street lighting is still unresolved but has not been forgotten. I would remind parishioners reading this that we are here to listen to your concerns about local issues. Please speak to any councillor or write to the Clerk, Farlam Parish Council, at the Brampton Parish Council office.

The precept for the coming year has been set; an above inflation rise was necessary as we still have to catch up from the very low base caused when council expenditure was subsidised by the grant from Thompson's quarries. I am pleased that Hallbankgate hub is continuing to offer its valuable service. I hope that everyone in the community will consider how they can support the hub in order to ensure its survival. It was set up following a Parish Council initiative, all who go there say what an amazing place it is. It would be a shame to lose it.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

None.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

**Farlam Parish council**  
**Chair's annual report for 2020 – 2021**

It is no exaggeration to say that Covid has made this a very exceptional year. Council meetings have moved on-line which, once the technology had been grasped, has proved to be effective including for the participation of members of the public. Membership of the council has decreased with the resignations of Councillors Claire Skeates and Angus Murray. I thank them both for their service and hope that other members of the public will step forward to take their place. City council reorganisation has meant we are now blessed with up to three city councillors attending.

The internal audit report for the year raised no matters of concern. The council has continued to monitor closely all planning applications within the parish, making observations or objections as appropriate. We regret that the Speedwatch group has been unable to meet and hope that the relaxation of Covid restrictions will soon allow speed monitoring to return. The Crossgates play area was reopened once this was permitted; minor repairs here are ongoing but the equipment is nearing the end of its planned life. The council, with hoped-for support from residents, will seek longer-term solutions once a longer lease for the land has been agreed.

A pleasing development at Tindale has been the installation of a defibrillator; thanks are due to Tindale residents and to the League of friends. The repair of noticeboards at Tindale, and also at Farlam, is ongoing. The condition of and access to footpaths at specified locations has been reported to the County Council and also to land-owners where appropriate; members of the public are invited to inform the Parish Council of any footpath issues. Reports of dog-fouling have continued and we again appeal to dog owners to do the right thing.

We are grateful to Lea-Anne and Stephen Potter, new village hall caretakers, for hosting the 2020 Christmas tree. The council has no control over the hall itself, responsibility there being solely the hall management committee, but we are pleased to note that the caretakers are doing an excellent job. I would like to express my thanks to Councillor Ray Hinton for all the work he has done in getting the council's new website up and running. There is scope to expand its content and the council would welcome suggestions from the public about what could be included. Ray also works hard overseeing the playground and other repairs.

With the council's permission, two picnic benches have been placed on Hallbankgate village green by Hallbankgate hub. They are intended to provide seating for buyers of take-away refreshments but can of course be used by everyone – no littering please! Following an exchange of letters, we are grateful to the Greenside Estate for planting five new trees in the Bull-park to replace those blown down in recent years. Sadly, local bus services have been further curtailed. The 680 service operated by Telfords on Tuesdays and Thursdays in term-time no longer serves Alston or Brampton; instead from Hallbankgate it heads to Carlisle via Talkin, a journey time of 80 minutes each way. The council did suggest a modification which serves Brampton but apparently there was little demand for this before the alterations so it was not considered viable.

Local government reorganisation within Cumbria (and some other counties) is being consulted on, hence local elections were cancelled this year. The proposal from the national government is a move towards unitary authorities. Parish councillors have studied the proposals from current councils (Carlisle and Cumbria especially) and have responded to the consultation. A decision will be made by the government in due course.

I can't finish without, once again, expressing my sincere thanks to our Clerk, Allison Riddell, for "keeping us all straight" and to all my fellow councillors for their continued efforts in this local democracy.

**Steve Bowles, Chair, May 2021**