

**MINUTE of the FARLAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in HALLBANKGATE VILLAGE HALL on WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2017 at 7.30 p.m.**

## **PRESENT**

Councillors: S. Bowles (Chairman) (in the Chair), A. Shaw, R. Hinton, A. Radcliffe, C. Marsh, S. Dalton and Councillor C. Raine.

**IN ATTENDANCE** – Clerk to the Parish Council  
Councillor S. Bowman, Carlisle City Council

## **MINUTES**

The minute of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May, 2016 was submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minute.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

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

At the May meeting of the council Councillor Ian Howatt was elected Chair with me as Vice-Chair. Ian resigned from the Council at the September meeting to move nearer to his family; our sincere thanks go to Ian for his many years of service and our best wishes to Ian and Stella for the future. I was elected to the Chair at the November meeting with Alan Shaw taking over as Vice-Chair.

My thanks also are due to all fellow councillors, perhaps especially to Alan Shaw and Simon Dalton for the Christmas tree, to Anne Radcliffe and Ray Hinton for the play area; Ray has also done a lot of work relating to footpaths in the Parish and has taken responsibility for our website. This is now an excellent feature for which we are all very grateful. Charles Raine has represented the council at the Carlisle Parish Councils Association and has also endeavoured to secure funding for the Parish from the coal quarry at Halton Lea Gate. I have continued to represent the Council at meetings of Brampton and Beyond Community Trust and reported on their AGM held in November.

The council has, throughout the year, diligently considered planning applications making observations as necessary. In one particular case a degree of friction ensued between the council and the applicant – an unfortunate situation which, I understand, is yet to be finally resolved. That aside, we have occasionally benefitted from attendance by members of the public, although not at all meetings. Perhaps this is something which we should try to encourage and it may even result in people putting their names forward to fill the several vacancies on the council. How we can encourage this, and indeed how else we may attract would-be councillors, should form part of our debate in the near future. With four seats vacant at present we could well struggle to be quorate at times.

The council has received regular updates regarding the work at Hallbankgate Hub and it remains supportive of this venture to replace the former Co-op with a shop, café and community hub. So that construction and drainage work could be carried out at the hub it became necessary to remove the village's recycling bins. An alternative site could not be identified but the bins will be returning soon to their previous location as soon as the last skip has been removed.

Co-operation has continued between the council and the village hall management committee. The council has been able to facilitate with certain payments and, as in previous years, the hall insurance has been included with that of the parish so that cost-effective cover could be provided. The management committee is also seriously depleted in numbers which makes the task of the few that much more onerous. Going forward the Council has asked the management committee to investigate the employment / rental contract with the hall caretaker.

SB 16/5/17

The speed awareness programme has struggled this year. Appeals for volunteers initially fell on deaf ears; thanks to Councillor Radcliffe's efforts a new programme may now be possible.

The historic situation whereby the Parish precept was subsidised by grants from Thompson's quarry is slowly being rectified. However, starting from a low base several years may be needed. We could not manage without the excellent professional guidance from our Clerk, Allison Riddell, to whom, as ever, we say "Thank you very much". We now look forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

None.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

S Burrow  
16/5/18