

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.

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.

AGREED AT THE MEETING ON THE 5th JUNE 2020 ITEM 004/20 OF THE MINUTES