

**MINUTE of the FARLAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in HALLBANKGATE VILLAGE HALL on WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

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

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

**MINUTES**

The minute of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May, 2017 was submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minute.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

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

Having been re-elected as Chair of the council at the May 2017 meeting, it is my duty, and my privilege, to present this annual report of the past year. I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their service, perhaps especially Alan Shaw, as vice chair, who has been determined to continue serving despite health issues. Our sincere thanks must also go to Anne Radcliffe for her many years of service on the council before having to stand down for her own health. I am sure we all wish her well. The council still has a number of vacant seats, an issue which needs to be addressed, but this year we have welcomed Councillor Claire Skeates to our number and thank her for stepping up to the plate.

The council has considered a number of planning applications during the year; most of these required no observations whilst the others have not yet been decided upon by the planning authority. Although not a planning issue we were also invited to comment on proposals for tree planting at Hallbankgate farm. The matter of responsibility for the village hall has at last been clarified following correspondence with the Charity commission. The Parish council acts as custodian trustee only and has no involvement in its running nor claim on its value. It is the management committee of the hall that has sole responsibility and the Parish Council would only make decisions in the event that the management committee ceased to exist. Accordingly, a decision was taken to remove the village hall from the council's asset register.

We have responded to consultations with regard to City council ward boundaries and note that revision of these may have implications for the political balance of that council as well as for any City councillor(s) representing Farlam and adjacent parishes. In recent years the parish precept has been increased minimally in line with government guidance. The historic low base of the precept, which developed due to the grant made by the Silvertop quarry operators being used to subsidise council expenditure, has meant that rises merely in line with inflation were inadequate. A decision was therefore taken to raise the precept by approximately 50%; this rise puts Farlam more in line with other Parishes. An explanation of this was published in the village news and has so far gone without comment.

The council has been pleased to note the continuing developments at Hallbankgate Hub, the community benefit society set up following the council initiated public meeting in November 2014. We understand that trade has increased significantly, albeit not yet to a profitable level. The value of the hub to the community was evident in the bad weather during March when leaving the village became impossible. We can only hope that the hub's value to the locality will be appreciated more and that the business will survive.

Following the annual report on the play area, arrangements have been made for necessary repairs. Considerable effort and expense has also been incurred due to vandalism. We sincerely hope that such antisocial action will not be repeated. Historically we have been given a Christmas tree by the Greenside Estate; this has now become more problematic for access reasons. A suitable quotation from a commercial garden centre has now been agreed. Quotations have also been sought to replace various planters around the village.

The council continues to be represented on the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) and the Brampton and beyond Community Trust. In addition, Councillor Raine has been our representative for the liaison committee of the Halton Lea Gate mine. The installation of a defibrillator is an issue which is still being pursued.

As ever, my thanks go to our clerk, Allison Riddell, without whose guidance and efficiency our task would be much more difficult. We now look forward to whatever 2018-19 has in store.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

None.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.