

FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 24th July 2019 at 7:00 in Forton Parish Rooms

PRESENT: Cllrs. E De Quincey (Chair), D Toon (Vice Chair), D Carver (RFO), P Hammond, S Tomkinson and S Spencer.

Borough Cllrs. M Smith and P Farrington

County Cllr. M Winnington (arrived during item 6)

C Little (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

2. Declaration of Councillor's Personal Interests:

None declared.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 and matters arising not on this Agenda:

Minutes were agreed with minor alterations and signed by the Chairman.

4. Financial report and authority for payments:

4.1 2019/2020 Quarter Two

The financial statement dated 17th July 2019 was presented. It balanced to the latest bank statements received with a closing balance of £650.08.

Bank Statement Reconciliation

Current Account Statement @ 05 June 2019	£131.00
Reserve Account Statement @ 05 July 2019	£540.08
Reconciliation TOTAL	£650.08

4.2 Payments for Approval

	Budget	Actual to Pay
Precept Payments		
Clerk's Salary (gross) – 2nd quarter	£108.15	£86.55* net
* PAYE to HMRC		£21.60
Clerk's Expenses – 2 nd quarter	£15.00	nil

4.3 Annual Audit 2018/2019

The Council's Internal Audit was completed on the 1st May, as reported at the last meeting and no external audit is required. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been on the website since 15th May together with the notice of Local Government Electors Rights. The right to view papers closed on 12th July, no-one having requested to view.

5. Parish Councillor:

Cllr. Spencer reported that he had had little success in securing another councillor. Cllr Hammond advised that he could request an insertion in the Parish Magazine advertising the vacancy. It was suggested that further efforts be made to secure a replacement and if this was unsuccessful we could advertise in September.

6. Update on A519:

Cllr. Toon confirmed that he had taken photographs to indicate the areas causing most concern as agreed at the last meeting. Shortly afterwards council workers had arrived and worked on the A519 for a week, however they had focussed on restoring the path from Forton to the monument which had been raised as a request in 2016 and again in 2017, leaving the area now perceived as the most dangerous, from the monument to Sutton crossroads, untouched.

Cllrs. wished to thank Cllr. Winnington for his contribution to getting this work done.

Cllr. Winnington arrived at this point and advised that when he had walked the route with Mark Keeling and parish councillors the unsafe path had been the priority. He suggested that the local farmer be approached to cut back the hedges which he had just observed are significantly overhanging almost to the road and next year he would endeavour to get another visit by County Council workpeople.

Cllr. Hammond reported that spoil produced by the works on the footpath had just been heaped on top of other rubbish already on the verge. There is no suggestion that the workers left litter of their own but councillors were disappointed to see how the debris had been left behind.

Cllr. Spencer advised that on the stretch of A519 from The Swan to the island with the A41 had had road signs put in place indicating work to be carried out but that these signs had subsequently been knocked into the hedge by traffic. These were then left in the hedge when the workmen departed the site despite him having mentioned them to one of the workmen. Cllr. Winnington requested that this be put to him in writing as this should not have happened.

7. Matters requiring attention in the Parish:

Cllr. Carver reported that extensive tarmac patching is currently being carried out in Meretown ahead of a complete resurfacing of Meretown Lane due to be carried out next summer (2020) and that workmen appear to be doing a thorough job. It was felt that all matters requiring attention appeared to be in hand.

8. Any other business:

Cllr. Carver also reported that he had enquired of Superfast Staffordshire about progress with the Broadband update for Meretown and had been told the schedule had slipped a little and work was now due for completion before the end of September.

Cllr. Carver informed the council that forthcoming additional legislation on 'Website accessibility' was likely to be handled by our website provider, Hugo Fox. He would keep an eye on developments and keep the council informed.

9. Correspondence:

Councillors discussed the concerns raised by a local resident about delivery drivers speeding along the lane from the A519 in Warton past her house. Cllrs. were advised that as the speed limit for this lane was the statutory derestricted 60 m.p.h., the highways department would not be able to impose slow-down signs, however it was agreed it was unlikely that there would be any objection to the complainant installing her own signage on her verges particularly as the lane terminates a little beyond her property.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

7:00 p.m. on Wednesday 20th November 2019

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at **7:22 p.m.**