



Ansdell & Fairhaven Parish Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at St Paul's Church Hall Ansdell & Fairhaven, Lake Road North, Fairhaven on Monday 28th September 2026 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor P Wilkinson in the Chair
Councillor J Frith-Williams (Vice-Chair)
Councillors C Dixon, W Harris, M Morris, D Perkins, and A Roe.
Daniel Guise, Clerk & RFO
County Councillor Steve Rigby
Members of the Public: 6

The Chair welcomed County Cllr Steve Rigby and members of the public to the meeting.

89. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs E Taylor and D Wilkinson.

90. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

91. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Council considered the draft minutes of its previous two meetings – the ordinary meeting on 24th August 2026 and the extraordinary meeting on 21st September 2026.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held on 24th August and 21st September 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

92. Public Participation

A member of the public reported that there were some Council notices on the community noticeboard on Woodlands Road which were out of date. The Chair explained that access to the noticeboard was limited. He held the Council's only key, and the current mayor of Fylde, Cllr Richard Redcliffe, managed the board in general. Most people wishing to place a notice had to place them in a box for Cllr Redcliffe to pin up. The Chair advised that he had removed the old parish notices, but he would check again personally. He also advised that the Council intended to install its own noticeboards, at Fairhaven Lake, on the railway bridge, and at the Methodist Church.

Another member of the public asked where notices regarding the recent casual vacancy had been placed, specifically whether it was placed on Facebook. The Chair confirmed that it was not put on social media, but it was published on the Council website. Cllr Frith-Williams noted that the website was used for formal documents such as minutes, agendas and notices, and Facebook was generally for more informal, social matters. The Clerk confirmed that the physical notice had been put up at Ansdell Library and the St Paul's Fundraising Shop on Woodlands Road.

A third member of the public asked if the SPIDs were collecting data, and whether such data would be published. Cllr Harris advised that he would be collecting the data from the devices, but he was waiting for them to gather a decent body of data first. He advised that he would report back when this first round was done, probably after one month of operation. Cllr Frith-Williams noted that the Council was still encouraging residents to report cases of speeding and obstructive parking to the police. Cllr Dixon noted that he served on the Community Safety Partnership and they were getting an update from Lancashire County Council on new target locations for speed checks.

93. Planning Consultations

Cllr Dixon commented that the influence of the Council on the planning process would be much reduced under the incoming national scheme of delegation. Under the existing arrangements, if the Council made an objection on valid Planning grounds, an application would automatically be determined by the Planning Committee. Although the Council's objections would still be considered under the new arrangements, that automatic referral to the Committee would no longer happen. Cllr Dixon reported that 90% of the applications which had previously been determined by the Committee would now be decided by officers. Cllr Dixon commented that it was a "sad state of affairs" but advised that, legally, the Borough Council had no choice.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council has no comments the presented applications.

94. SPID Installations

Cllr P Wilkinson advised that the 3 planned locations had been fully installed, and the devices had been added to the insurance policy and asset register. The Clerk asked if there was anything further for him to do regarding these locations, and it was confirmed that there was not.

Councillors discussed whether a new SPID location should be added at the south end of Woodlands Road, including the possibility of moving an existing device between multiple locations. There were a variety of views, both for and against.

Cllr P Wilkinson advised that he was seeking larger speed limit signs for the area, replacing the 300mm diameter ones with 600mm. Cllr Perkins noted that a roundel painted onto the road surface would also help, but the Highways authority would not do that unless there were data to demonstrate the need for it.

It was agreed that data from the existing devices should be reviewed before the Council made a decision on pursuing a fourth SPID.

RESOLVED: that the matter of a further SPID location be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

95. Payments to Note

The Council noted the following payments which were made to comply with contractual terms and due dates under Financial Regulation 6.8(iii):

31/08/26	Unity Bank	£8.35	Service charge
02/09/26	Easy Websites	£63.36	Website & email

96. Payments for Authorisation

The Council was asked to authorise the following payments:

LCC	£1980.00	SPID pole installations
LCC	£540.00	SPID device installations
ElanCity	£8363.96	SPID device purchase

RESOLVED: that the presented payments be approved.

97. Mobile Card Payments

The Council considered a report from the Clerk which recommended that the Council approve the acquisition of a Mobile Card Payment system via Elavon, the partner provider of Unity Trust Bank.

Cllr Frith-Williams noted that no policy was prepared to govern a mobile card payment system, and noted that this had been a part of the Council's previous resolution on the matter. She advised that, in her view, the policy was needed before any payments were taken. Cllr Frith-Williams noted that the issue with the arrangements at the Ball had only become apparent six months after the event, which led to the Clerk making decisions without a policy to follow. Cllr Harris agreed that he would rather the Council be protected and have something to fall back on.

The Clerk advised that the principal anomaly with the previous arrangements had been the use of a private system to gather payments, and obtaining a Council-owned system would eliminate that issue. He also advised that he had asked Cllr Deborah Wilkinson, as Chair of the Events Committee, who she would like to have the capacity to accept card payments and view transactions. Her suggestion was to designate herself and the RFO, to begin with.

Cllr P Wilkinson noted that the most probable cause for any refund at the forthcoming fundraiser would be a couple of people dropping out and asking for their money back, which would be £20 per ticket. He commented that the risk from a single event was minimal, and noted that it was expected a policy could be formulated by the time of any subsequent event.

Cllr Roe proposed that the recommendations of the report be approved. Cllr Morris seconded the proposal.

- RESOLVED:
- i) that the Council apply to Elavon for a mobile card payment machine;
 - ii) that the Council establish a merchant services account with Elavon;
 - iii) that the RFO be designated as the authorised signatory, with the delegated authority to enter into the application and account agreement with Elavon; and
 - iv) that the RFO and the Chair of the Events Committee be granted permissions to accept card payments and view transactions on the Elavon system.

Cllr Frith-Williams asked that a mobile card payment policy be brought to the Council in a timely fashion.

98. Events Updates

In the absence of Cllr Deborah Wilkinson, an update on Events matters was provided by Cllr Paul Wilkinson. Cllr Wilkinson reported that 40 tickets had been sold for the forthcoming Psychic Night fundraiser.

Cllr Wilkinson also reported on preparations for the Christmas lights switch-on. He noted that comedian Jenny Eclair had been booked to perform, and that the Council was liaising with her agent regarding logistical arrangements. Furthermore, he and Cllr Roe had been volunteered to build a Santa's grotto, which would be converted into a nativity scene after the switch-on event. Cllr Roe had requested a new Santa suit, since his existing one was getting threadbare. A 20-foot Christmas tree had been ordered. Cllr Wilkinson noted that arrangements still had to be made regarding some additional lights, and any electrical work which was needed.

99. Proposed Parking Campaign

Cllr Deborah Wilkinson had proposed a campaign to support businesses and the community in discouraging poor and dangerous parking. She had proposed a budget of £100.

RESOLVED: that a budget of £100 be approved for a campaign to discourage poor and dangerous parking in the parish.

100. Internal Audit Action Plan

The Clerk reported that there had been some progress on the action plan, which he had neglected to mention at the last meeting. Specifically, the Council's accounts had been brought up to date, which was one of the urgent actions on the plan.

Cllr Frith-Williams asked that the entire up-to-date plan be circulated for each meeting, rather than an update on the individual items that had been completed.

The meeting finished at 8:05pm.