

Ansdell & Fairhaven Parish Council – Draft Minutes

Meeting held: Monday 01/12/2025, 7.00pm

Venue: St Paul's Church, Ansdell & Fairhaven

Chair: Cllr P. Wilkinson

Clerk (Interim): Cllr P. Wilkinson

Minutes taken by: Cllr A. Barnes

Ansdell & Fairhaven Parish Council

1. Public Participation

- Residents raised issues regarding **pavement conditions**, broken paving stones around trees, and general street cleanliness.
- The Council noted Lancashire County Council's responsibility for highways.
- A reporting app ("Clean Streets" or similar) is available for residents to log issues directly with LCC; link to be placed on the Council website.
- Discussion took place about street sweeping schedules and the possibility of increased hours for local maintenance.

Neighbour Dispute Update

- A resident reported **continued harassment from a neighbour**, including installation of floodlights shining into their property, sleep disruption, and intimidating behaviour.
- They have logged numerous incidents, and concerns have been escalated to Fylde Council and Lancashire Police.
- Police have confirmed this exceeds a neighbour dispute and may constitute harassment.
- Cllr. C Dixon will arrange a further meeting with senior officers and aim to include police representation.

No further public comments were raised.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from:

- Cllr Spilsbury (family commitment)
- Cllr Perkins (annual leave)
- Cllr Miller (annual leave)

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4. Note that Cllr A Barnes is taking the minutes

Council acknowledged.

5. Approval of Minutes – Meeting held 17/11/2025

Proposed - Cllr. C Dixon

Seconded- Cllr. J Firth-Williams

Signed – Chairman Cllr. P Wilkinson

**6. Storage Under the Bridge – £180/month Proposal

- Council currently lacks adequate storage for gazebos, Christmas lights, and equipment.
- A storage facility (“garage units over the bridge”) is available at **£180/month** plus a share of electricity.
- Storage facility in Ansdell so would be giving back to the community.
- Key-code entry allows shared access.
- The Council agreed that storage is urgently required.

- The Christmas lights will soon need to be taken down and stored. Lightpool has quoted £17,000 to them up and to take down and store for the year. This is not financially viable.
- **Resolved:** To take the unit on a six-month licence.
 - Proposed: Cllr. D Wilkinson
 - Seconded: Cllr . M Morris
 - **All approved**

7. Financial Considerations for Approval

A. Santa Post Box

- Proposal to install a dedicated Santa Post Box (£40)
- Box to be mounted at the Post Office with laminated instructions for children.
- Letters will be collected by the Council and passed to Royal Mail's designated Santa service.
 - Proposed: Cllr. D Wilkinson
 - Seconded: Cllr.E Taylor
 - All approved

B. Donation to Friends of Fairhaven Lake

- Approximately **£220** raised at a community engagement stall.
- Proposal to present a cheque formally at next meeting.
- **Approved:** Proceeds to be donated to Friends of Fairhaven Lake.
 - Proposed: Cllr. J Frith-Williams
 - Seconded: Cllr. M Morris
 - All approved

C. Switch On & Ball

A special thank you to Helen Ashton was given for her efforts in helping with the switch on. The councillors also appreciated the thank you from the Mayor and the emails received from the public congratulating the organisers of the event.

- The council has a balance of circa £4000. The council are looking at ideas for next years lights. Ideas are:
- To have lights along the trees on Woodlands Road
- Projector or lights on the Institute
- A bigger tree

Given these suggestions and the anticipation of more ideas coming forward, the council though it best to ring fence the money for the lights next year.

- Cllr Dixon:
- Cllr Morris:
- Unanimous all approved

D. Terms of Reference for Committees

- Draft circulated. Establishes:
 - Finance Committee spending authority up to £1500 to avoid slowing down progress.
 - The Finance Committee to meet every six weeks and report back to the full council at the next meeting.
- **Resolved:** Adopt Terms of Reference.
 - Proposed: Cllr. J Frith Williams
 - Seconded: Cllr. E Taylor
 - **All Approved**

E. Committee Memberships

- Concerns raised regarding councillor Millar repeatedly blocking authorised payments and breaching standing orders.
- The Chair requested removal of councillor Millar from the Finance Committee to protect Council governance.
- **Resolved:**
 - Cllr Millar to be **removed from the Finance Committee.**
 - Bank authorisation for Cllr Millar to be **rescinded.**
 - Planning Committee to be **disbanded**, with planning matters henceforth considered at Full Council.

- **Further resolved:** The co concerned will not serve on any committees going forward.
- New Finance Committee member appointed: **Cllr. A Barnes.**
 - Proposed: Cllr. P Wilkinson
 - Seconded: Cllr. D Wilkinson
 - **All approved unanimously**
- **Cllr. C Dixon to be a signatory on the Unity Bank account.**
 - Proposed: Cllr. C Dixon
 - Seconded: Cllr. E Taylor
 - **All approved unanimously**

F. Draft Precept Budget Report

- Cllr. D Perkins and the Chair have begun work.
- Proposal to hold a working group on 19th January 2026 to finalise projects and costings before submitting the precept in February.
- Councillors asked to submit any project proposals with full costings before the next meeting.

G. Ideas for Further Residents' Christmas Events

- Discussion of allocating remaining Christmas funds to community causes was held.
- Due to lack of clear demand and short timescales, Council agreed to **ring-fence unspent Christmas funds for future.**
- **Resolved:** Funds to be retained for 2026
 - Proposed: Cllr. J Frith Williams
 - Seconded: Cllr. P Wilkinson
 - All approved

H. Progress of Christmas Lights

- Switch-on event reported as highly successful with strong public turnout.
- Minor issues: lack of advance road-closure signage, trapped vehicles, and last-minute loss of stage electricity (generator hired urgently).
- Community engagement exceptionally high; Facebook reach approx. **149,681 views in 28 days.**

- Thanks extended to volunteers, Santa, local businesses, entertainers, and enrichment team.
- The council thanked Cllr. D Wilkinson for all her hard work, the coming together of all the churches, children, dance schools and everyone involved was very atmospheric and lovely.

I. Memorial for the Town

- Proposal for a small memorial area near the Institute with bench, flowers and plaque honouring local fallen (names not included).
- Cllr. D Wilkinson happy to explore in 2026.
- **Approved in principle.**

8. Planning Applications

- No significant new applications.
- A repeat application on Worsely Road and will be considered at Fylde Council
- Fylde Borough Council dealing with ongoing applications; updates to be circulated when received.

9. Community Enrichment Update (Cllr. D Wilkinson)

- Feedback from switch-on event extremely positive.
- Noted need for improved road closure signage and earlier distribution next year.
- Window-display competition ongoing.
- Engagement with local businesses and volunteers praised.

10. Business Survey Update (Cllr. D Perkins) update read by Cllr. D Wilkinson

- Approximately 10 responses so far; survey remains open. Business participation is encouraged.

11. Clerk Update

- Recruitment continuing; delays with assistance from LALC. They have now agreed to support the Parish Council in the recruitment process.
- Job hours amended to increase interest.

- CVs received; interviews to be arranged in New Year.
- Interim Clerk role remains unsustainable long-term.

Next Meeting

To be held on 26th January 2026

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