

Focus on Farnworth Board Meeting

The Well, Trafford Street, Farnworth, BL4 7PQ

9:30 am, 9 Friday January 2026

Minutes

Present: Rev John Bradbury (Chair), Chief Inspector John Hayward (GMP), Liz McNabb (Bolton CVS), Cllr Paul Sanders (Farnworth South), Janet Pollard (Bolton Council), Carlene Kirton (Resident), Yasmin Qureshi MP, Vanessa Barlow (Seddons), Carrie Riley (BeOneHomes), Cllr Nadeem Ayub (Farnworth North).

In Attendance: Karen Ingham (Principal Project Officer), Phil Lamb (Bolton Council), Rev Helen Bradbury (Secretariat).

Apologies: Helen Clayton (Bolton CVS), Superintendent Robert Kennedy (GMP)

John welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 5 December 2025 were agreed.

Matters Arising

The Pride in Place Prospectus is not available to be downloaded as a pdf document. This can be accessed using the following link.

[Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

The Community Buildings survey has been updated to include a disability access statement where information is available.

Website and social media are up and running. The pages for the individual projects have not yet been completed. This will be done as information is ready to be made public.

Action: Bolton CVS to send any information to JB for upload to the website.

Board Development Update

The date has been distributed and we have not yet appointed someone to facilitate. John Bradbury declared an interest, in that he is a trustee of Onesimus, one of the potential facilitators.

The quotes vary from £1378 to £6,700. This includes preparation, attendance on the day and producing a post event feedback document. They have all been given the same brief of what will be required: to make the group a cohesive group to get to know each other better, and why we are doing what we are doing.

It was agreed to share more information by email and members should reply with their thoughts by Friday 16 January 2026

Play Parks/Library Update

The councillors have been sent information about Moses Gate play park since our last meeting. They were invited to visit Moses Gate Park but as yet this has not taken place.

There is a limit on capacity within the Green Spaces team, so the project at Ellesmere Park has not yet been planned. Green spaces are currently recruiting. **Action: Board to monitor and may need to adjust the scheduling of the project.**

Library – A supply and demand analysis has been carried out as part of our Community Buildings Project, however it is for the Council to make a decision regarding the outcome of the library consultation and possible future use. It will only fall within the scope of the Board if the Council determine that the alternative use should be from within the Community. In this case it would form part of our Community Buildings Project. Communication needs to be clear about this.

Harper Green Playing Fields Update

There have been various unsolicited interests about the site. These have been collated and sent to Senior Team at the Council.

Discussion took place regarding frustrations that no decision has been made regarding how this project may proceed. This is now a priority for the Council and as a result of the work of the Board, the profile of the site has been raised.

Project Risk Register

Documentation was circulated and presented. This is just the start of the process and the review of the Risk Register will be a standing agenda item.

Liz McNabb shared information on the Project Risk Register for the Farnworth Fund. A significant risk here is the potential for over subscription. We will need to establish a process for dealing with complaints. The application process and criteria will need to be clearly publicised on the website and it should be made clear that the grant assessors are independent of the Farnworth Board and Bolton Council.

Liz also shared that there is always some risk involved as the funding is a grant and not a contract. However Bolton CVS mitigate this with their due diligence checks on applications.

Fraud Risk Assessment

Janet Pollard recommended that this be included with the same document as the Project Risk Register. This was agreed.

Board Recruitment

A call out for expressions of interest has been made.

The Terms of Reference set out the number of representatives in each category. They also state that if people miss three consecutive Board Meetings they may be removed from the Board. **Action John to contact those concerned and inform them should they wish to continue they will need to express their interest again.**

There are currently three vacancies in Private Sector, two voluntary sector, three local residents, and three young people- ideally under 25 years of age.

We have had some good applications but none from the private sector. The Chair has sent out a direct invitation to a number of businesses identified by Business Bolton. Vanessa Barlow suggested that businesses are more likely to respond to a direct communication from the Council. **This was agreed.** Other Board Members were asked to encourage any suitable contacts to consider applying.

John Bradbury shared a paper outlining the recruitment process and selection criteria. It was agreed to add the requirement for references for new appointees. Referees must not be family members of the applicant but can be Board Members. Following short listing prospective Board Members would meet with the Chair for a chat about roles and expectations, and if suitable final approval will be by Yasmin as MP. **Action Karen to update the process document and John to publish on Website.**

John, Karen and Yasmin will short list applicants. **Action Karen to circulate expressions of interest for scoring and Teams meeting scheduled for decision making.**

Any other business

Updates to the prospectus – Karen shared the following changes.

- 51% of the Board should be made up of people who live or work in the area of Farnworth.
- There is a greater involvement of the MP.
- More definition on the scope of projects, although all of our projects are currently in scope.
- Within three years Boards are expected to become formal community led organisations eg CIC.

All Board members are invited to attend Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) briefing sessions. **Action John to circulate the invite to Board Members for individual response.** It was noted that no event was being held in Manchester and that the timing created accessibility issues for some members. **Action John/Karen to feedback to MHCLG.** 7 Jan in Liverpool 3 Feb Newcastle, 4 Feb Leeds 10 Feb Birmingham 12 Feb London