

Focus on Farnworth Board Meeting

The Well, Trafford Street, Farnworth, BL4 7PQ

9:30 am Friday 5 December 2025

MINUTES

Present: John Bradbury, Paul Sanders, Emma Robinson, Nicolas Bonson, Carrie Riley, Helen Clayton, Carlene Kirton, Nadeem Ayub

In attendance: Helen Bradbury, Karen Ingham, Clive Gibbon

Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Yasmin Qureshi, Nicola Robinson, Janet Pollard

Chris Reddy has stepped down from the board but would still like to be involved in a subgroup.

Notification of any other business

The Pride in Place prospectus has been updated. Instruction is to carry on with what we are doing but note there is a new prospectus available for future reference. **Action this will be shared with the board.**

Minutes of the meeting of 7 November 2025

The minutes were agreed.

Matters arising

No decision has been made regarding the library, it has been closed recently owing to boiler repairs. PS shared the decision should be made in January, they have not decided whether this would be a political decision or made by officers.

Second Grant Agreement for Bolton CVS - This is for the one off development post, for 12 months. 21 hours a week totalling £43,915. The board agreed to this funding being allocated and for the Grant Agreement to be issued.

MHCLG Submission, this has been sent in and electronic recognition has been received.

Website and Social Media. Website is <https://focusonfarnworth.org.uk> We have also set up the Facebook Social Media page, please like and share. The BMBC corporate firewall has been requested to be lifted so that the website can be viewed by council officers. The front page of the website has a call to action regarding joining the board.

CR suggested it being shared on the Bolton at Home website. This was agreed and JB asked that the details be shared as widely as possible to draw traffic to our website.

Community Hubs evaluation update

Cathy has updated the presentation and JB shared this with the board.

CK asked about accessibility including facilities. Information about accessibility needs to be clearly marked on each building. **Action: KI to contact CP to update accordingly**

The Community Hubs Online will be part of the Focus On Farnworth Website and will simply point to the availability of space and a link to the contact details of the community building.

After much discussion it was agreed to await the outcome of the library consultation before agreeing any further work on space planning for the project. **Action: KI to reach out to corporate property team**

Bolton Council Update – Highways Traffic/Congestion

JB and KI have met with Highways to discuss the congestion at Kearsley roundabout and Longcauseway. JB had suggested filter lanes and having two lanes coming off the roundabout towards Farnworth. We are awaiting a response from Highways.

HC suggested we needed to measure this kind of intervention against the PiP objectives, and for us to record positive outcomes. This would come under Taking Back Control. **Action KI to create a table to record this.**

Project prioritisation

The most significant issue raised in the consultation process was regarding crime and anti-social behaviour.

The following criteria were agreed:

- Is it the Focus on Farnworth Board responsibility?
- Is it easy?
- Will it make an impact? (Will it be a tangible impact?)
- Is other funding assigned to the project?
- Does it align with previous engagement/consultation responses?
- Does it link to the 3 themes of PiP? (Thriving places, stronger communities and taking back control)

Action: This to be part of the Board development day as we discuss projects

Play Parks

KI has discussed ongoing/scheduled maintenance and upgrade with Bolton Council Greenspaces team. Moses Gate Park and Ellesmere Park (referred to locally as Dixon

Green Park) have additional greenspace budget allocation in addition to the £91,000 PiP Phase 1 for each park.

KI will share the outline draft proposals with the Board from the Greenspaces team for comment of feedback by cob Monday 8th December.

The Board have agreed to proceed using the PiP funding towards enhancements to Moses Gate Park and Ellesmere Park in 2026-2027.

Harper Green Playing Fields

Bolton Council Legal team are clarifying uses for the land. Zoe Hobson from Corporate Property team has been invited to attend the Board meeting in January to update on this project.

Budget

Reviewed actual spend against allocation from August 2025 to end November 2025.

HC asked for Consultants fees to be indicated in a different colour and reminded the board that the guidance does stipulate that the PiP funding should not be used toward consultants fees (but the board accept the fees from previous to allow the project to be scoped).

AOB

1. Board meeting 9th January (HC has confirmed that her Funding Manager will attend in her absence).
2. Deputy Chair – This might be useful to support the chair. **Action: To discuss once more board members are recruited.**
3. Working group for Farnworth Fund - Interested board members HC, PS, CK, CR
4. Board member recruitment
 - a. deadline to be inserted for receipt of expressions of interest
 - b. what information should be included with the EOI
 - c. include the process for selection
 - d. what vacancies we have in which sectors
 - e. timeframe for recruitment

Action: JB to update website and social media