



# FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely via video conferencing on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 6.30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors A. Pearson (Chairman); K. Dowson; S. Dowson; M. Parkin; P. Pearson, S. Tinkler [at 6:50 p.m.]. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Councillor J. Robinson (Durham County Council).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There were no members of the public present.

- | Minute No. | Agenda item   |
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| 546.       | <b>APOLOGIES: RESOLVED:</b> To accept apologies and reasons for non-attendance from Cllr. McNeil [family commitment]; Cllr. Barker [family commitment]; Cllr. Dillon [family commitment]. Cllr. Hodgson was absent [no apology or reason given].  |
| 547.       | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:</b> There were no declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) in any items on the agenda.   |
| 548.       | <b>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:</b> There were no requests received from any member who had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for dispensation to participate in discussions and vote.   |
| 549.       | <b>CASUAL VACANCY:</b> A vacancy had arisen due to the resignation of Christine Luke. Any request for a by-election may be made by ten electors by Tuesday 29th September 2020.   |
| 550.       | <b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b> It was unanimously <b>RESOLVED:</b> To record a vote of thanks to Christine Luke in recognition of her many years of public service as a parish councillor.  |
| 551.       | <b>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:</b> On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Parkin, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Cllr. K. Dowson shall be elected as Vice Chair of the Parish Council for the remainder of the agreed determined term of office, i.e. May 2021, <i>nem con</i> .  |
| 552.       | <b>BANK MANDATE: RESOLVED:</b> That Cllr. K. Dowson shall be a nominated signatory on the Parish Council's bank accounts, with her agreement, and to complete a business mandate change to remove Christine Luke's name and add Cllr. K. Dowson's details.  |
| 553.       | <b>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE:</b> On the motion of Cllr. K. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Parkin, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> To appoint Cllr. P. Pearson to serve as a representative trustee on The Sedgefield Charities. Cllr. Parkin expressed a hope that more light would be cast on the criteria for awarding grants from the charity to benefit the parish of Fishburn.   |
| 554.       | <b>DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:</b> Cllr. J. Robinson gave an update on matters relating to DCC. [Cllr. Tinkler joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.]. Cllr. Barker had written to ask how new neighbourhood wardens will impact on Fishburn and whether there will be routine visits, or only when they are called. Cllr. Robinson agreed to contact the relevant officer.  |
| 554.1      | Cllrs. Robinson and Brown Brown had agreed to commit the sum of £10,000.00 from the Neighbourhood Budget (NB) Fund to carry out work to improve the condition of play equipment in Fishburn in the current financial year 2020/21, either at the play area at Stobart Terrace or at the Memorial Children's Playing Field. On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Tinkler, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> That an application shall be submitted for the Memorial Children's Playing Field based on a quotation from <i>Kompan</i> [£12,929.60 + VAT], and the Parish Council shall make up the shortfall not covered by the grant aid funding. |
| 555.       | <b>AMENDMENT TO MINUTES: RESOLVED:</b> To rectify an error in a previously approved minute: no. 503.1 [13th February 2020] by substituting the wording to read: "Cllr. Dowson declared a pecuniary interest and remained in the room during the discussion, made  |

representations, but took no part in the discussion or vote on the contract in which someone known to her as a friend had an interest”, and authorise signing of the minutes as amended.

556. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2020.
557. **MATTERS ARISING:** Minute no. 538.1 - Cllr. Tinkler was informed of the location of the code for the defibrillator cabinet at the Community Centre for Tracy Storey (volunteer guardian).
558. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**
- 558.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and to approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 558.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
- 558.3 There were no applications for grants or donations to be considered.
- 558.4 **RESOLVED:** That members shall be invited to meet at the pit wheel memorial on Saturday 3rd October 2020 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss recent damage to the main entrance gate, and to walk around other areas of interest in the parish.
- 558.5 On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler it was **RESOLVED:** That work to extend existing cable to reach the location of a living Christmas tree on the village green, and possibly beyond for any future marquee at an estimated cost of £1,955.00 + VAT shall be put on hold until the next year.
559. **CEREMONIAL BEACON PROJECT:** Members received an update on the ‘Queen Elizabeth Beacon of Hope’ from Cllr. Tinkler. It had been difficult to arrange a meeting with Geoff Gibson at *Dale Fabrications*. The Clerk agreed to forward email correspondence from *Bullfinch Gas Equipment Limited* to assist in Cllr. Tinkler’s discussion with *Tim Girvan Gas Services*. Cllr. Tinkler hoped that the matters would be sorted out the following week.
560. **CEMETERY:** Members received a report on the memorial garden and wall from Cllr. S. Dowson. A strict lockdown and a time of national emergency announced on 23rd March had adversely affected proposals for fund-raising events to secure £7,500.00 match-funding.
561. **CEMETERY RULES:** Members reviewed the current rules and regulations covering the cemetery. **RESOLVED:** That rows R and S; nos. 1 to 20 in section D shall be assigned for the interment of cremated remains and only flat markers will be permitted in that area as a policy.
562. **CHRISTMAS EVENT:** Members reviewed arrangements for the Christmas event. It was agreed to place the item on the next agenda due to uncertainty over coronavirus.
563. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Any items for consideration shall be sent to the Parish Clerk.
564. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the next meeting shall be on Thursday 8th October 2020 at 6.30 p.m. held remotely via video conferencing.
565. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS: RESOLVED:** That the public shall be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Paragraph 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the basis that if they were present there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt (confidential) information, i.e. terms of commercial tenders and negotiations for contracts.
566. **MEMORIAL GARDEN AND WALL:** Members considered tenders for a memorial garden and wall within Fishburn cemetery and were minded to accept the lowest price submitted [£11,498.00], subject to contract. **RESOLVED:** To ask the contractor to confirm how long he would be able to hold that price for, e.g. until the end of the current financial year 2020/21.
567. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.