



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely via video conferencing on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors A. Pearson (Chairman); M. Barker; A. Dillon; K. Dowson; S. Dowson; P. McNeil; M. Parkin; P. Pearson; S. Tinkler. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk). The names of members (a roll call) was read aloud by the Parish Clerk.

- a) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Paul Black (Programme Manager) and Mr. Dafydd Jones (Environmental and Access Projects Officer) at *Discover Brightwater Landscape Partnership* outlined a proposal to create a woodland area at the rear of the pit wheel fields. Mr. Black agreed to investigate the owner's future intentions for the belt of Scots pine trees.
- b) Mr. Paul Howell MP agreed to press highways officials to get them involved in the issues regarding road safety at Fishburn crossroads. He mentioned a new Community Ownership Fund and plans for reopening Ferryhill Railway Station and Leamside Line.

Minute No.

Agenda item

- 653. **APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies for absence.
- 654. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Cllr. Dowson [secretary] declared a registerable interest in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association. Cllr. Barker declared a registerable interest in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club [treasurer]. Cllr. Barker [treasurer and plot holder] and Cllr. McNeil [plot holder] declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association.
- 655. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:**
 - 655.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To approve a request from Cllr. Dowson for dispensation to participate in discussions *and* to vote on allotment matters [no reason given].
 - 655.2 It was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To approve a request from Cllr. Barker for dispensation to participate in discussions but *not* to vote on allotment matters [no reason given]
 - 655.3 There was no request received from Cllr. McNeil for dispensation to participate in discussions *or* to vote on allotment matters.
- 656. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:** Cllr. D. Brown had submitted an apology for his absence. Cllr. J. Robinson had submitted an apology for his absence [family commitment] but had promised to send a report on matters relating to Durham County Council.
- 657. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th February 2021.
- 658. **MATTERS ARISING:** 639.1: It was agreed to refer any outstanding actions relating to Durham County Council to Cllr. Robinson including concerns expressed by Cllr. S. Dowson regarding cars parking over the white chevrons leading to the junction with Beechwood Road.
- 659. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Local residents had been complaining about the litter along the stretch of adopted highway and public area down to the Hardwick Grange housing development, which had already been reported via DCC's 'Do It Online' service.
 - 659.1 There were no comments on planning consultation DM/21/00548/FPA. Proposal: Side extension, internal alterations and front veranda at 8 South View, Fishburn, TS21 4BS.
 - 659.2 A member of the public had expressed an interest in filling a casual vacancy by co-option and had been advised that elections would be held on 6th May 2021.
- 660. **ALLOTMENTS:** Members considered correspondence received from Mr. Bill Coates on behalf of Fishburn Allotment Association regarding asbestos removal. On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. P. Pearson, it was **RESOLVED:** That no compensation shall be

paid for the cost of reinstatement works affecting either the whole or any part of an allotment. (4 votes in favour; 3 votes against). [Cllr. Barker declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI), participated in discussions, but did not vote on matters affecting the allotments. Cllr. McNeil declared a DPI and remained during the discussion but took no part and did not vote on matters affecting the allotments].

661. **FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques. **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
662. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members considered a grounds maintenance report from Mr. S. Ellwood. Phase two improvement works and gravelling to damaged graves at the cemetery had been completed to approximately 160 concrete graves.
- 662.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED:** That the plan to work in partnership with *Discover Bright Water Landscape Partnership* and *Durham Wildlife Trust* to plant native species trees to help combat climate change and boost wellbeing and wildlife was agreeable, and that Cllr. McNeil shall take a lead role in working work with the organisations.
663. **STANDING ORDERS:** On the motion of Cllr. Parkin, seconded by Cllr. Barker at 8:30 p.m. it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Order no. 3, which states 'a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours', in order to progress the business.
664. **NOTICE BOARD:** The Practice Business Manager at Skerne Medical Group had confirmed that the partners had no objection to the Parish Council moving the notice board to the area outside the medical centre on Butterwick Road. It was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To purchase a new notice board on a like-for-like basis to be installed outside the medical centre on Butterwick Road and to consider quotations at the next meeting.
- 664.1 Cllr. Tinkler asked to let Skerne Medical Group know that some residents had expressed concern about a broken bollard outside the practice which they felt may be dangerous.
665. **CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT:** Members received a report on the memorial garden and fund-raising. Cllr. S Dowson had circulated to members an image of the proposed memorial plaque. It was **RESOLVED:** To place a purchase order with Gary Smith Builders and Plasterers for work for a memorial garden and brick wall within Fishburn cemetery. Cllr. S Dowson indicated that the contractor may be in a position to start work within 3-4 weeks.
666. **CEREMONIAL BEACON PROJECT:** Members received an update on the Queen Elizabeth II Beacon of Hope. An purchase order had been placed with *Dale Fabrications* for the manufacture and supply and installation of a gas-fuelled beacon as per drawings supplied.
- 666.1 **RESOLVED:** That a site visit to confirm the location of the beacon shall be postponed until after 29th March 2021 at the earliest due to COVID-19 restrictions, to include an inspection of the area proposed for a footpath near Garden of Remembrance, the footpaths with gravel surface, and a postponed site visit to inspect trees on the village green.
667. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the next meeting shall be on Thursday 8th April 2021 at 6.30 p.m. held remotely via video conferencing.
668. **THE SEDGEFIELD CHARITIES:** The Chairman allowed a report on the Sedgefield Charities. from Cllr. P. Pearson as the nominated representative/trustee.
669. **ULTRAFast FIBRE BROADBAND:** The Chairman allowed a report on Ultrafast Fibre Broadband in Fishburn from Cllr. Parkin as the nominated lead member.
670. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:23 p.m.