



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely via video conferencing on Thursday 12th November 2020 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 [*joined at 7:15 p.m.*]. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. P. Howell, M.P., County Councillor J. Robinson; Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk).

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

Minute No.

Agenda item

- 585. APOLOGIES:** The names of members (a roll call) was read aloud by the Clerk. **RESOLVED:** To accept an apology and reason for non-attendance from Cllr. M. Hodgson [family illness].
- 586. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** There were no declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) in any items on the agenda. Cllr. Barker declared a Personal Interest (PI) in matters affecting Fishburn Community Football Club [treasurer]; Fishburn Allotment Association [treasurer]; and the Memorial Children's Playing Field [trustee]. Cllr. McNeil declared a Personal Interest (PI) in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association.
- 587. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:** There were no requests received from any member who had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for dispensation to participate in discussions and vote.
- 588. MR. PAUL HOWELL MP:** Mr. Howell agreed that he would be happy to intervene where he could regarding road safety issues at Fishburn crossroads and would attend the location on Friday 13th November at 3:30 p.m. to observe the issues.
- 589. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:** Cllr. J. Robinson gave an update on matters relating to DCC. [*Cllr. Tinkler joined the video conference at 7:15 p.m.*].
- 590. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Cllr. Tinkler requested a correction to minute no. 576 to read: "*Cllr. Tinkler had suggested lighting.*" **RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th October 2020, as amended.
- 591. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- 592. CASUAL VACANCY:** Mr. Michael Jones had expressed an interest in the casual vacancy for a councillor by co-option but was not present.
- 593. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**
- 593.1 Cllr. Barker asked about standing charges for electricity at the pavilion and the Clerk offered to provide a written reply. **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 593.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
- 593.3 On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, it was **RESOLVED:** To approve a request for a donation in the sum of £100 for a Christmas jingle trail.
- 593.4 *Mazars LLP* had completed the external audit for the year ended 31st March 2020 and there were no significant matters arising. A statement had been published on the website.
- 594. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members considered a grounds maintenance report from Mr. S. Ellwood and issues relating to an action plan and asset management.
- 594.1 **RESOLVED:** To record vote of thanks to Cllr. S. Dowson for kindly donating 6 additional bird boxes to be installed on suitable trees on the village green.

- 594.2 On the motion of Cllr. Barker, it was **RESOLVED**: That the main gate at the pit wheel field shall remain unlocked and open during the winter months.
- 594.3 **RESOLVED**: To defer consideration of a proposal for a steel mobility kissing gate at the pit wheel field, allowing for wheelchair and pushchair access whilst deterring motorbikes, until a site meeting could be safely arranged for members to view the area in question.
- 594.4 **RESOLVED**: To obtain quotations for the cost for replacing grass matting at Millfield Play Area for consideration at the next meeting.
- 594.5 **RESOLVED**: To defer indefinitely proposals for the area behind the Multi-Use Games Area.
- 594.6 Cllr. Stephen Tinkler mentioned that Cllr. J. Robinson had spoken to him about Durham County Council's discussions about selling land to a business, which may involve access over land owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk agreed to obtain further details.
- 595. CEREMONIAL BEACON PROJECT**: Members received an update on the 'Queen Elizabeth Beacon of Hope' from Cllr. Tinkler. Contact with contractors had not been possible due to the four-week lockdown in England.
- 596. CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT**: Members received a report on the memorial garden and wall and fund-raising from Cllr. S. Dowson. **RESOLVED**: To set up *GoFundMe Team Fundraising*, subject to donors being able to make secure payments directly to Fishburn Parish Council's account and funds not being able to be withdrawn by any individual to protect against any suspicion of fraud.
- 596.1 **RESOLVED**: That the right to display a memorial plaque in a designated space may be purchased for a period not exceeding one hundred years. Cllr. S. Dowson agreed to prepare a pricing strategy for the purchase of plaques to cover the costs and to review the initial draft of proposed rules and regulations prepared by the Parish Clerk.
- 597. NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED**: That the next meeting shall be on Thursday 10th December 2020 at 6.30 p.m. held remotely via video conferencing. Cllr. Tinkler asked for an item to be placed on the next agenda for the Parish Council to consider setting up its own social media account such as *Facebook*.
- 598. 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.
- 599. ALLOTMENTS: RESOLVED**: That *MDS Environmental Limited* shall be asked to remove asbestos debris at the price quoted [£5,470 + VAT] but not before daylight-saving time starts in March 2021 to try to minimise the disruption to plot holders.
- 599.1 **RESOLVED**: To write to the secretary of Fishburn Allotment Association with a copy of the asbestos management survey report regarding the asbestos-containing material (ACM) and instructions that the ACM must be left in place until it can be removed by a suitably trained person and under no circumstances should it be dismantled or be moved from the plots.
- 599.2 **RESOLVED**: To label the ACM clearly with an asbestos warning sign supplied by the Parish Council until the removal work can start, considering the current lockdown and time of national emergency.
- 600. BUDGET SETTING**: On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. S. Dowson, it was **RESOLVED**: To set aside the sum of £1,881.00 for Fishburn Youth & Community Centre.
- 600.1 On the motion of Cllr. Parkin, seconded by Cllr. McNeil, it was **RESOLVED**: To ask *LRT Groundworks* to repair the pavilion car park at the price quoted [£880 + VAT].
- 600.2 On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. K. Dowson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To approve the budget for the 2021/22 financial year and to confirm that the precept request for 2021/22 shall be £95,000.
- 601. CONCLUSION OF MEETING**: The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.