



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely via video conferencing on Thursday 14th January 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:** Messrs. J. Sellick and M. Ogden (Durham County Council); Cllr. J. Robinson (DCC); Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk).

- a) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Jack Sellick, Surveyor at Durham County Council, and Mr. Mike Ogden, Access & Rights of Way Manager, answered questions on a request to adopt an existing footpath on parish council land as a formal right of way. **RESOLVED:** That the proposal is not agreeable as the matter currently stands and to request certain conditions with a focus on reinvesting the proceeds from the sale of areas of industrial estate land on road safety improvements at the crossroads. [*Cllr. John Robinson joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m. He declared an interest and did not participate in any discussions on planning matters*].
- b) Mr. Paul Howell MP agreed to use the Parish Council's discussion about the request for a formal right of way as a conduit to arrange a meeting with highways officials to get them involved in the issue regarding road safety issues at Fishburn crossroads at an optimum time.

Minute
No.

Agenda item

619. **APOLOGIES:** The names of members (a roll call) was read aloud by the Clerk. **RESOLVED:** That an apology for absence submitted by Cllr. M. Hodgson shall not be approved because there was no reason indicated for non-attendance. On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. Barker, it was **RESOLVED:** To write to Cllr. Hodgson to remind her that it was hoped that she would be able to participate at the next meeting by video conference or by the telephone.
620. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Cllr. Barker declared a Personal Interest (PI) in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club [treasurer]; Fishburn Allotment Association [treasurer]. Cllr. McNeil declared a PI in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association [plot holder].
621. **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.
622. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:** Cllr. D. Brown had submitted an apology for absence. Cllr. J. Robinson gave a comprehensive report on matters relating to Durham County Council. The Memorial Children's Playing Field project had finally been allocated £10,000 from the Neighbourhood Budgets of Cllrs. Robinson and Brown (£5,000 each). **RESOLVED:** To submit a request to Cllr. Robinson under the Freedom of Information Act regarding what sums of money had been allocated under section 106 agreements within Sedgefield ward. [*Cllr. Robinson left the meeting at 8:05 p.m. after presenting his report*].
623. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** **RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th December 2020.
624. **MATTERS ARISING:** Those living in tier 4 areas had been placed under a "stay at home" order and the site visit arranged for Sunday 10th January to inspect trees on the village green had been postponed until the situation improved.
625. **CASUAL VACANCY:** There were no expressions of interest in the casual vacancy for a councillor by co-option.
626. **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.
- 626.1 **RESOLVED:** To approve the purchase of replacement equipment and spares for automated

external defibrillators and cabinets as suggested by Tracy Storey (volunteer guardian).

- 627. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members considered a grounds maintenance report from Mr. S. Ellwood and issues relating to an action plan and asset management.
- 627.1 **RESOLVED:** That *Kompan's* quotation [£640.00] to repair two damaged areas of the wetpour surface at the Memorial Children's Playing Field is not agreeable.
- 627.2 **RESOLVED:** That *Kompan's* quotation [£140.00] to power wash and clean the wet pour surface is agreeable, subject to first asking *S.E. Landscaping Limited* to provide a quotation.
- 627.3 Members considered a third quotation for the cost of replacing grass matting under the basket/cantilever swing at Millfield Play Area. On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. Tinkler, it was **RESOLVED:** To request an alternative quotation from *LRT Groundworks* for re-doing the grass matting soiling and re-seeding without digging out soil/without membrane.
- 627.4 **RESOLVED:** To defer consideration of a quotation for the cost of constructing a path in section D near the new Garden of Remembrance within the cemetery until the next meeting.
- 627.5 Members considered correspondence received from Mr. Bill Coates on behalf of Fishburn Allotments Association. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council needed to take a view on the scope of works and any reinstatement works at the earliest opportunity.
- 627.6 Cllr. Barker agreed to arrange for the football club to keep the water supply flowing at the pavilion and the thermostat had been set to a suitable temperature to keep the building warm.
- 627.7 On the motion of Cllr. A. Pearson, it was **RESOLVED:** To consider at the next meeting a proposal to relocate the main notice board.
- 628. VILLAGE GREEN:** Mr. Garry Conway had been advised that those living in tier 4 areas had been placed under a "stay at home" order and the site visit arranged for Sunday 10th January to inspect trees on the village green had been postponed until the situation improved.
- 628.1 On the motion of Cllr. P. Pearson, it was **RESOLVED:** To consider at the next meeting a proposal to plant native species trees at the pit wheel field.
- 629. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: RESOLVED:** To place an order with *Blachere Illumination UK Ltd.* for 150 metres LED Sparklight 24V Warm White, PVC green cable at the price quoted [£659.52].
- 630. STANDING ORDERS:** On the motion of Cllr. K. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Parkin, it was **RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Order no. 3 - that 'a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours' - until 9:00 p.m. at the latest in order to progress the business.
- 631. CEREMONIAL BEACON PROJECT:** Members received an update on the Queen Elizabeth II Beacon of Hope. Cllr. Tinkler had tried to contact *Bullfinch Gas Equipment Ltd.* but no-one had been available. A proforma invoice would be raised detailing payment terms; manufacture would start after 40% is paid; a second payment of 40% would be required prior to installation; a third payment of 20% after it is signed off. **RESOLVED:** To place an order with *Dale Fabrications* for the manufacture and supply and installation of a gas-fuelled beacon as per drawings supplied and to ensure that the cost quoted is the final price for the works.
- 632. CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT:** Members received a report on the memorial garden and fund-raising from Cllr. S. Dowson and donations via *GoFundMe Team Fundraising* with secure payments made directly to the Parish Council's account.
- 633. DOUBLE TAXATION: RESOLVED:** To note information from County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) regarding the issue of double taxation.
- 634. NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the next meeting shall be on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 6.30 p.m. held remotely via video conferencing.
- 635. CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:08 p.m.