



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely via video conferencing on Thursday 8th April 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors A. Pearson (Chairman); M. Barker; K. Dowson; S. Dowson; 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) at *Discover Brightwater Landscape Partnership* outlined potential funding sources to create a woodland area at the rear of the pit wheel fields. He explained that Durham County Council owned the neighbouring belts of trees and intended to thin them by 2023. It was agreed to nominate a member to take a lead role to work with the organisations after the local elections on 6th May.
- b) Clare Hubbard outlined a proposal for *Fishburn Wombles* to scatter some 'Beebombs', a mix of native British wildflower seeds. It was agreed to consider a donation at the next meeting.
- c) Mr. Paul Howell MP advised that he would be meeting highways officials the following week to discuss the issues regarding road safety at Fishburn crossroads.

Minute No.

Agenda item

- 671. **APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies for absence. Cllrs. A. Dillon and P. McNeil had announced that they had each decided not to put their names forward for election on 6th May.
- 672. **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] and a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association [treasurer and plot holder].
- 673. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:**
 - 673.1 There was no request from Cllr. Dowson for dispensation to participate in allotment matters.
 - 673.2 There was no request from Cllr. Barker for dispensation to participate in allotment matters.
- 674. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** There was no report on matters relating to DCC.
- 675. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th March 2021.
- 676. **MATTERS ARISING: 660: RESOLVED:** To schedule a date with the contractor during week commencing Monday 10th May 2021 for the asbestos removal at Fishburn allotment site to enable the Allotment Association to prepare the plotters.
- 677. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 677.1 Mark Cotton, Assistant Director at North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) NHS Foundation Trust, had confirmed in writing that NEAS had no plans to close Fishburn ambulance station.
 - 677.2 On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Parkin, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To approve a request for a dedicated brick paver for Derek Hawes ['Smut'], a blank brick to be engraved subject to the condition that the enquirer must place an order directly with the supplier and safely install it at her own expense as a one-off agreement.
 - 677.3 **RESOLVED:** To decline a request to use a football pitch for a SwingFit class. Members were reluctant to open the facility more widely at present. The Chairman of Fishburn Youth & Community Centre noted that the enquirer had mentioned that she introduced her classes to the Community Centre and he suggested that she might wish to consider using their field.
- 678. **REPORTS:** Members received a report from Cllr. Parkin on Ultrafast Fibre Broadband.
- 679. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

- 679.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 679.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
- 679.3 Members acknowledged that the Parish Council was reliant on using the Parish Clerk's privately owned mobile phone, SIM card, and 'phone number to make and receive calls for parish council business. It was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Parish Clerk to enter into a mobile 'phone contract on behalf of the Parish Council, including upgraded handset, unlimited minutes and texts, and sufficient data for *Zoom* calls, e.g. 5GB.
- 680. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members considered a grounds maintenance report from Mr. S. Ellwood.
- 680.1 **RESOLVED:** That a site visit shall be held on Sunday 9th May 2021 at 11:00 a.m. to inspect trees on the village green.
- 680.2 **RESOLVED:** To approve an instruction to install two drop posts to enable access to the Memorial Children's Playing Field whenever there is a day when the area is clear of vehicles.
- 680.3 Paul Proud, Asset Manager at *Living Housing Limited*, had stated that the boundary fence between the recreation ground and *Living Housing Limited's* properties [Poplar Crescent] is not *Living's* responsibility to maintain. The Parish Clerk disputed this assertion and explained that the Parish Council may need to be prepared to resort to law to remedy the problem.
- 681. NOTICE BOARD: RESOLVED:** To obtain a quotation for one *Lynester* double door post mounted notice board; header personalised with council logo; bespoke lettering; pinnable inner panels (self-healing rubber). Members wished to see artwork proofs in a) black with gold lettering, b) green with gold lettering, c) green with white lettering, before placing an order.
- 682. FISHBURN CEMETERY:** Members discussed a draft overall plan/strategy for the cemetery. **RESOLVED:** That a site visit shall be held on Sunday 9th May 2021 immediately after the inspection of trees on the village green, to include an inspection of the area proposed for a footpath near Garden of Remembrance, the footpaths with gravel surface, and benches.
- 683. CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT:** Members received a report on the memorial garden and brick wall within Fishburn cemetery and fund-raising. Cllr. S Dowson indicated that the contractor, Gary Smith Builders and Plasterers, would be starting work on Wednesday 14th April 2021.
- 683.1 **RESOLVED:** That the price for purchasing a recyclable plastic bench shall be £450.00 which also incorporates the cost of fixing plates, such price to be reassessed whenever the cemetery fees are reviewed.
- 683.2 **RESOLVED:** To record vote of thanks to Cllr. S. Dowson for her excellent fund-raising efforts.
- 684. STANDING ORDERS:** On the motion of Cllr. P. Pearson, seconded by Cllr. Tinkler at 8:30 p.m. it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To suspend for 20 minutes Standing Order no. 3, which states 'a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours', in order to progress the business.
- 685. CEREMONIAL BEACON PROJECT:** Members received an update on the Queen Elizabeth II Beacon of Hope. It was agreed to press *Dale Fabrications* to supply some drawings. A new estimate was awaited from *East Durham Solutions Ltd.* for the cost of a concrete pad.
- 686. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council shall be held on 13th May 2021.
- 687. NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the next meeting shall be on Thursday 13th May 2021 held after the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
- 688. CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:48 p.m.