



# FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2020 at 6.30 p.m.  
remotely via video conferencing

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors A. Pearson (Chairman); M. Barker; A. Dillon; K. Dowson; S. Dowson; M. Parkin; P. Pearson, S. Tinkler. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Councillor J. Robinson (Durham County Council) and one member of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Cllr. D. Brown had submitted an apology for non-attendance. Cllr. J. Robinson gave a report on matters relating to Durham County Council and pledged to fund the play area at Stobart Terrace and indicated that the sum of £10,000 had been "committed" to carry out the required work to improve the condition of the play equipment in financial year 2020/21. Cllr. Robinson agreed to Cllr. Barker's request to contact Paul Howell MP regarding Fishburn crossroads.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** One member of the public who was not present had requested a headstone in the permitted size range. **RESOLVED:** That the proposed inscription (wording); and a photo-plaque incorporated in the memorial shall be permitted. It was also agreed (in principle) to the carving (engraving) depicting a front-facing tiger being incorporated in the memorial. The approval will be subject to a final drawing showing the form and dimensions of the proposed headstone and carving being submitted. Any request for a three dimensional feature as an appendage on top of the headstone should not be added and would be subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

Minute  
No.

## Agenda item

529. **APOLOGIES: RESOLVED:** To accept an apology and reason for non-attendance from Cllr. Hodgson [hospital appointment] and Cllr. Luke [unable to participate remotely]. Members acknowledged that some councillors may have a disinclination to use electronic means of participation but there was a consensus that this would not be approved as a reason for non-attendance because using the telephone is acceptable during the current national emergency.
530. **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].
531. **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.
532. **AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS: RESOLVED:** To adopt amendments to standing orders - COVID-19 Modification of meetings - until legal dispensation expires in May 2021.
533. **CASUAL VACANCY:** On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. Dillon, it was **RESOLVED:** That Mr. Peter McNeil shall fill the casual vacancy by co-option. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was taken as signed and would be returned to the Clerk.
534. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2020.
535. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Tinkler confirmed that he had made a 'cry for peace' and a roll call of honour at the war memorial with a show of flags to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.
536. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR): RESOLVED:** To approve and authorise the signing of sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR for 2019/20.
- 536.1 The Clerk explained that the Council must inform the electorate of a 30 working day period during which public rights may be exercised which must start the day after the unaudited

AGAR has been published on the council's website.

**537. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

537.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and to approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.

537.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.

537.3 **RESOLVED:** To award the sum of £1,500 to *Citizens Advice County Durham* for the financial year 2020/21 for the provision of the Fishburn advice session.

**538. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members considered a grounds maintenance report from Mr. S. Ellwood and the action plan, and issues relating to asset management

538.1 Cllr. Tinkler confirmed that Ms. Tracy Storey was willing to perform the temporary role of unpaid 'volunteer guardian' to check the defibrillators and cabinets on a weekly basis temporarily until a local volunteer could be recruited.

538.2 Members were asked to consider disposal of the unused container at the football pavilion.

538.3 Members were asked to consider refurbishment of the pit tub planter at the community centre.

538.4 Cllr. Parkin pointed out that potholes on the roadway adjacent to the community centre required attention and that responsibility for some of the area rested with the Parish Council. He also highlighted the poor state of the car park outside the football pavilion.

538.5 On the motion of Cllr. Dillon, seconded by Cllr. K. Dowson, it was **RESOLVED:** To formally write to request payment from the motorist for the damage to a barrel planter caused by a collision outside the Co-op [£92.15] which he had agreed to pay at the time.

**539. ALLOTMENTS:** *Top Spec Environmental Services* had agreed to visit the allotment site to provide an accurate quotation for the cost of removing the asbestos-containing material (ACM) referred to in an asbestos management survey report but the firm had furloughed staff.

**540. PLAY AREAS: RESOLVED:** To accept County Councillor Robinson's offer to fund improvements at the play area at Stobart Terrace but preferably at the Memorial Children's Playing Field in the current financial year 2020/21. It was generally felt that the request for the extension of a footpath to the A177 should be taken forward separately.

540.1 **RESOLVED:** To start re-opening fenced playgrounds subject to carrying out a risk assessment including COVID-19 risks and getting a playground safety inspector from Durham County Council to review the play facilities making sure the children will be safe.

**541. CEREMONIAL BEACON PROJECT:** Members received an update on the 'Queen Elizabeth Beacon of Hope'. A decision was still awaited from the Area Action Partnership (AAP) funds.

**542. CEMETERY:** A fund-raising event for the memorial wall had been approved just before a strict lockdown was announced. The Clerk explained that it was the Parish Council's policy to ask for fixed price quotations rather than only estimates to guard against any unforeseen costs. **RESOLVED:** To make a pre-application planning enquiry with the planning authority.

542.1 Concerns had been raised by one member of the public about damage to two plastic spiked flower containers. **RESOLVED:** To review the current rules covering the cemetery.

**543. CHRISTMAS EVENT: RESOLVED:** To confirm the same arrangements for the Christmas event as last year subject to coronavirus guidelines, except the catering van.

**544. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Any items for consideration shall be sent to the clerk. There were a few items raised requesting action relating to Durham County Council.

**545. NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the next meeting shall be on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 6.30 p.m. held remotely via video conferencing if there is sufficient business.

**546. CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.