**Fishburn Parish Council**

**Chair Cllr. S.Dowson**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.**

**Present :** Cllr. S.Dowson (Chair),

Cllrs. S.Tinkler C. Leonard, V.Anderson, M.Barker, D.Dowson, S.Hughes, K.Payne.

**In attendance :** Mr. J.Robinson Parish Clerk. County Councillor I. Catchpole

**40.0/25 Apologies**

County Councillor C. Lines

**41.0/25 Declaration of Interest**

The following declaration of interest were made Cllr. V.Anderson, M.Barker, D.Dowson, K.Payne.

**42.0/25 Member dispensation**

No issues raised.

**43.0/25 Durham County Councillor Report**

Cllr. I. Catchpole advised he had attended the meeting of the Southwest Planning Committee. He advised the speed sign has now been installed and he is chasing up the footpath from Fishburn Colliery to Bishop Middleham Road junction.

**44.0/25 Chairman’s Report**

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the following:

1. S.E.Landscape are to trim the hedging around the church
2. Church fencing to be replaced week beginning 8th July 2025
3. The cash account for the Council has been opened with Jewson
4. No reply from application for Penguin Books Library project. Agreed to investigate purchasing former red telephone boxes
5. The church has agreed to meet to discuss floodlighting, meeting to be held in September
6. She has met with Blachere and the new festive lights will be installed week beginning 8th July 2025 at accost of £8000

**45.0/25 Reports from outside meetings**

Cllr. M.Barker reported on the recent allotment committee meeting, no issues for Council to deal with.

**46.0/25 Minutes of monthly meeting held on 12th June 2025.**

The minutes were proposed Cllr. V.Anderson seconded Cllr. C. Leonard and agreed.

**47.0/25 Correspondence**

The following was received:-

1. Register of Electors Monthly Alterations
2. DCC confirmation of Neighbourhood Budget award and funds to be transferred to Council accounts
3. NWA advising of a possible leak on the allotments due to high usage. Cllr. M.Barker agreed to re-read the metre for the coming weeks to monitor situation.
4. E-mail complaining about rubbish and broken glass on a playground but no site named. Agreed to write and ask for specific site details.
5. Residents complaining of the state of the plaques on the Pit Wheel. Clerk advised he had spoken to S.E.Landscape and they are unable to clean it. It was agreed to approach the Co-op Funeral Service for a quote.

**48.0/25 Planning Applications**

No applications to consider

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**50.0/25 Football Field**

Cllr. D.Dowson reported the FA Maintenance Grant is for 5 years starting with £5000 in the first year. The pitches need to be Verti Cut both full and small pitch. This will result in major improvement and start of the programme. The cost however will be £10000 with the Council match funding in the first year £4,600. After discussion it was proposed Cllr. S.Tinkler seconded Cllr. C. Leonard and carried for Council to undertake the match funding. Cllrs. S.Dowson, D.Dowson and K.Payne declared an interest and took no part in the voting.

**49.0/25 Website**

Cllr. S.Dowson welcomed the representative of OUTRANK who have undertaken a review and assessment of the Councils website and need for members to all have a .gov email. After discussion it was agreed to invite tenders from 3 companies to undertake a new website.

**50.2/25 VJ Day**

After discussion members agreed to fly the special VJ Flag during August and Cllr. S.Tinkler agreed to erect the poppies etc as usual and on the Facebook memories of the period. Members also agreed to the verses to be used on the Trees of Inspiration.

**51.0/25 Monthly Financial Reconciliation**

Cllr. M.Barker proposed seconded Cllr. V.Anderson and agreed to accept report on Invoice and Expenditure and to authorise payment of monthly accounts.

**52.0/25 Garages**

Cllr. S.Dowson and Clerk reported on the numbers who have paid the current years rent. It was agreed to give those who have not paid up to 31st July 2025 to pay.

**53.0/25 Fishburn Charites.**

Cllr. M.Barker advised the former Clerk had raised the issue of a second Charity in Fishburn regarding play areas. The Council in the end transferred the trusteeship to a number of individuals. At this time only 2 remain and they wish to transfer it back to Fishburn Parish Council. It was proposed Cllr. V.Anderson seconded Cllr. C. Leonard and agreed to accept back the management and trusteeship of this Charity.

**54.0/25 Road Traffic Management Plan**

Members expressed concern regarding the recent number of serious accidents around the Parish. Cllr. I. Catchpole agreed to co-ordinate a joint meeting between County Councillors, Highway Officers DCC, Police and Parish Council to discuss a Traffic Management Plan alongside Cllr. C. Lines.

**55.0/25 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 11th September 2025 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

Signed:-

Chair Fishburn Parish Council

11th September 2025