Fishburn Parish Council

**Chair Cllr. S.Dowson**

**Minutes of a meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday 13th February 2025 in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.**

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

Cllrs. D.Dowson, S.Tinkler C. Leonard, S.Hughes, V.Anderson A.Pearson.

**In attendance :** Mr. J.Robinson Parish Clerk. County Councillor C. Lines and D.Brown

There were no members of the public present.

**179.0/24 Apologies**

Councillors M.Barker, R.Pedlow.

**180.0/24 Declaration of Interest**

The following declaration of interest were made Cllr. D.Dowson, A.Pearson, V.Anderson.

**181.0/24 Member dispensation**

No issues raised.

**182.0/24 Chairmans Report**

1.Cllr. S.Dowson reported members of the public commented on the need to spruce up the Pit Wheel. It was agreed the Clerk obtain a quote from S.E.Landscape for the next meeting.

2.Residents have asked where DCC are regarding improving the footpath from Fishburn to Bishop Middleham crossroads. Cllr. C. Lines advised at this time there is no funding, and it has as a result not been added to the forthcoming Highways Programme.

3. Residents have queried the ownership of the land at the Butterwick Road junction. Cllr. C. Lines agreed to ascertain ownership via DCC and report back to the next meeting.

4. She reported on a meeting she had attended on site with NWA. They are to install a designated water pipe/tap exclusively for the users of the Cemetery. Clerk advised NWA have contacted him and will liaise when the work is being undertaken to ensure no issues in respect of funerals.

5. There is a need to order 2 additional seats for the Cemetery, colour duck egg blue. It was proposed Cllr. S.Dowson seconded Cllr. D.Dowson and agreed to the purchase of same. Clerk to obtain prices for next meeting.

6. Discussions took in regard to car parking in front of Park View. It was agreed to place this onto the agenda for the Annual Assembly in May.

7. Cllr. S.Dowson advised she had been approached to see if the Parish Council would donate towards Fishburn Banner Group and the Durham Miners Gala expenses they must pay. It was proposed Cllr. C. Leonard seconded Cllr. V.Anderson and agreed to donate £250. Cllr. S.Dowson declared an interest and did not vote due to her being Chair of the Fishburn Banner Committee.

8. The recently repaired seat opposite the football field has been stripped of its wood. She had obtained a quote from RWT Fabrication to repair in metal. It is £400. It was proposed Cllr. D.Dowson seconded Cllr. S.Dowson and agreed to accept the quote. Clerk to arrange with company.

Cllr. S.Dowson welcomed to the meeting representatives of Solar Project, Rosie Burgering and Bruno of Aukera. They advised the solar farm is to commence in 2025/26. There will be an annual £15,000 community grant to be administered by the Parish Council which will be index linked and available for the life of the farm. Links with Council and Company to be via Clerk and when funding available a grant policy to be jointly agreed. The Solar Project also offered to support groups with service in kind and applications for this support to be sent to the company for consideration.

**183.0/24 Minutes of meeting held 9th January 2025**

Cllr. C. Leonard proposed seconded Cllr. D.Dowson and agreed to adopt the minutes and recommendations of this meeting.

**184.0/24 County Councillor Report**

Cllr. C. Lines had submitted a written report, attached to the minutes and he advised the DCC Budget Consultation has begun. Report received. Members discussed the consultation taking place to build housing in Sedgefield. The majority of members were opposed to the application as it will affect health/general practice access, potentially the local children attending Sedgefield Community College and in general services in Sedgefield. Cllr. S.Tinkler advised he was in favour of the scheme as there is a need for more housing but acknowledged the need to ensure services are improved and supported. It was agreed to comment accordingly and to await formal planning application.

**185.0/24 Feedback from meetings attended by members**

No reports given

**186.0/24 Matters of Information**

1. Clerk advised the flagpole has been installed. After discussion it was proposed Cllr. S.Tinkler seconded Cllr. D.Dowson and carried to hold an official flag flying ceremony 10am on Saturday 22nd February 2025 and to have a piper play at the event. Clerk to arrange piper.

2. Cllr. V.Anderson has approached the PCC Mrs. J. Allen and requested funding towards the purchase of the 3rd Blood Box, awaiting a reply.

3. Following a third letter to the club, the secretary of Fishburn WMC asked to meet the Clerk. He advised all 3 letters had been received on the day before the meeting. The Club Secretary advised the car parking scheme had been installed as a direct result of members voting in favour at both the AGM and a Special members meeting. He advised the scheme is currently under review. Their GDPR Officer and Information Manger is the Secretary. A letter has been sent to the club thanking them for the meeting and confirming the issues discussed.

4. Still awaiting a reply from CISWO regarding Football Pavillion.

5. The 2 Amberol tubs have been delivered and stored at present at S.E.Landscape depot.

6. Still no reply from DCC in regard to the Councils request for them to refurbish their street furniture

**187.0/24 Correspondence**

1. Clerks and Councils direct received.

2. Various emails previously circulated to members, received.

3. DCC Electoral Register and monthly update.

4. Current 106 balances from DCC noted.

5. Letter of thanks from North of England Brass Band Championship for donation.

**188.0/24 Report on Holocaust Event**

Cllr. S.Tinkler reported on the event and how it had been successful and well attended.

**189.0/24 V.E.85th Commemoration**

Members considered the draft programme in line with Pageant Marshalls advise and agreed same. Cllr. S.Tinkler proposed seconded by Cllr. D.Dowson to have 3 minutes of fireworks at a cost of £800. This was carried 4 for 3 against. Draft programme to be circulated asap by Clerk and to be discussed at the March meeting,

**190.0/24 Environmental issues:-**

No issues raised.

**191.0/24 De-Fibrillator**

Members considered the need to replace and update the 2 de-fibrillator in the village. Member also discussed the need to have one in Fishburn Colliery. This was agreed. Clerk to apply for relevant grants for all 3 prior to purchase.

**192.0/24 Monthly Account Reconciliation**

Members agreed to payments for all invoices as per Appendix 1. A total of £9921.05.

**193.0/24 Neighbourhood Project**

Members where informed application for the member grant has been submitted but at the AAP Board meeting a member had questioned ownership of the land proposed to be used for the exhibition area. It has been identified that even though the Council have licence for the land since 1977 clause 6 of the licence states the local PCC need to give permission for permanent structures. The PCC are to meet Monday 17th February to discuss same. No progress may be made until DCC agree to grant and forward funds as any commencement before offer letter will result in DCC refusing grant.

**194.0/24 Allotments**

No issues were raised

**195.0/24 Floodlighting of the Church**

Members noted a meeting has been arranged with the PCC on 17th February 2025 to discuss the project

**196.0/24 Election**

Members noted the following dates:-

Publication of notice of election 25th March 2025

Nominations close 2nd April 2025

Publication of persons nominated 3rd April 2025

Election 1st May 2025

Declaration of candidates expenses 29th May 2025

**197.0/24 Cemetery**

Clerk advised the Rector has agreed to consecrate the new cemetery area details to follow. It was also noted the headstones were last tested in 2017 and therefore it was agreed to arrange for them to be tested in 2025. A email to members from former Clerk regarding title dees was discussed and agreed to arrange a meeting with a local solicitor to take forward land registry.

**198.0/24 Playground inspection**

Members where advised a recent inspection highlighted one piece as needing repair. The Clerk commissioned DCC to undertake the repair under health and safety protocol. Members endorsed Clerks action.

**199.0.24 Fishburn Community Forest**

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on a meeting she and the Clerk had attended with Microsite. There has been major vandalism and damage to the recently planted forest. A total of £10000. It was agreed to hold a series of events to promote the forest and try and via education any further vandalism. Details of the events were circulated and agreed.

**200.0/24 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

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Signed:-

Chair Fishburn Parish Council

13th March 2025