**Fishburn Parish Council**

**Chair Cllr. S.Dowson**

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

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

Cllrs. D.Dowson, S.Tinkler C. Leonard, A.Pearson, M.Barker

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

There were 3 members of the public present.

**201.0/24 Apologies**

Councillors S.Hughes, V.Anderson. County Cllr. D.Brown

**202.0/24 Declaration of Interest**

The following declaration of interest were made Cllr. D.Dowson, A.Pearson, M.Barker.

**203.0/24 Member dispensation**

No issues raised.

Before beginning the meeting, the members of the public addressed the meeting in regard to the proposed Anaerobic Digester plant on Sprucely Farm and what they believed would have a negative impact on the residents of Fishburn. Members asked questions to ascertain more information. Cllr. C. Lines and the members of the public advised comments need to be submitted to Durham County Council by 21st March 2025 and the Committee meeting to be held 2nd April 2025. The Chairman advised members would discuss the issue under the planning agenda item and thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting.

**204.0/24 Chairmans Report**

1.Cllr. S.Dowson reported members of the public were asking for numerous highways issues. It was agreed a Road Traffic Management Plan was needed for Fishburn and to discuss in June with the new County Councillors

2. She had been approached by residents from Fishburn Colliery asking for more street furniture/flower tubs particularly on the land opposite the ambulance station. It was agreed Clerk ascertain who is the current owners of the land for the next meeting

3. No quote as yet from S.E.Landscape to undertake work on the Pit Wheel area.

4.4 benches have been ordered 2 for the Cemetery and 2 for the new entertainment rea on the village green.

5. At the recent AGM of Fishburn Club it was agreed to remove the car parking charge machines.

6 Cllr. V.Anderson is still awaiting a reply from PCC J . Allen regarding the additional blood bank box.

**205.0/24 Minutes of meeting held 2025**

Cllr. S.Tinkler proposed seconded Cllr. M.Barker and agreed to adopt the minutes and recommendations of this meeting.

**206.0/24 County Councillor Report**

Cllr. C. Lines had submitted a written report, attached to the minutes. As this was their last meeting as County Councillors, Cllr. S.Dowson on behalf of the members thanked both Cllr. C. Lines and D.Brown for the service they have given for the last 4 years and wished them well in the forthcoming elections.

**207.0/24 Feedback from meetings attended by members**

The Clerk reported on the recent Small Council Forum (CDALC) he had attended on behalf of members.

**208.0/24 Matters of Information**

1. Cllr. S.Dowson advised the company have agreed to repair the bench broken opposite the football filed in the coming week

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

**209.0/24 Correspondence**

1. Clerks and Councils direct received.

2. Various emails previously circulated to members, received.

3. DCC Electoral Register and monthly update.

4. Several e-mils have been received regarding a campaign to save Wingate Community Centre including a request to book a village hall. It was agreed to receive same and not reply.

5. An email from a resident asking if any future housing development in the Parish. Agreed to reply advising none known to members.

6. Invite for new Parish Council Chairman to attend Upper Skerne 20th Celebration Service and Lunch.

**210.0/24 Report on Internal Control and Risk Register**

Clerk presented the 2025 Internal Control and Risk Register which member considered. It was proposed Cllr. C. Leonard seconded Cllr. D.Dowson and agreed to accept both reports.

**211.0/24 Plannnig**

Members considered the application for an Anaerobic Digester Plant as raised by members of the public earlier in the meeting. After debating it was proposed Cllr. S.Dowson seconded Cllr. M.Barker and agreed to object on the grounds of odour, smell and its effect on residents, size, traffic movement, loss of or alteration to public rights of way. It was also agreed to make a formal complaint to Durham County Council for the lack of consultation in both planning and public rights of way in respect to this application.

**212.0/24 Flag Policy:-**

Members considered a report from the Clerk highlighting suggested dates for flags to be flown in resect of royal events and saint’s days. Members also added Holocaust Day to the list. With this addition it was proposed Cllr. S.Dowson seconded S.Tinkler and agreed to adopt the list for 2025.

**212.0/24 De-Fibrillator**

Members considered a report presented by Cllr. S.Tinkler where an expert had reviewed the current de-fibs on the market and recommending the purchase of Mindray C1A AED. It was proposed Cllr. M.Barker seconded Cllr. S.Tinkler and agreed to endorse the report and purchase 3 of those recommended.

**213.0/24 Monthly Account Reconciliation**

Members agreed to payments for all invoices as per Appendix 1. A total of £7612.23.

**214.0/24 Neighbourhood Project**

Members where informed application for the member grant has been submitted by the AAP to Funding Team for consideration.

**215.0/24 Council Elections**

Clerk reported on the recent training given by CDALC. He had nomination packs for those members who had requested he obtain them for them. Members agreed to meet Friday 21st March 20025 between 4pm and 6pm to complete forms ready for submission.

**216.0/24 Floodlighting of the Church**

Members were advised by Cllr. S.Dowson that the Church DCC and PCC had no objections to the proposals and it was agreed to take forward in the next Civic Year.

**217.0/24 VE Commemoration**

Clerk presented a draft running order for the event on Thursday 8th May. Cllr. M.Barker proposed seconded Cllr. S.Dowson to add Picnic on the Green from 8pm to the event. This was agreed and for the event to be placed on the April agenda along with the events planned for Saturday 10th May working jointly with FYCC.

**218.0/24 Armed Forces Covenant**

Cllr. S.Dowson and Clerk reported on the above and advantages of supporting the armed forces and ex-armed forces in the Community. It was prosed Cllr. S.Dowson seconded Cllr. S.Tinkler and agreed to sign the covenant at the next meeting.

**219.0/24 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.

**220.0/24 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 10th April 2025 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

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Signed:-

Chair Fishburn Parish Council

10th April 2025