**Fishburn Parish Council**

**Chair Cllr. S.Dowson**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday 11th September 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 C. Lines

Before commencing the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Ms. C. Hubbard, Fishburn in Bloom to the meeting. Ms. Hubbard advised they wished to work closely with the Council to promote and enhance Fishburn and to improve community engagement. Discussions took place regarding various joint projects especially enhancing the 4 entrances to the village. It was agreed both organisations discuss projects and to meet again to discuss taking things forward. Parish Council also agreed to consider entry into NIB 2026 at a future meeting.

**56.0/25 Apologies**

County Councillor I. Catchpole.

**57.0/25 Declaration of Interest**

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

**58.0/25 Member dispensation**

No issues raised.

**59.0/25 Durham County Councillor Report**

Cllr. C. Lines presented his written report and answered members questions (copy attached to the minutes). He advised the Council have halted the role out of the Local networks and a review is underway. He had already chased up why the speed visor had not been switched on and will chase up again. Members expressed concern at the County Council not reinstating the pedestrian crossing and removing the paint. He agreed to write to Highways once more.

**60.0/25 Chairman’s Report**

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the following:

1. She thanked Cllr. S.Hughes for attending the recent planning appeal on behalf of the Council.
2. Tees River Trust and Mr. I.Proudlaw will be attending the October meeting
3. The quotes on the trees of inspiration have been attached
4. VJ Commemoration had been a success, and she thanked Cllr. S.Tinkler for his input. She advised during August recess she had agreed for Cllr. S.Tinkler to purchase a Battle of Britain Flag for the 15th September
5. Church fencing has now been replaced
6. Letters to all those who have not paid their garage rent to be sent advising they have until end of September to pay
7. She asked members to consider retaining one of the empty garages to use for the Parish Council to store goods in. This was agreed. It was also agreed to remove the empty container outside of the Cemetery and sell it for scrap. J. Pike to be approached.
8. The 3 sets of Christmas lights have been installed
9. Concrete pads for the picnic tables to go opposite ambulance station to be installed shortly
10. She and the Vice Chair had agreed to sponsor the Village Beer Festival in September once again. This was endorsed by Council
11. She had recruited residents to knit poppies for the Remembrance Display
12. She and the Vice Chairman have ordered a memorial bench to go beside the war memorial, this action was endorsed by Council
13. Now Lloyds Account was opened she proposed to transfer £85,000 into the account, seconded by Cllr. M.Barker and carried
14. She proposed Council hold its Christmas celebration again at Julia and Sophia on 12th December. This was agreed
15. She advised members of the work of Mr. G. Hindson, and his colleagues working with young children and suggested a grant be given to support this work. It was proposed Cllr. S.Tinkler, seconded Cllr. M.Barker and agreed to donate £500.
16. 3 tenders were submitted to provide the Website. Chair and Vice Chair had agreed the cheapest and one that offered all asked for, OUTRANK. This action endorsed.

**61.0/25 Reports from outside meetings**

1. Cllr. S.Hughes reported on the recent planning appeal and a decision due withing 2 months.
2. The Clerk reported on the recent CDALC small council meeting, the next due 20th November.
3. C. The Chairman reported on the meeting with DCC Officers to discuss the vandalism on the Pit Wheel site. The outcome is a joint meeting to be arranged with both police and fire to discuss the viability of providing Fire Pits on the site. It was also agreed to purchase bulbs to be planted around the village and on the site. Cllr. S.Tinkler asked if at the meeting consideration be also given to applying for an art grant to produce a Sculpture Trail on the site.
4. Cllr. M.Barker reported on concern from the allotment society in regard to fly tipping on the bottom of the site (bedroom furniture). Cllr. S.Dowson agreed to approach Mr. J. Pike to remove.

**62.0/25 Minutes of monthly meeting held on 2nd July 2025.**

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

**63.0/25 Correspondence**

The following was received:-

1. Register of Electors Monthly Alterations
2. Various e-mails circulated for information, received
3. E-mail from a resident regarding LIVIN Housing fencing policy, agreed to refer the issue to LIVIN
4. A number of residents via phone/in person or email complaining about the painting of the pedestrian crossing. Cllr. C. Lines agreed to raise the issue once again with DCC Highways.
5. Complaints from residents regarding Livin land on the corner of Sycamore Road and a corner on Oakdene in regard to trees. Agreed to request a meeting with Livin to discuss
6. Complaints regarding the state of the children’s play area adjacent to Club Car Park. Clerk has spoken to the environment contractor who advises this is the worst year for litter, horse faeces, and general vandalism on this site since he started at Fishburn. Extra cleaning sessions been agreed.
7. DCC Consultation on HMO across the County. |it was agreed to support the Council in approaching the issues and insisting on all applications regardless of size to have planning permission.
8. Sedgefield Charites Education Grant notice. It has been added to council website, Facebook and fycc noticeboards
9. E-mails asking why flying a black flag with a red V. Clerk advised them it is the VJ Commemoration flag
10. Association of British Counties asking Council to use County Durham as part of Council address (already do), fly County Durham Flag on Durham Day and County Flag Day agreed. To incorporate County flag into Council branding. Members felt this inappropriate and declined request
11. Request from Alice House Hospital for a donation, agreed £100.
12. DCC advising of 106 Funds available across the County.
13. Mrs. Atkinson has collected the new de-fibrillator. Cllr. S.Dowson agreed to arrange for electrician to install one at Cllr. S.Hughes home to cover the Colliery area.
14. A resident has approached the Council expressing an interest in purchasing the piece of land behind the Co-Op. Chair and Vice Chair agreed to meet them to discuss.

**64.0/25 Planning Applications**

No applications to consider

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**65.0/25 Football Field**

Cllr. D.Dowson reported issues are arising in regard to car parking on busy match days and residents. The football club wish to extend the car park at their expense. It was proposed Cllr. S.Tinkler seconded Cllr. M. Barker and agreed to give permission for the extension. Cllrs. S.Dowson, D.Dowson, K. Payne took no part in the discussion or vote

**66.0/25 Christmas Light switch event**

Clerk advised Fishburn Band have confirmed attendance on the 3rd December for usual fee. Members agreed to purchase selection boxes again for children attending. Cllr. V.Anderson liaise with the church to provide refreshments.

**67.0/25 Remembrance Weekend**

Members discussed the arrangements for Remembrance Day. Cllr. S.Tinkler and S.Dowson to co-ordinate the decoration of the village. VE Commemoration flag to be flown. Clerk has ordered the wreath.

**68.0/25 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. Copy attached to minutes.

**69.0/25 Paperless Council**

Clerk advised many Councils are working towards paperless council including supplying members with tablets/I-pads for their paperwork etc. It was agreed to investigate purchasing members either a tablet or I-pad and report back to October meeting. Cllr. D.Dowson agreed to investigate.

**70.0/25 Solar Power Funding**

Clerk advised the company wish to meet the Council 2pm on Friday 26th September in FYCC.

**71.0/25 Road Traffic Management Plan**

Members noted 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, date awaited.

**72.0/25 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 9th October 2025 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

Signed:-

Chair Fishburn Parish Council

9th October 2025