

Fishburn Parish Council

*Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Fishburn Youth Club,
Butterwick Road, on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 6:30 p.m.*

PRESENT: Councillors S. Dowson (Chair); V. Anderson; M. Barker; D. Dowson; M. Hodgson; S. Tinkler. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Cllrs. C. Lines and D. Brown (DCC); five members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: a) Members of the public made representations and asked questions relating to planning application DM/23/02915/FPA change of use of public house (The Beehive).

b) Mr. Macauley Underwood outlined his request for permission to use the football fields for Fishburn Live on 15th June 2024. He was advised that a decision would be made later in the meeting.

Minute
No.

Agenda item

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED:** That apologies and reasons for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllr. Pedlow [funeral] and Cllr. Pearson [away]. Cllr. Welsh was absent with no reason given.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Cllr. Barker declared an interest in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association [treasurer/plot holder]. Cllr. D. Dowson declared an interest in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club [secretary].
3. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:** Cllr. Chris Lines had submitted a detailed written report and he gave an update on other matters including plans for an advisory 20 mph zone and one speed matrix sign at the entrance to the village. Cllr. Anderson asked about reinstatement of a Royal Mail post box at Cleveland View, which Cllr. Lines agreed to investigate.
4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. D. Dowson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To object to planning application DM/23/02915/FPA - change of use of public house (The Beehive, Salters Lane) on the grounds of parking issues and associated road safety concerns and to request a referral to a planning committee rather than a decision being made by delegated authority.
 - 4.1. The target date for the pre-application enquiry for the clubhouse was 23rd December 2023.
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023.
6. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Barker received clarification from Cllr. Anderson on Sedgefield Charities' reasons for refusing of a grant to Citizens Advice Durham.
7. **BUDGET SETTING: RESOLVED:** To approve the annual budget and set the precept requirement for 2024/25 at £106,500.
8. **REPORTS:** Cllr. Barker gave a report on Fishburn Allotment Association's request for funding for roadway improvements at an estimated cost of £2,500 + VAT. On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Anderson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To agree to the Allotment Association's suggestion to pay 50/50. [Cllr. Barker declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion and did not vote].
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. Anderson it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** That Cllr. S. Dowson shall be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace 2024.

10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of all those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 10.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget monitoring report.
- 10.2 On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Anderson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To award a donation of £100 to Fishburn Band for the Christmas switch-on.
- 10.3 On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. Anderson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To award a donation of £650 to Fishburn Community Football Club, such sum to be used from Co-operative Funeralcare's settlement of £1,300. [Cllr. D. Dowson declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion and did not vote].
- 10.4 On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. Tinkler, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To award a donation of £100 to Great North Air Ambulance Service.
- 10.5 **RESOLVED:** To defer to the next meeting discussion of a second bank account taking into account the Financial Services Compensation Scheme's maximum payout of £85,000.
11. **STANDING ORDERS:** On the motion of Cllr. Barker, **RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Order no. 3 ('a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours') to progress the business.
12. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members considered the poor state of the football pitches. **RESOLVED:** To invite the Director of Operations at Turfcare Specialists Ltd. to attend the next meeting and that, if this attempt to fix the situation failed, then to arrange for written notice known as a 'letter of claim' or 'letter before action', as a first step in claiming damages.
- 12.1 Evans & Co. Solicitors were chasing payment of their invoice from Livin's solicitors and once this was paid the transfer of the garage sites from Livin would be completed.
- 12.2 **RESOLVED:** That elaborate community planting days would be appropriate for the creation of a new Community Woodland Park, i.e. a full-on tree planting experience with tea, coffee, and a barbecue, and members were very supportive of the idea of involving the local Fishburn Primary School and Fishburn Youth Club in the planting activities.
- 12.3 **RESOLVED:** To decline Mr. Macauley Underwood's request for permission to use Fishburn Recreation Ground for the Fishburn Live music festival, taking into account recent drainage work and a pending pre-application enquiry for building an extension to the pavilion.
- 12.4 Cllr. S. Dowson had obtained from the manufacturer a quote for the planters for the colliery area. **RESOLVED:** To purchase four two-armed planters at £1,800 supplied and fitted.
- 12.5 A report had been received that weeds were starting to push through the new tarmac on the cemetery track. It was generally felt that a long-acting weed-killer spray might be the solution
13. **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY:** Cllr. Tinkler confirmed arrangements to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January 2024, including a flame of remembrance for 15 minutes.
14. **D-DAY 80 ANNIVERSARY:** Cllr. Tinkler confirmed the arrangements for the public event on 6th June 2024, including the lighting of the beacon and reading the International Tribute. **RESOLVED:** To purchase a portable public address (PA) system for use at outdoor events. Cllr. D. Dowson agreed to source a suitable PA system and to provide a recommendation.
15. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date and time of the next meeting: Thursday 11th January 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Cllr. Tinkler submitted an apology for his absence [holiday].
16. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** The following items were agreed for inclusion on the agenda:
- a) Strategic action plan identifying the vision, key objectives, and direction of the Parish Council
 - b) Proposed new contract for garage licences.
17. **FISHBURN CEMETERY:** On the motion of Cllr. S. Dowson, seconded by Cllr. Barker, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To proceed with the work to consecrate the former compound area.
18. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:50 p.m.