



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillors S. Dowson (Chair); V. Anderson; M. Barker; D. Dowson; M. Hodgson [arrived at 6:32 p.m.]; A. Pearson; S. Tinkler. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); and 1 member of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. Macauley Underwood asked the Parish Council to consider a request for permission to use the football fields at Fishburn Recreation Ground for Fishburn Live in June 2024.

Minute No.	Agenda item
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: That an apology and reason for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllr. C. Welsh [unwell].
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.
3.	DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC): Cllr. Chris Lines had submitted an apology for absence and a detailed written report on matters affecting Durham County Council. Cllr. David Brown gave a report on matters covered in the report and received questions on the speed survey; footpath resurfacing; repair to a damaged barrier; woodland management plan.
4.	VACANCY: There were no expressions of interest in filling vacancies by co-option.
5.	DECLARATION OF OFFICE: There were no declarations of acceptance of office.
6.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. Anderson, it was RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th July 2023.
7.	MATTERS ARISING: On the motion of Cllr. D. Dowson, it was RESOLVED: To instruct the Parish Clerk to contact Durham County Council's planning department again regarding a large container/portacabin at Hinson Well-Being & Fitness Centre, Alexander House.
8.	ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: The following items were agreed for inclusion on the agenda: i) State of footpaths (Durham County Council) [Cllr. D. Dowson]. ii) Litter bins and dog fouling bins (Durham County Council) [Cllr. D. Dowson].
9.	REPORTS: Cllr. S. Dowson had attended a meeting with Durham County Council's Street Lighting & Operational Support Manager to discuss the festive lighting requirements. RESOLVED: To approve a new infrastructure to supply lighting to trees, subject to a detailed quote from Mr. Paul Gleadow for the costs.
9.1	Cllr. S. Dowson would be attending Northumbria in Bloom's presentation event.
9.2	Cllr. Tinkler had been in touch with the Tinkler family at Greatham and they confirmed that they would like to keep their memorial bench in the cemetery in the wood finish/varnished.
10.	CORRESPONDENCE: RESOLVED: To accept Mr. John Robinson's offer to donate a trophy to be awarded to Fishburn's Citizen of the Year, and that he shall supply the trophy.
10.1	The Clerk announced that Ravensworth Nurseries had closed its doors for the last time after a period of 57 years due to lockdown, rising bills, and the on-going cost of living crisis.

11. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** DM/23/02589/TPO: Mr Justin Booth, 21 Glebe Close - Sycamore (T1 - T3) - Reduce canopies by 1/3 thin by 20% to tidy up, control growth and allow light through the tree canopies. Alder (T4) - Reduce upper leader by 1/2 to reduce/control height. Prune back lower branches towards house by 1/4.
- 11.1 DM/22/03757/FPA: The application for a solar farm on land west of Trimdon House Lodge, Fishburn, had been approved. Members were reminded that Locogen had agreed to enter into a formal agreement for the community benefit fund per megawatt (MW) of solar energy per year [around £15,000], with Fishburn Parish Council acting as the locally trusted organisation to administer and account for the distribution of funding.
12. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:** The audit for the year ended 31 March 2023 had been completed and the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) had been received.
- 12.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of all those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 12.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
13. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:** Members discussed at length Mr. Macauley Underwood's request for permission to use the football fields at Fishburn Recreation Ground for Fishburn Live in June 2024. **RESOLVED:** That the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be delegated to meet him on site on a mutually convenient date and time to discuss the plans in more detail and an item shall be placed on the next agenda for a decision, subject to any comments/approval from the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation as the landlord.
- 13.1 **RESOLVED:** To support a proposal put forward by Cllr. D. Dowson for a pavilion expansion, subject to approval by CISWO and subject to grant aid funding. Cllr. D. Dowson was awaiting an architect's detailed plans for further consideration and a pre-application planning enquiry.
- 13.2 **RESOLVED:** To approve the solicitor's fees for the transfer of the garage sites and gardens to the Parish Council for £1, which was approved by the Living board on 20th July 2023.
- 13.3 **RESOLVED:** That the remaining balance [£36,000] for drainage work at the football fields shall not be paid until outstanding issues had been satisfactorily addressed by Turfcare.
- 13.4 There had been no response to a formal written complaint regarding damage caused to the newly laid tarmac at the cemetery. **RESOLVED:** That no further funerals would be permitted by Co-op Funeralcare within the cemetery until this matter had been satisfactorily resolved.
14. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC:** On the motion of Cllr. Pearson, seconded by Cllr. Barker, it was **RESOLVED:** That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public shall be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
15. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:** Only one tender had been submitted for the grounds maintenance contract for 2024/2025. On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. Tinkler, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To accept S.E. Landscaping Limited's tender document [£49,820 excluding VAT], taking into account the quality and previous performance.
16. **STANDING ORDERS:** On the motion of Cllr. Pearson, **RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Order no. 3 ('a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours') to progress the business.
17. **GARAGE SITES:** The Clerk advised that members would need to consider how the entire letting process, including rent collection, would be managed and that additional sites would generate extra administration and enforcement issues. **RESOLVED:** That overseeing the 50 garage licences/tenancies and the 3 garden licences/tenancies can be managed in-house.
18. **SPEED MANAGEMENT:** Durham County Council's Road Safety Team had confirmed that they do not deal with issues relating to speed management but had sent the enquiry to the Traffic Assets Team on 1st August 2023. There had been no response.
19. **SALTERS LANE:** Cllr. Lines had reported that there is a high voltage electricity cable under the stretch of land proposed for verge hardening which could be prohibitively costly.

20. **D-DAY 80 ANNIVERSARY:** Cllr. Tinkler proposed readings from residents representing the generations from the 8 decades. **RESOLVED:** That the D-Day 80 event shall remain a standing item on the agenda until the designated date: Thursday 6th June 2024 at 9:15 p.m.
21. **HAND PAINTED MURAL: RESOLVED:** To approve some wall art for the large obsolete notice board near the old post office on Front Street and for the unsightly side of a metal container on the drive within the cemetery, subject to involving Fishburn Primary School in a design, and that Cllr. Pedlow shall look into applying for an appropriate grant.
22. **STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN:** On the motion of Cllr. Barker, **RESOLVED:** To defer this item.
23. **CCTV CAMERAS:** On the motion of Cllr. Barker, **RESOLVED:** To defer this item.
24. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date and time of the next meeting: Thursday 12th October 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
25. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.