



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Youth Club building, Butterwick Road,
on Thursday 8th June 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors S. Dowson (Chair); M. Barker; D. Dowson; A. Pearson; S. Tinkler. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); and 4 members of the public.

Minute
No.

Agenda item

a) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- i. Mrs. Ann Hewitt spoke about her concerns regarding changes to bus services from 9th July 2023. **RESOLVED:** To ask County Councillors C. Lines and D. Brown to urgently press for a response to the concerns raised.
- ii. A proposal for a festival to be held in September was outlined by Mr. Macauley Underwood.
- iii. Mr. Martin Boddice was permitted by the Chair to make representations and ask questions about a dispute regarding illegal parking on the village green. Durham County Council's Senior Safer Places Officer (Kate Ward) was also present as she had been contacted by Inspector Honeyman of Durham Constabulary. Mr. Boddice was advised that parish councillors would ideally prefer to settle this dispute out of court without requiring a judgement by engaging in constructive and he was given the opportunity to present any proposals to resolve the situation. He explained that he had no driveway and the pavement was the only place to park without obstructing the carriageway, which Kate Ward advised him was not prohibited as causing an obstruction to pedestrians or motorists "if there is room for a double pushchair to get past". Mr. Boddice was advised that, should he wish to convert into a parking space the area owned by him in front of his property, any request for permission from the Parish Council to drive over the village green to gain access to the curtilage of his property may be considered favourably on the basis that there is a precedent for a similar arrangement at the neighbouring house at no. 14. The Vice-Chair also pointed out to Mr. Boddice that steps had already been taken before this matter came to light to install six new 'no parking' signs on the village green something which he welcomed as providing clarity.

b) COMMUNITY PROTECTION: Durham County Council's Senior Safer Places Officer gave a brief report on matters affecting community protection.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED:** That apologies and reasons for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllrs. V. Anderson (holiday); M. Hodgson (holiday); C. Welsh (work).
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Cllr. Barker declared an interest in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club (FC) [treasurer] and Fishburn Allotment Association [treasurer/plot holder]. Cllrs. D. Dowson declared an interest in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club.
3. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** Cllrs. Chris Lines and David Brown had submitted apologies for their absence. Cllr. Lines had submitted a comprehensive written report.
4. **VACANCIES:** There were no expressions of interest in filling vacancies by co-option.
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023.
6. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Barker asked about section 106 funding. It was suggested that an original heading included 'allotments' but this may have changed to 'open space' or even something else. **RESOLVED:** To contact Stephen Reed at Durham County Council to ask whether he could clarify the position regarding funding for allotments.
7. **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: RESOLVED:** To approve as a

correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2023.

8. **REPORTS:** Cllr. S. Dowson reported on her attendance at East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership's board meeting and a meeting with Street Lighting & Operational Support Manager (Paul Gleadow) to discuss the installation of lights on the village green.
 - 8.1 Cllr. Tinkler gave a report on a site visit held on Sunday 4th June to agree the locations for installation of the new 'no parking' signs on the village green, and to visit the cemetery for members to consider a request for pollarding/pruning of a tree.
 - 8.2 It was reported that over 200 Remembrance Day poppies had been knitted by local crafts people to wrap around the ceremonial beacon for Remembrance Day 2023.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE: RESOLVED:** That Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. would be the most convenient day and time for members to meet Durham County Council's Woodland Creation Officer (Rob George) on site at the pit wheel to discuss the community woodland.
 - 9.1 On the motion of Cllr. Pearson, seconded by Cllr. Barker, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To sign up to the National Association of Local Councils' Civility and Respect Pledge.
10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** There were no planning applications for consideration.
11. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:** The Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) reiterated his previous written advice that the situation regarding Barclays Business Banking had become business critical. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council shall authorise the closure of both its accounts at Barclays Bank [Community Current Account and Business Premium Deposit Account] and transfer the remaining balances into the Parish Council's existing Unity Trust Bank's current account due to Barclays' appalling customer service.
 - 11.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
 - 11.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
12. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR): RESOLVED:** To approve and authorise the signing of sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR.
13. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:**
 - 13.1 Cllr. S. Dowson explained J.P. Driveways & Landscaping had not started the cemetery works but he was expected to start on Sunday 11th June and finish by Thursday 15th June.
 - 13.2 Cllr. S. Dowson was still awaiting a third quotation from J.P. Driveways & Landscaping for the cost of fencing at the pit wheel fields car park.
 - 13.3 **RESOLVED:** To consider in September a specification for grounds maintenance contract for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 for which tenders would need to be invited before the annual budget is approved and the precept requirement set, usually in November.
 - 13.4 **RESOLVED:** To press Turfcare Specialists Ltd. for a date when drainage work would start.
 - 13.5 Members had attended a site visit within the cemetery following a request for pollarding/pruning of a tree adjacent to 12 St. Marks Road. **RESOLVED:** That the tree in question and most of the other trees within the same vicinity require trimming and the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor shall be instructed to carry out this work in late winter or early spring, the appropriate time according to the Royal Horticultural Society.
 - 13.6 **RESOLVED:** To support a proposal for a pavilion expansion tabled by Cllr. D. Dowson, subject to approval by CISWO (Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation). Cllr. D. Dowson was asked to prepare some more detailed plans for further consideration.
 - 13.7 **RESOLVED:** To ask S.E. Landscaping to install shale around the ceremonial beacon.
14. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting: Thursday 13th July 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
15. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC: 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, i.e. legal proceedings preparation and advice.

16. **STANDING ORDERS:** At 8:30 p.m. there was no resolution to suspend Standing Order no. 3 - 'a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours' - to progress the business.
17. **LIVIN HOUSING LIMITED:** There had been no response from Paul Stephens, Executive Director - Corporate Services - at Livin Housing Limited (Livin) to the Parish Council's proposal for the transfer to the Parish Council of two parcels of land, garage sites at Stobart Terrace East and West, and the remaining parcels of land upon which garages are sited.
18. **ILLEGAL PARKING ON VILLAGE GREEN: RESOLVED:** To accept Mr. Martin Boddice's word that he would continue to refrain from driving over or parking any motor vehicle on the village green and to reiterate in any formal response to Mr. Boddice that the situation would be closely monitored for any evidence of further interference, and that any driving over or parking of a motor vehicle on the village green without lawful authority would still be liable to legal action and proceedings would be issued claiming an injunction from the County Court and, if successful, then a claim for reimbursement in full for any legal costs would be made.
19. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.