



FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of Fishburn Parish Council
held in Fishburn Youth Club at 6.30 p.m.
on Thursday 9th February 2023

PRESENT: Councillors A. Pearson (Chairman); M. Barker; D. Dowson; S. Dowson; M. Hodgson; S. Tinkler; C. Welsh. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Councillor C. Lines (DCC); Euan Hutchison; Nicolas Whitelaw; Brendan Mackinnon; and two other representatives from Locogen Consulting Limited; Mr. T. Oakes (resident).

Minute No.	Agenda item
989.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Locogen Consulting Ltd. gave an update on West House Solar Farm. One member of the public raised his objections to the planning application.
990.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: That an apology and reason for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllr. A. Lord [work and family commitments].
991.	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS: Cllr. Barker declared an interest in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club [treasurer] and a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in matters affecting Fishburn Allotment Association [treasurer/plot holder]. Cllrs. D. Dowson and Welsh declared an interest in matters affecting Fishburn Football Club.
992.	DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC): Cllr. David Brown had submitted an apology for absence. Cllr. Chris Lines provided a comprehensive report on matters relating to DCC.
992.1	Cllr. Sandra Dowson asked for additional bins throughout Fishburn for both litter and dog waste to help tackle litter in the area. Cllr. Michele Barker asked Cllr. Lines to take some action to find a solution to the long-running problem of cars parked on the grass verges and churning up the grass at Salters Lane, land owned by Durham County Council.
993.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2023.
994.	MATTERS ARISING: In response to a question from Cllr. Barker, the Chairman confirmed that land owned by Fishburn Social Club near the allotments would be sprayed at the appropriate time to eradicate a Russian Vine problem.
995.	REPORTS:
995.1	Cllr. S. Dowson reported on attendance at the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Board meeting on 25th January at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre. The application for funding for phase four cemetery improvements had been approved but it was agreed to wait for the AAP's written terms and conditions before proceeding. DCC's application for funding for upgrade of Stobart Terrace play area had been approved.
995.2	Cllr. Tinkler reported that 27th January saw the ceremonial beacon lit to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, a powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity.
995.3	RESOLVED: That Holocaust Memorial Day shall be an annual event in the calendar. It was also agreed that Cllr. Tinkler shall retain the key for the container at the cemetery for safe keeping to retrieve the gas cylinders whenever the beacon needed to be lit.
995.4	RESOLVED: To enlist help from a local knitting group to knit or crochet some poppies to wrap around the ceremonial beacon on the village green for Remembrance Day 2023.
995.5	Cllr. D. Dowson reported that the women's football team would be playing their first match.
995.6	RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of five new non-return valve taps for the allotment site. The Clerk offered to clarify the legal advice [subsequently confirmed as follows: an outside tap regardless of risk should be protected by a double check valve mechanism].

- 996. CORRESPONDENCE:** The Senior Electoral Officer at DCC had confirmed that no requests for an election had been received following the resignation of Penny Pearson and Michael Jones. The Parish Council could proceed with co-option to fill the vacancies at the earliest opportunity. **RESOLVED:** To approve a draft copy of the guidelines for co-option.
- 997. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
- 997.1 On the motion of Cllr. Barker, seconded by Cllr. S. Dowson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To comment on application number DM/22/03757/FPA.
- 997.2 On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. S. Dowson, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To support the above named planning application for West House Solar Farm.
- 998. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**
- 998.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 998.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
- 999. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:**
- 999.1 The Chairman mentioned that the re-painting of the bollards on village green [once per year] had been promised by S.E. Landscaping Ltd. for week commencing 6th February.
- 999.2 **RESOLVED:** To instruct the Parish Clerk to write to the owner/occupier of no. 13 Butterwick Road to remind them that the driving over or parking of a motor vehicle on the village green without lawful authority is a criminal offence liable to legal action.
- 999.3 **RESOLVED:** To defer until the next meeting a decision to install signs on the village green, pending any advice Cllr. Lord might be able to give following her attendance on a village green training session.
- 999.4 **RESOLVED:** To invite representatives from the Bowls Club to attend the parish council meeting in March 2023 to discuss the proposal for the water supply in more detail.
- 999.5 A member of the public expressed concerns about the state of the pit wheel fields. **RESOLVED:** that members shall arrange a site visit in the Spring [20th March 2023].
- 1000. FOOTBALL FIELDS DRAINAGE:** Cllr. D. Dowson had met *Turfcare Specialists Ltd.* on site, to look at the specification in depth and he confirmed that their quote was for the whole field. **RESOLVED:** To ask the Clerk to start the formal procurement process.
- 1001. SPORTS PAVILION CHANGING ROOMS:** Cllr. D. Dowson had encountered difficulty in obtaining quotations for the costs of rendering/applying a coat of cement on the external walls of the pavilion and for the costs of cladding. He offered to contact a local electrician to install outside security lighting at no cost to the council. The Clerk advised that the landlord (CISWO) always insists on obtaining permission for work like this.
- 1002. FISHBURN CEMETERY:** The application for funding for phase four cemetery improvements (replacing gravel surfaces of all existing footpaths and the roadway with tarmac) had been approved by East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership as follows: Towns & Villages contribution: £11,760; match funding (parish council): £5,040. Total cost £16,800.
- 1003. THE KING'S CORONATION: RESOLVED:** To commemorate the Coronation with Union Jack bunting along the length of the village green in the centre of Fishburn. The Clerk agreed to contact the grounds maintenance contractor to assist with a suitable cherry picker.
- 1004. 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.
- 1005. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** Cllr. S. Dowson gave a report on quotes for the cost of Christmas lights for 2023. An application had been made for funding [£5,000] from County Durham Community Foundation (E.ON Butterwick Moor Wind Farm).
- 1005.1 On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. Welsh, it was **RESOLVED:** To approve the purchase of a mixture of red, white, and blue string lights to be wrapped in the trees on the

- village green. These would also be used to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.
- 1005.2 **RESOLVED:** To approve payment and issue a cheque for £3,843.00 + VAT to Blachere Illumination UK Limited. The installation payment of £2,300.00 + VAT would be paid separately at a later date.
1006. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** The next meeting shall be held on Thursday 9th March 2023.
1007. **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. matters affecting members' personal banking arrangements.
1008. **BARCLAYS BUSINESS BANKING: RESOLVED:** To reluctantly provide completed personal details forms for each councillor ("controlling person of an entity") named on the original submission because otherwise Barclays may introduce restrictions that could result in the Council losing the ability to make and receive payments to and from the account.
1009. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:01 p.m.

THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING