



**FISHBURN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of Fishburn Parish Council**  
**held in Fishburn Youth Club at 6.30 p.m.**  
**on Thursday 9th March 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); Mr. Malcolm Cowans (resident).

Minute No.	Agenda item
1010.	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b> One member of the public raised his concerns regarding a tree in the cemetery adjacent to his property at St. Bede's Avenue. Members were reminded of the tree management policy, i.e. that trees will not usually be felled or pruned solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena or for reasons of light. On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> That members shall meet at the cemetery drive on Sunday 2nd April 2023 at 11:00 a.m. to inspect the tree referred to.
1010.1	Representatives from the Bowls Club had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss issues affecting the bowling green in more detail. The Club's Executive Committee had decided that it was not necessary for any Club members to attend as the proposed work to install a new water supply pipe had been cancelled. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To reluctantly withdraw the application to the Area Action Partnership for funding [£2,206].
1011.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> Cllr. A. Lord was absent with no reason tendered.
1012.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS:</b> 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.
1013.	<b>DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):</b> Cllr. Chris Lines provided a comprehensive report on matters relating to DCC. It was generally felt that the response from the Clean and Green Area Manager [that nothing can be done as there is currently no policy in place] 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, was unsatisfactory, and Cllr. Lines agreed to raise the matter with officials to try to find a solution to the problem.
1014.	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:</b> To approve as a correct record and authorise signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023.
1015.	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> The local knitting group had been approached to knit or crochet some poppies to wrap around the ceremonial beacon on the village green for Remembrance Day 2023. <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Parish Council would pay for any necessary materials.
1016.	<b>REPORTS:</b>
1016.1	Cllr. D. Dowson reported that 18 players had signed up for the women's football team and the possibility of an under-10s and all girls team was being explored.
1016.2	Cllr. Barker gave a report on a site visit to inspect the state of the pit wheel fields. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To obtain a quotation for the cost of a bird-mouth timber fence around the car park at the pit wheel, similar to the one erected on the village green near the Co-op shop.
1017.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> Sedgefield Youth Football Club requested the use of the football pitch on Sunday afternoons for the next season. Members expressed concerns about overusing the pitches. <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the request shall be refused on the grounds that the requested clashed with the use of the pitches by Fishburn Community Football Club.

- 1018. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** There were no planning applications received.
- 1019. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**
- 1019.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of those invoices presented to the meeting and issue cheques.
- 1019.2 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.
- 1019.3 There were no applications received for grants or donations.
- 1019.4 Cllrs. Pearson and Barker submitted their personal details forms to be sent to the Barclays Mandate Change Team. Other members agreed to bring their forms to the next meeting.
- 1020. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES:**
- 1020.1 Cllr. S. Dowson asked whether grave spaces would be available to reserve in the former compound area behind the Memorial Garden. **RESOLVED:** That the policy shall be to reserve spaces in that adjoining land only when the cemetery runs out of existing spaces as the land had been cleared to recognise the need for additional grave space in coming years.
- 1020.2 **RESOLVED:** To instruct the Parish Clerk to write to the owner/occupier of no. 13 Butterwick Road to remind them that if the motor vehicle was not removed from the village green within 14 days of the notice, a solicitor's letter would be sent warning of the legal consequences.
- 1020.3 **RESOLVED:** To agree in principle to the installation of signs on the village green pending any photographs Cllr. Tinkler might be able to provide from Trimdon Village Green.
- 1020.4 **RESOLVED:** To authorise Gary Smith (Builder) to carry out work around war memorial area as discussed on site with a church representative at the cost quoted [£200.00].
- 1021. FOOTBALL FIELDS: RESOLVED:** To accept Turfcare's price submission and to authorise the Parish Clerk to sign the formal Contract of Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 1021.1 Cllr. D. Dowson was awaiting quotations for the costs of rendering on the external walls of the pavilion and for the costs of installing outside security lighting at no cost to the council.
- 1022. FISHBURN CEMETERY: RESOLVED:** To instruct the contractor (J.P. Driveways and Landscaping) to commence phase four cemetery improvement works (replacing gravel surfaces of all existing footpaths and the roadway with tarmac) only when the funding had been received as follows: East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Towns & Villages contribution: £11,760; match funding (parish council): £5,040. Total cost £16,800.
- 1022.1 On the motion of Cllr. Tinkler, seconded by Cllr. Barker, it was **RESOLVED:** To approve at a cost of £151.99 a 'postbox to heaven' painted in cream or white colour to encourage people to write to deceased loved ones, and an accompanying marble stone to explain the postbox.
- 1023. THE KING'S CORONATION: RESOLVED:** To approve the purchase of red/white/blue ribbons/bows to be wrapped around hanging basket 'trees' on the village green [£96.69]. Cllr. Tinkler offered to manufacture four suitable 'crowns' free of charge.
- 1023.1 On the motion of Cllr. Welsh, seconded by Cllr. Barker, it was **RESOLVED:** To purchase 250 commemorative recycled leather bookmarks at 95 pence each for each child attending Fishburn Primary School, and any other children resident within Fishburn but attending a school outside the parish on a first-come-first-served basis.
- 1024. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** Cllr. S. Dowson gave a report on quotes for the cost of Christmas lights for 2023. Funding [£5,000] was still awaited from County Durham Community Foundation (E.ON Butterwick Moor Wind Farm). The groundworks and electrician were arranged for Tuesday 28th March and Mr. Scott Ellwood would advise on existing cabling.
- 1025. NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** The next meeting shall be on Thursday 13th April 2023.
- 1026. CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

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