Fishburn Parish Council

**Chair Cllr. S.Dowson**

**Minutes of a meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday 8th February 2024 in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.**

**Present :** Cllr. S.Dowson (Chair), Cllrs. V.Anderson, D.Dowson, A.Pearson, S.Tinkler, M.Hodgson.

**In attendance :** County Councillors D. Brown and C. Lines

Mr. J.Robinson Acting Parish Clerk.

There were no members of the public present.

**1.0/23 Apologies**

Cllr. M.Barker (holiday), R.Pedlow (family matters), C.Welsh (family issues)

Before beginning the meeting the Chair Cllr. S.Dowson informed Council of the resignation of the Parish Clerk Mr. K.Murray-Hetherington. Mr. Murray-Hetherington had been Clerk for 8 years and she wished on behalf of the Council to place on record the Councils thanks for his service. This was agreed. She introduced Mr. J.Robinson who had kindly stepped in to support the Council.

**2.0/23 Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. D.Dowson declared an interest in matters relating to Fishburn Football Club. Cllr. V.Anderson relating to Cemetery.

**3.0/23 Report from Durham County Councillors.**

Cllr. C. Lines tabled a written report (attached to minutes). Cllr. D. Brown gave a verbal report, referring to the Rights of Way issue raised by Cllr. Barker at the last meeting. He advised officers at DCC had informed him there are no rights of way in the vicinity of Fishburn Allotment site or adopted highway paths. He is chasing up DCC for the land ownership via their GPS system. He continues to focus on domestic and personal issues of residents.

Both members of the Parish Council and County Councillors discussed parking on verges and verge hardening. It was agreed to place on the March agenda and in the meantime seek views of residents across the Parish particularly via social media.

A member raised the issue of rats in Fishburn Colliery area, Cllr. D. Brown agreed to follow this matter up with relevant officers.

Cllr. C. Lines advised the Northeast Mayor election will take place on 2nd May 2024 the same day as PCC elections. He also advised the speed project/20 mph advisory zone to be discussed at the next Area Action Partnership.

Members asked for an update on the planning application regarding the former Public House, Beehive. Both County Councillors advised they had heard nothing. It was agreed Clerk write to Mr. S.Reed Head of Planning DCC for an update.

Both County Councillors left the meeting at this point.

**4.0/23 Minutes of meeting held Thursday 11th January 2024**

Cllr. D.Dowson proposed the minutes, seconded by Cllr. V.Anderson with an amendment being the addition of reference to Cllr. D.Dowson having raised the issue and agreed to follow up the topic of a PA System. The amendment was agreed.

**5.0/23 Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**6.0/23 Chairmans Report**

The Chair advised she had written to Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington accepting his resignation and wishing him well for the future. Cllr. M.Barker had met Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington and received the documents and property of the Council. The laptop had been reversed back to factory setting but it is hoped it will be re-stated shortly and any items/emails not dealt with at this meeting will be addressed at the March meeting.

**7.0/23 Reports**

**7.1/23** Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January .Members were pleased to note the success of the event with a number of the public attending, indeed some residents from Middlesbrough had attended.

**7.2/23** Turfcare meeting. The Chair reported on the recent site meeting with Turfcare in respect of the football field issue and she tabled a response from the company. Members were pleased to see the proposed action plan and agreement by the company to compensate the football club. Action plan to be monitored by both the Chair and Clerk who will report back to the March meeting.

**8.0/23 Correspondence**

There were no items to discuss.

**9.0/23 Planning Applications**

No applications to be considered.

**10.0/23 Financial Matters**

**9.1 Virgin Account.** The Chair advised no progress has been made to date. It was agreed to table this item for the March meeting.

**9.2 Update Financial Statement.** Members considered and accepted the report submitted by the former Clerk.

**9.3 Monthly Transactions.**

It was agreed to receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and authorise payment. Members queried the request by the former Clerk for a second payment for pre-planning application advise. It was agreed to raise this matter with Mr. K. Murray -Hetherington and agreement given to be paid on production of the second invoice. (schedule attached to minutes for reference)

**10.0 /23 Ground Maintenance Services**

**10.1/23 Seat.** Cllr. V.Anderson advised she had received a letter from a resident concerned at the state of a public seat on Butterwick Road. Clerk to deal with the issue.

**10.2/23 ‘Trees of Inspiration’,** Chair advised Mr. P.Gledow from Highways Department of DCC has authorised work to be done. Lights will be lit for the D-Day Commemoration events.

**11.0/23 Clubhouse**

Plans to be made available for members to fully discuss at their March meeting.

**12.0/23 Garage Licences.**

Awaiting final confirmation from LIVIN. Clerk to follow up to ensure licences are implemented in April 2024.

**13.0/23 D-Day Commemorations**

Members received a report on the current arrangements. A detailed report to be prepared for the March meeting.

**14.0/23 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.28pm.

Signed:-

Chair Fishburn Parish Council

14th March 2024.