FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 9th September 2026** at **6.00pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall.**

PRESENT: **Councillor:** C Bihari (Chair)

Councillors: C Atkinson, V Collins, L Fellows, A Hewitt, C Johnson, K Lloyd, J Quinn

Officials: E Gildersleeves, Finance & Admin Manager
E Clark, Neighbourhood Manager
K Younghusband, Events & Projects Officer
S Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

45.26-27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor P Mountford.

46.26-27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor C Atkinson declared an interest in agenda item 10 appendix 1.

47.26-27 MEMBERS' DISPENSATION
There were no members' dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

48.26-27 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SUBJECT TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY)
There was 1 member of the public in attendance as well as previous Clerk, Mrs L Owens and the new Town Clerk, Mr A Shaw.

49.26-27 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR
Members noted the resignation of Angus Ferguson, the Chair asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to Angus, Mrs E Gildersleeves confirmed that this has been done.

RESOLVED
That this be noted.

50.26-27 MINUTES
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

a. Full Council held on 29th July 2026

Moved by Councillor L Fellows to approve the minutes of the full Council meeting held on 17th June 2026 as a true and accurate record

RESOLVED
That the minutes of the full Council meeting held on 29th July 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Chair: _____

51.26-27 REVIEW OF COUNCILS PLANTING SCHEME

Miss E Clark was in attendance and members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the report which was previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor L Fellows to accept the recommendations of the report. Councillor J Quinn asked if there are any funds remaining if the planters etc could be spruced up.

The Acting Town Clerk made members aware that by agreeing this proposal this would increase the budget for next year.

RESOLVED

That the flowerbeds at Wood Lane and Durham Road be removed and the remaining flowerbeds be planted with perennial plants.

52.26-27 VEHICLE USAGE

Members considered a report which was previously circulated and the Neighbourhood Manager asked if there were any questions.

At the previous Council meeting members queried if it was viable to lose a vehicle and, if so, how much could the Council gain from this, as the Neighbourhood Manager wasn't present at this meeting, it was requested that a more detailed report be brought back to this meeting.

Councillor J Quinn thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for the detailed report and confirmed it contained everything he needed to know and it was therefore **Moved by** Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor L Fellows that as per the report, all the vehicles are required and he was happy go with the recommendations, He also proposed that an annual review of vehicles be undertaken.

RESOLVED

That the Council keep all vehicles and an annual review of all vehicles be undertaken.

53.26-27 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members moved the following motion:
"That in accordance with the provision of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the public and press for the remaining items on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest."

At this point the member of the public in attendance left the meeting, along with Miss E Clark and Mrs L Owens.

54.26-27 MEMBERS INITIATIVE FUND APPLICATIONS

Members considered a report previously circulated.

As Councillor C Atkinson had declared an interest in appendix 1 of this item she didn't take part in the discussion.

Chair: _____

Members considered two MIF Applications that had been received and considered whether to award a grant for the projects and if so, how much to award individual applicants.

After discussion it was decided to offer Endeavour Woodcrafts £500 and Friends of Astrid Academy of Movement £1,000. Councillor L Fellows suggested that the Council could also help the Friends Group publicise any fundraising events they were hosting on Facebook etc.

Councillor K Lloyd asked that the Council's support be publicised, it was agreed this would happen.

Members were made aware that another MIF application had been received in the last couple of days and that additional applications were also expected to be received before the October Council Meeting. In light of the amounts awarded to Endeavour and Friends of Astrid, there would be less than £500 left in the MIF Budget. £500 is the minimum a group can apply for under the Council's MIF Policy. Members agreed that they could make a special dispensation to award more or less funding to any additional applicants who submitted MIF funds. This would be discussed at a future meeting.

RESOLVED
That:
i) Endeavour Woodcrafts be awarded a grant of £500
ii) Friends of Astrid Academy of Movement be offered £1,000 and be advised the Council will help with publishing any fundraising events to help with further funding.

At this point Mrs E Gildersleeves, Mrs K Younghusband, Mrs S Hewitson and Mr A Shaw left the meeting.

55.26-27 ACTING UP ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report previously circulated concerning acting up arrangements for the Finance & Admin Manager and the Committees and Civic Administrator during the 2 month period prior to the commencement of the new Town Clerk on 1 November 2026.

RESOLVED
That the acting up arrangements and honorarium payments be agreed.

Mrs E Gildersleeves, Mrs L Owens and Mr A Shaw returned to the meeting.

56.26-27 CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Members were provided with a verbal update by the previous Town Clerk with regard to ongoing HR issues and further FOI and SAR requests for information.

RESOLVED
That the new Town Clerk assist the Acting Town Clerk, in progressing this matter moving forward.

57.26-27 MINUTES

Chair: _____

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

a. Disciplinary & Grievance Appeals Committee held on 12th August 2026

RESOLVED
That the minutes of the Disciplinary & Grievance Appeals Committee held on 12th August 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7:10pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE……