

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, on **WEDNESDAY, 18th OCTOBER 2017** at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: *Councillor:* John Lindsay (Chair)

Councillors: M Walton, J Cansella, C Atkinson, L Smith,
J Makepeace, K Conroy, P Atkinson, M Brown,
G Barker, Z Roddam, M Seymour, R Shepperd,
D Farry

OFFICIALS: E Gildersleeves, Finance & Administration Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: S Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator
D Shingleton, Consultant Accountant

74.17-18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K Campbell, these were approved by resolution of the Council.

75.17-18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

76.17-18 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

There were no members' dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

77.17-18 MINUTES

Town Council - 20th September 2017

Members were made aware that there should be a correction to the resolution of minute no. 64.17-18 Correction to resolution – minute 64.17-18 regarding Broom Bus Shelter it was resolved to 1) leave the bus shelter as is and 2) investigate the possibility of applying anti-climb paint and appropriate signage.

Councillor D Farry stated he would not approve the minutes unless the amendment he had previously requested was made to item no. 57.17-18 and unless the amendment was made to the minutes to include the response he gave out to members then the minutes were a pack of lies.

The Chairman asked Councillor Farry to withdraw his statement, Councillor Farry refused to withdraw the statement.

Councillor Lindsay therefore requested that Councillor Farry leave the meeting, Councillor Farry refused to leave the Chamber and the meeting continued.

Councillor Makepeace suggested that the Council defer this one item for full discussion and resolution at the next Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded** by Councillor C Atkinson that item 57.17-18 be deferred to the next Council meeting and the rest of the minutes be agreed as true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th September 2017 be agreed as a true & accurate record with the amendment of minute no. 64.17-18 to '1) leave the bus shelter as is and 2) investigate the possibility of applying anti-climb paint and appropriate signage'. Item no. 57.17-18 be deferred to the next Council meeting.

78.17-18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Although the following item was not on the agenda, Members allowed the following public participation:

Mr Gary Atkinson was in attendance at the meeting and brought to Members attention an issue he and his wife are having with a self managed allotment site in Ferryhill. Mr Atkinson's wife has been evicted from her allotment by the Self Managed Committee and given 4 weeks to leave, however, they have 40 birds on the garden and need to find an alternative place to keep them. To avoid the matter going through the Court it was hoped this matter could be dealt with by the Council. Members were advised that the Town Clerk is dealing with this issue and the Chair agreed to speak with the Clerk, Mr Atkinson informed Members he will bring a copy of his complaint to the Town Hall whereupon he left the meeting.

RESOLVED

The Chairman speak to the Town Clerk regarding this issue and report back to Council.

79.17-18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Finance, Planning and General Purpose Committee - 20th September 2017

Moved by P Atkinson, **Seconded** by Councillor K Conroy that the minutes are a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Finance, Planning and General Purpose meeting held on 20th September 2017 be received and that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

80.17-18 OTHER MINUTES

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - 11th September 2017
- b) 2000 Committee - 20th September 2017

RESOLVED

That the minutes be received.

81.17-18 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor P Atkinson reported on the PACT meeting held on 12th October which was also attended by local Councillors, PCSO and DCC Warden. Issues raised included heavy traffic on Durham Road, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, recycling unit, parking, traffic contraventions and criminal damage at the Library & Feryemount Nursing Home. The next meeting will take place on 9th November.

Councillor J Lindsay advised he had made presentations to local schools for environment work around the Town. He had also visited Endeavour Woodcrafts where they presented the Council with a wooden planter and he had attended a presentation to Endeavour Woodcrafts for their contribution to Ferryhill In Bloom.

RESOLVED

That the reports be received.

82.17-18 TOWN COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS 2016-2017 - COMPLETION OF AUDIT

Members considered the report previously circulated and Mr Derek Shingleton, Consultant Accountant was in attendance.

As per the report Mr Shingleton advised Members there was a small change to the Annual Return since it was approved. The change was to Box 9 as a result of understating Fixed Assets by £21,000. (The alterations to Boxes 3 and 7 were made prior to the Return being approved in May). The auditors had therefore issued an Issues Arising report because the Annual Return had to be returned for amendment. Mr Shingleton stated categorically that the Return was completed in accordance with legislation and proper practices. A mistake was made in identifying the total value of expenditure on fixed assets during the year which resulted in Box 9 being under-stated by £21,000, which is 0.7% of the value of assets. It was not a failure to comply with legislation or proper practices.

Moved by K Conroy, **Seconded** by Councillor C Atkinson to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

That Members:

- a) Approve and accept Section 1 of the audited Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement, and ensure that such approval and acceptance is

recorded in the minutes of the meeting;

- b) Approve and accept Section 2 of the audited Annual Return – Accounting Statements for 2016/2017, and ensure that such approval and acceptance is recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- c) Note the Issues Arising Report; and
- d) Confirm acceptance of the arrangements for the Notice of Completion of Audit to be displayed on notice boards within and outside of the Town Hall, and on the website, for a period of not less than 14 days from 19 October 2017 and the charge of 50p for a copy of the relevant information.

83.17-18 RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

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| 1. | Durham County Council
Civic Pride Officer
Regeneration and
Local Services | Appreciation for Partnership, working on the recent Operation Spruce Up in the Town Centre |
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RESOLVED

That this be received.

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| 2. | Paxton Street
Allotment Association | Appreciation for Staff and support in works on the allotment site perimeter fence |
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RESOLVED

That this be received.

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| 3. | Chance Drama | Appreciation for Citizenship Award and offer to support local events. |
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RESOLVED

That this be received.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.35pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....