

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, on **WEDNESDAY, 24th JANUARY 2018** at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: **Councillor:** J Lindsay (Chair)

Councillors: K Campbell, G Barker, N Jones, D Farry, J Cansella,
A Smith, R Smith, J Makepeace, Z Roddam,
C Atkinson, K Conroy, P Atkinson, M Walton

OFFICIALS: Mr D. Snowball, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: K Younghusband, Grants & Projects Officer
S Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator
D Shingleton, Consultant Accountant

Before the meeting the Chair asked members to stand for one minutes silence as a mark of respect for Mr George Miller who recently passed away. Respect was also made on the sad passing of Ferryhill Town Councillor G. Barkers wife.

119.17-18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor M Seymour these were approved by resolution of the Council.

120.17-18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

121.17-18 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

122.17-18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Gary Atkinson - Agenda item 16 East End Allotment Trustee agreement Question – when was the date of the agreement signed? The Town Clerk explained that this had already been answered and the exact date was not known. The chairman explained that he would refer to his diary and the clerk would provide a further response to Mr Atkinson.

Mrs Helen O’Neil - Agenda item 11 Taxi Project
‘What & when will public debate be happening on the taxi rank?
The Town Clerk explained that that was what was being debated at this meeting tonight and if there is anything that was that was still not clear for Mrs O’Neil to call into the Town Hall or telephone to see if there is any further details that can be provided.

Mr Mark O’Neil – Agenda item 11 Taxi Project

Could the Council use its Facebook page to inform the public exactly what is involved because we are getting all this different sides of different councillors on what to do and nobody is clear on telling the public what is happening. If it does get moved where will it get moved to?

The clerk explained that as agreed at a previous meeting of the council that a full public consultation would be completed and the responses analysed and the taxi owner's local business and organisations would be contacted to come around the table for discussions. It was reminded that it is not the responsibility of Ferryhill Town Council it is Durham County Council who are the final decision makers.

He appreciates feedback from members on facebook, could the Council inform the general public what's happening on the Council facebook, if the taxi rank does get moved, where to?

Mr Kevin Newell – Agenda item 11 Taxi Project

This problem started with parking and it seems everything is aimed at taxi's, need to look at the parking problem by buses, lorries and members of the public parking.

123.17-18 MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record;

a) Town Council meeting - 13 December 2017

Councillor Farry stated that he would like item no. 107-17-18 to be amended to include 'those in favour of Councillor Farry being suspended from the meeting'.

It was agreed for this amendment to be made to the minutes.

Councillor R Smith stated that minute no. 115.17-18 should be amended and the word 'voluntary' be added to the resolution.

It was agreed for this addition to be made to the minutes.

124.17-18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

To confirm for approval and adoption the reports and recommendations of the undermentioned Committees:-

a) Finance, Planning & General Purpose - 13th December 2017

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to approve the minutes.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Finance, Planning and General Purpose meeting held on 13th December 2017 be received and that the said minutes be approved and adopted.

125.17-18 OTHER MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

a) Dean Bank Park Regeneration Working Group - 10th November 2017

RESOLVED

That the minutes be received.

126.17-18 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor J Makepeace reported on the PACT meeting held on 4th January 2018, the priorities for the next month are antisocial behaviour and parking

Councillor J Cansella informed the meeting that she had recently attended a NAC Conference and she would put a report together and bring it to the February meeting.

Councillor J Makepeace reported on the recent Dean Bank Residents Association meeting, issues included a stolen number plate and the new craze of steeling number plates to clone cars, rubbish in the streets, he advised that the street tours would be continuing and fines could be issued for wheelie bins being left out in the street.

RESOLVED

That the reports be received and Councillor Cansella's report on the recent NAC Conference be brought to the February meeting.

127.17-18 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2018/2019

Members considered the report previously circulated. Mr Shingleton was in attendance and spoke in detail about his report.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to approve a 0% increase in the Precept for the year ended 31 March 2019.

A named vote was requested for Councillor Farry's proposal.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
J. Cansella	K. Campbell		M. Seymour
G. Barker	M. Walton		
D. Farry	K. Conroy		
A. Smith	C. Atkinson		
N. Jones	P. Atkinson		
R. Smith	J. Lindsay		
J. Makepeace	Z. Roddam		
7	7	0	1

The Chair used his casting vote against this proposal, the proposal was therefore defeated.

RESOLVED

That a 0% increase in the Precept for the year ended 31 March 2019 was not agreed.

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to approve a 1% increase in the Precept for the year ended 31 March 2019.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
K. Campbell	J. Cansella		M Seymour
M. Walton	G. Barker		
K. Conroy	D. Farry		
C. Atkinson	A. Smith		
P. Atkinson	N. Jones		
J. Lindsay	R. Smith		
Z. Roddam	J. Makepeace		
7	7	0	1

The Chair used his casting vote in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED

That Council approve a 1% increase in the Precept, making the Precept £510,569 for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace that a working party should be set up and that authority be given to the Consultant Accountant to come back to the next meeting on recommendations 9.1.1, 9.1.2, 9.1.3 and 9.1.4. of the budget report. The accountant agreed that this was acceptable.

Members agreed unanimously.

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to remove 9.1.4 from Councillor Farry's proposal and that Council do not raise fees for this coming year.

Councillor Farry agreed to remove 9.1.4 from his proposal.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That;

- a) Council do not increase fees and charges for the financial year April 2018 to March 2019.
- b) For the accountant to come back to this Council with a full report on moving forward on recommendations:-
 - 9.1.1 Consider the revised draft budget in the light of changes made since the December meeting;
 - 9.1.2 Consider the outstanding growth items and consider if, and how, they should be financed;

9.1.3 Consider the comments raised in the informal meeting with Members;

c) A budget review working group is established

128.17-18 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD BORROWING APPROVAL

Members considered the report previously circulated.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council seeks the Secretary of State's approval for the proposed borrowing of £100,000, and that the loan to be obtained from the PWLB and repaid over a period of ten years.

129.17-18 TAXI PROJECT

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to remove the report recommendations;

a) consider and agree the final Questionnaire to be delivered to all households in Ferryhill and approve the costs associated with this survey

and

b) approve the stage two consultation process with businesses and relevant organisations as suggested by members at the meeting discussing the original motion;

And to approve recommendation;

(a) to receive and consider the new information from Durham County Council on the proposed changes for the waiting restrictions in Ferryhill Town Centre and agree the response to be provided.

And add a recommendation;

d) to agree to identify a firm date in February to meet with interested parties to discuss the consultation from Durham County Council via two separate sessions, possibly 11am–12noon & 5pm–6pm to be held in St Luke's Church Hall and bring an update report to the next appropriate Council meeting with the results of the consultation. These detail to also be reported back to Durham County Council.

The meeting is to include everyone mentioned in the December minutes and the consultation needs to be complete by Tuesday 13th March in order to report back to the March meeting. The Clerk and Councillor J Makepeace are to meet and discuss this and progress.

The public meetings are to be advertised in the Chapter, on the Council Website and Facebook page supported by posters in noticeboards and shops.

It was then moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor A Smith that Councillor J Makepeace chair the public meetings.

Councillor Conroy asked if Councillor Makepeace would remain impartial if chairing the meeting as he submitted the original taxi parking motion, Councillor Makepeace advised he never wanted the taxis moving.

Members agreed to the proposal unanimously.

RESOLVED

That;

i) the report recommendations a) and b) be removed

and;

ii) the Council receive and consider the new information from Durham County Council on the proposed changes for the waiting restrictions in Ferryhill Town Centre and agree the response to be provided.

and

iii) the Clerk to meet with Councillor Makepeace to discuss a date for the meetings and that St Luke's Church Hall is booked and the consultation sessions are advertised using the Council website, Facebook page and noticeboards, local shops and the Chapter.

and

iv) A report is brought back to council with the results of the consultation and that this information is also submitted to Durham County Council.

130.17-18 DELEGATED POWERS Dean Bank Regeneration Working Group

Members considered the report previously circulated.

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

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That members agree and formally adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Dean Bank Park Regeneration Working Group with the inclusion of the 'Delegated Powers' Section (Principles Section 18) as follows:

The Working Group has the following delegated powers:

- a) To arrange for and implement the activities listed under "Principles" above, subject to
 - i) A financial limit of £10,000, with any expenditure being approved by the Grants and Projects Officer prior to it being incurred;
 - ii) Any decision having an impact on any Council policy or procedure is reported to Council for approval prior to it being implemented.
 - iii) The Town Clerk being kept informed of any decisions taken as soon as possible, and a regular update on progress being submitted to Council for consideration.

131.17-18 ATTENDANCE AT HOSPITALITY EVENTS

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor Kath Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to accept the recommendations of the report.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Members receive the report and the Town Clerk is contacted by any member if they have relevant information/concerns or attendances at hospitality events by members other than the Mayor Deputy Mayor.

132.17-18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – update

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to set up a (non-hierarchical) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, with delegated powers, to sit outside the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Initially the group should include a member from each political group, namely, Councillor J Cansella, Councillor D Farry and Councillor J Makepeace and Councillor J Cansella proposed she would liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Councillor D Farry proposed an amendment, that Mrs K Younghusband, Grants & Projects Officer be added to this group.

RESOLVED

That the Council set up a (non-hierarchical) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, with delegated powers, to sit outside the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Initially the group to be made up of Councillors J Cansella, D Farry, J Makepeace and the Grants & Project Officer, Mrs K Younghusband. Councillor J Cansella to liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

133.17-18 CLEVESFERYE HOUSE – update

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Councillor R Smith informed the meeting that he was annoyed with some Councillors and the general consensus from the public as they were under the impression that the charity he is involved in has put a declaration of interest in on this property and this is not the case.

Councillor J Makepeace was under the impression the Clerk had not expressed an interest with Durham County Council as instructed. The Chair advised Members that the Clerk had expressed an interest via email to Durham County Council and had subsequently received an expression of interest form for completion. The Chair informed Members that the Clerk was unable to submit the expression of interest form until Members advised how they would like to answer question 4.

Councillor K Conroy proposed that recommendation a) to further consider the decision to submit an Expression of Interest be accepted.

The Chair moved that Council were moving on from this item.

RESOLVED

No decision was made on this item

134.17-18 ALLOTMENT TRUSTEE AGREEMENT

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to defer the recommendations a), b) & c) of the report until the appointed officer, Mr D Shingleton completes his investigation and reports back.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations be deferred until the investigation is complete.

135.17-18 STREET LIGHTING – Durham County Council Consultation on proposal to remove Street Lights: B6287 – Kirk Merrington Road to Ferryhill

Members considered the report previously circulated.

The Clerk advised that the street lights in question are in Spennymoor Town Council's boundary and this item had been placed on their agenda to enable

members to access a link provided in the report for Members to make comments as this was a route used by residents of Ferryhill on a regular basis.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Members use the link provided to make comments and that the link be advertised on the Council facebook page and website to allow members of the public to comment on the removal of the street lights.

At this point, 9.05pm, Councillor K Conroy proposed that the meeting be extended until 9.30pm – members agreed.

136.17-18 FERRYHILL VETERANS CHARITY EVENT

Members considered the report previously circulated. Members were advised that this event was only for 1 day and not 3 days as originally requested.

Moved by Councillor K Campbell, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to allow the one day event to be held at Mainsforth Sports Complex on Sunday 3rd June in aid of ‘Help for Heroes’ and ‘The Walking Wounded’.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the one day event be held at Mainsforth Sports Complex on Sunday 3rd June in aid of ‘Help for Heroes’ and ‘The Walking Wounded’.

137.17-18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members are requested to move 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 item 20 of 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, 9.20pm, members of the public left the meeting.

The next item 138.17-18 is recorded in the Confidential – Part 2 section of these minutes.

139.17-18 RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

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| 1. Durham County Council | Letter advising that Durham County Council have received a nomination to include Clevesferye House as an asset of Community Value. |
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