

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, on **WEDNESDAY, 21st MARCH 2018** at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: *Councillor:* J Lindsay (Chair)

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

OFFICIALS: D Snowball, Town Clerk

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

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman welcomed new Councillors K Graham and C Woods to the Council.

158.17-18 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
There were no apologies received.

159.17-18 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**
There were no members dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

160.17-18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

161.17-18 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
There was no public participation

162.17-18 **MINUTES**
To confirm as a correct record;

a) Ordinary meeting 15th November 2017 – re submitted

Members considered the explanatory report in connection with this item.

Moved by Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to approve the minutes with the following amendment 'That the Town Clerk sends a sincere letter of apology to Councillor Farry and copy to all Councillors and staff, retracting the allegation made in his letter dated 22 June 2018 wherein he erroneously stated that Councillor Farry had accused the Council of money laundering and that this letter is sent by no later than 30th March 2018.

A named vote was requested:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
G. Barker	C. Atkinson		
J. Cansella	P. Atkinson		
D. Farry	K. Campbell		
N. Jones	K. Conroy		
J. Makepeace	J. Lindsay		
M. Seymour	Z. Roddam		
A. Smith	M. Walton		
R. Smith			
8	7	0	0

Councillors K Graham and C Woods were unable to vote as they were not Councillors at the time of this meeting.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th November 2017 be agreed as a true and accurate record and the Town Clerk sends a sincere letter of apology to Councillor Farry and copy to all Councillors and staff, retracting the allegation made in his letter dated 22 June 2018 wherein he erroneously stated that Councillor Farry had accused the Council of money laundering and that this letter is sent by no later than 30th March 2018.

b) Ordinary meeting 21st February 2018

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

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st February 2018 be agreed as a true & accurate record.

163.17-18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- a) Property, Environment & Recreation 24th January 2018
- b) Finance, Planning & General Purpose 21st February 2018

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

Corporate Governance Committee and brought back to the Council by no later than May 2018.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Governance Committee draw up a policy to look into any new development sites within the parish boundary and the policy be brought back to Council by no later than May.

Motion 2

- Motion.....A vote of no confidence in the Chairman of the Council
Background...Mayor/Chairman delegated powers
Report...Mayor has made decisions outside his delegated powers eg minutes of meeting. Request to DCC for no polling cards.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella to accept the motion.

The Clerk explained to Members the timeline in the lead up to the decision made regarding poll cards. The Clerk expressed his serious thanks to the Chairman for showing him a duty of care and concern during this process and he is sorry that it has lead to him having to deal with this vote of no confidence motion.

Considerable discussion took place on this motion. Councillor K Conroy suggested that Members move on.

Moved by Councillor K Campbell, **Seconded by** Councillor C Atkinson to move to the vote.

The Chair asked for a seconder of the motion, Councillor C Atkinson seconded and a named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
G. Barker	C. Atkinson		
J. Cansella	P. Atkinson		
D. Farry	K. Campbell		
N. Jones	K. Conroy		
J. Makepeace	J. Lindsay		
M. Seymour	Z. Roddam		
A. Smith	M. Walton		
R. Smith			
8	7	0	0

Councillors K Graham and C Woods were unable to vote on this decision.

RESOLVED

A vote of no confidence in the Chairman of the Council be recorded.

Motion 3

Moved by Councillor K Conroy that Council consider looking into Ferryhill Railway Station with a view to re-open it. There are various reasons why now would be a good time to look into this; government money is available and discussions have taken place regarding the possible re-opening of the Leamside railway line. Councillor Conroy sees this as a Council working together, not a political debate.”

At 7.50pm the meeting was suspended and reconvened at 7.55pm.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith that a written report be provided and members moved to the vote.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That a written report be brought to the next meeting.

Motion 4

Moved by Councillor K Conroy that Council consider the setting up of a community bank in Ferryhill due to the closure of our last bank. That Council consider premises and groups capable of running the above bank.

Councillor Conroy advised members she had met with someone at Aycliffe Community Bank and asked if Members would agree for someone to come and speak to Members.

Councillor Makepeace proposed an amendment to ask Mr Shingleton if he would like to be involved as the risks are obvious. Mr Shingleton offered to speak to Aycliffe Community Bank and do a report.

Moved by Councillor D Farry that a written report be provided and members move to the vote.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Conroy pass on the details of Aycliffe Community Bank to Mr Derek Shingleton and he make contact and bring a report back to Council.

Motion 5

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry, that Council determine that with immediate effect all elections in Ferryhill are supported by the issue of polling cards to those residents eligible to vote. The abandonment of polling cards must only be sanctioned by resolution of full Council at a properly constituted Council meeting, and not by the

Responsible Officer and Mayor/Chairperson, or any minority decision making group alone.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That with immediate effect all elections in Ferryhill are supported by the issue of polling cards to those residents eligible to vote. The abandonment of polling cards must only be sanctioned by resolution of full Council at a properly constituted Council meeting, and not by the Responsible Officer and Mayor/Chairperson, or any minority decision making group alone.

167.17-18 COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Members considered the report previously circulated.

RESOLVED

That the report be received.

168.17-18 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE & COMPLAINTS PANEL

Members considered the report previously circulated and the proposed changes to the terms of reference with an additional amendment to the Corporate Governance Terms of Reference item no. 10 to read 'To make appropriate recommendations to **full** Council in order to improve relevance and effectiveness.

Councillor K Conroy and Councillor J Lindsay objected to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee on the grounds of a procedural error and that it should have been presented on the Agenda for the Finance, Planning and General Purpose Committee.

Mr Shingleton explained that Terms of Reference for all Committees is agreed at the May meeting by full Council and there is no procedure by which any committee can agree the Terms of Reference it has to be agreed by full Council.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to accept the changes.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
G. Barker		C. Atkinson	
J. Cansella		P. Atkinson	
D. Farry		K. Campbell	
K. Graham		K. Conroy	
N. Jones		J. Lindsay	
J. Makepeace		Z. Roddam	
M. Seymour		M. Walton	
A. Smith		C. Woods	
R. Smith			
9	0	8	0

RESOLVED

That the changes to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Governance Committee and Complaints Panel be accepted with the additional amendment to the Corporate Governance Terms of Reference item no. 10 to read 'To make appropriate recommendations to full Council in order to improve relevance and effectiveness.

169.17-18 **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HUMAN RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEE**

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to accept the following proposals:

As an interim arrangement, the suggested changes were:

- a) amend the Terms of Reference of the HR Sub-Committee to read "six members plus the Mayor OR Deputy Mayor." This would allow current members to remain on the Sub-Committee;
- b) amend the Terms of Reference of the Disciplinary & Grievance Panel and Appeals Panel to read five members instead of seven. This would mean that the membership of the Appeals Panel should stay at five as at present, with the vacancies not filled. However, the Disciplinary & Grievance Panel membership would need to be reduced by two;
- c) if a situation was to arise, the Deputy Mayor could consider attending one meeting, say Appeals, but voluntarily not attend the Disciplinary meeting.

Implementing the above changes would resolve the current uncertainty pending the Annual Meeting when a full review of the Terms of Reference of each group can be considered and approved.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the current situation regarding the Terms of Reference and membership of the HR Sub Committee and Disciplinary & Grievance and Appeals Panels be accepted.

170.17-18 **APPOINTMENT OF VACANT POSITIONS ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES, PANEL and OUTSIDE BODIES**

The following vacant positions have been created by the recent resignations of two Ferryhill Town Councillors, Members were asked for nominations to fill the vacancies, the following nominations were received:

Corporate Governance Sub Committee ***One position***

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to nominate Councillor K Graham

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor M Walton to nominate Councillor K Conroy

A vote therefore took place:
For Councillor K Graham 9
For Councillor K Conroy 8

Councillor K Graham be appointed to Corporate Governance Committee.

Appeals Sub Committee **Two positions**

Recent changes to terms of reference agreed to have only 5 positions on this Committee, therefore it was not necessary for any nominations to this Committee.

Complaints Panel **One position**

Moved by Councillor R Smith, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to nominate Councillor N Jones.

Ferryhill In Bloom Working Group **One position**

Councillor C Woods nominated herself for this Group.

Friends of Dean Bank **One position**

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace to nominate Councillor K Graham.

Friends of King George **One position**

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson to nominate Councillor K Conroy.

Moved by Councillor D Farry to nominate Councillor N Jones.

Councillor K Conroy withdrew.

DBP Regeneration Working Group **Two positions**

Moved by Councillor K Conroy to nominate Councillor C Atkinson.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace to nominate Councillor K Graham.

RESOLVED

That the following appointments be made:

Corporate Governance Sub Committee	Councillor K Graham
Complaints Panel	Councillor N Jones
Ferryhill In Bloom Working Group	Councillor C Woods
Friends of Dean Bank	Councillor K Graham
Friends of King George	Councillor N Jones
DBP Regeneration Working Group	Councillors C Atkinson & K Graham

171.17-18 **REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

That Members:

