

## FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, on **WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019** at **7.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** *Councillor:* D Farry (Chair)

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

**Officials:** D. Shingleton, Accountant  
S. Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

**170.18-19** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies were received from Councillor L Smith.

**171.18-19** **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**  
There were no members' dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

**172.18-19** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**173.18-19** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
There were no public questions in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

**174.18-19** **MINUTES**  
a) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

**RESOLVED**  
That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 be agreed.

**175.18-19** **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & INCOME**  
Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

**RESOLVED**  
That the Statement of Accounts & Income be accepted.

**176.18-19** **CIVIC REGALIA**  
Members considered the report from the Accountant.

The report had been requested by the Chair for two reasons:

- 1) For Council to consider reintroducing a Chairman's medal – which had been stopped due to some Members, historically, being the Chair of the Council a number of times and being given a medal each time, thus devaluing the meaning of the medal.

2) For Council to consider the Chains of Office – having attended Civic events held by other Councils the Chair felt that our Chains let the Council down, by not being of the same quality and as Ferryhill is one of the ten largest Town Council's in County Durham, some money should be spent on improving the look of the Chains.

Mr Shingleton confirmed that the cost could be financed from the underspend in democracy budget and Mayors expenses budget.

Councillor Makepeace pointed out the damage to the Town Mayors chain and proposed that both chains are taken to a reputable jeweller for an estimate of the cost of necessary repairs.

**Proposed by** Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to obtain an estimate to repair the Chains of Office.

**Proposed by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor N Jones to reintroduce the 'Past Mayor' medals but a Mayor may only receive 1 medal regardless of how many terms served as Mayor and a bar to be possibly added to the medal for any extra terms and an estimate be obtained to repair/improve the Chains of Office.

Members voted on Councillor Makepeace's motion:

For	8
Against	7
Abstain	1

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Past Mayor medals be re-introduced limited to one medal per Mayors regardless of how many terms in office and estimates be obtained to repair/improve the Chains of Office.

#### **177.18-19 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

Members considered the report from the Accountant.

**Proposed by** Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor K Graham to put in place a monthly action report sheet for all decisions made including Committees & Sub Committees and present to Council every month.

Members agreed unanimously.

#### **RESOLVED**

That a monthly action report sheet be produced to record all decisions and be presented to Council every month.

#### **178.18-19 DURHAM COUNTY HOUSING STRATEGY**

Members considered the report from the Accountant.

Councillor J Lindsay advised the Chair that he had been unable to consider the document attached to the report as it was copied incorrectly. Councillor J Cansella advised Members that this is how the document appeared on the Durham County website.

It was agreed that the Council should make representation and asked all members for any suggestions they would like including but members should also submit their own response.

The following suggestions were made by members:

- More building of houses / developments
- Negative as far as Ferryhill is concerned
- Gated terraced areas
- Granting of planning permission for housing – should be a time limit
- Issue with bins being left out in street
- Would like to see streets opened up in Dean Bank and planters removed
- County Council to look after properties (a lot are boarded up)
- Revisit Masterplan for Dean Bank and Ferryhill Station
- Re-introduce selective licensing
- Massive Building in Spennymoor
- East/West Bypass Merrington Road

#### **RESOLVED**

A formal response be made to Durham County Council regarding the Housing Strategy including members comments as above.

#### **179.18-19 GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY**

Members considered the report from the Accountant.

**Proposed by** Councillor K Conroy that as Ferryhill Town Councillors do not receive an allowance like members of some other local Council's this money should be allocated to each Member and charities will be able to apply for donations from the member, similar to the AAP scheme.

**Proposed by** Councillor J Makepeace to accept the new grants & donations policy with the addition of the wording "no grants be given for any organisation with a balance above £15,000 unrestricted reserves".

#### **RESOLVED**

That the revised Grants & Donations Policy and application be approved with the addition of wording "no grants be given for any organisation with a balance above £15,000 unrestricted reserves" and Councillor K Conroy's proposal be considered by the Budget Review Group at a later date.

#### **180.18-19 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. North East War Memorials Appeal

**RESOLVED**

That this be noted.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....