

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, on **WEDNESDAY, 20th MARCH 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, L Smith, R Smith, M Seymour, M Walton, C Woods

Officials: D. Snowball, Town Clerk
D. Shingleton, Accountant
S. Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

181.18-19 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Z Roddam & Councillor J Makepeace.

182.18-19 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

183.18-19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

184.18-19 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public questions in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

185.18-19 **MINUTES**

a) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 20th February 2019

Councillor K Conroy asked for an amendment to be made to minute number 179.18-19, this should read: 'balance above £15,000 unrestricted reserves'

Councillor J Cansella asked that an explanation be added to minute number 176.18-19 to read as follows:

"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”

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20th February 2019 be agreed subject to the above changes be made.

186.18-19 SHORT PRESENTATION BY MARK SOLAN

Mr Mark Solan was in attendance and gave Members a brief outline of the work he does in Ferryhill and surrounding areas helping people diagnosed with cancer as well as supporting their families, the work he does will also benefit Ferryhill businesses as helping those in need could require the use of a taxi or tradesman and for this he will always try and use local.

Mark thanked Councillor Carole Atkinson for all her hard work volunteering in the charity shop he has recently opened in Ferryhill and advised Members that he would like to work with Ferryhill Town Council, the Chair advised Mr Solan to visit Mrs Karen Younghusband to discuss a partnership with the Town Council.

The Chair thanked Mr Solan for his attendance and the fantastic work he does whereupon he left the meeting.

RESOLVED

That this be received.

187.18-19 REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL

Members discussed the report previously circulated and the Chair asked members to note the author of the report should be Mr D Shingleton and not Mr D Snowball.

RESOLVED

That Members note the contents of the report in terms of the review of internal audit and internal control
and

Support the principle of ensuring that effective risk management takes place in the Council and consider the risks addressed in the register

188.18-19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & INCOME

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

Councillor N Jones queried if there was an update on the new process for procurement / revised list of contractors, as nothing has changed sine the

Council resolution made in July 2018. The Town Clerk stated that Mr Shingleton was dealing with this. Mr Shingleton had already left the meeting.

Councillor Cansella proposed that no further works costing more than £250.00 are carried out until the new procurement process is put in place, unless of an emergency nature which can be explained. Seconded by Councillor R Smith and agreed.

RESOLVED

That no further works costing more than £250.00 are carried out until the new procurement process is put in place, unless of an emergency nature which can be explained.

189.18-19 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

a) Council debate the possibility of illuminating the Town Hall clock.

Proposed by Councillor C Atkinson that the illuminating of the Town Hall clock be delayed until the other works on the priority list are completed first.

Seconded by Councillor K Campbell.

Proposed by Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor M Seymour that the Town Hall clock be illuminated in principal and a quotation be obtained by the Works Manager and brought back to Council in April.

A named vote was requested:

A vote took place on Councillor Cansella’s proposal first:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
G. Barker	C. Atkinson		J. Makepeace
J. Cansella	P. Atkinson		Z. Roddam
D. Farry	K. Campbell		
K. Graham	K. Conroy		
N. Jones	J. Lindsay		
M. Seymour	M. Walton		
L. Smith	C. Woods		
R. Smith			
8	7	0	2

A vote then took place on Councillor C Atkinson’s proposal:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
C. Atkinson	G. Barker		J. Makepeace
P. Atkinson	J. Cansella		Z. Roddam
K. Campbell	D. Farry		
K. Conroy	K. Graham		
J. Lindsay	N. Jones		
M. Walton	M. Seymour		
C. Woods	L. Smith		
	R. Smith		
7	8	0	2

Councillor Cansella's proposal was carried.

RESOLVED

That the Town Hall clock be illuminated in principal and a quotation be obtained by the Works Manager and brought back to Council in April.

- b) That Council contact the owners of this site with a view to developing the land on a semi permanent basis by the landscaping and wildflower planting of the area.

To suggest other agencies that may wish to get involved either financially or in material terms, and to seek grant assistance from Wild life trust and other environmentally interested organisations via our grant officer.

To ensure Network rail is confident in the integrity of their fencing, and to invite their active involvement maximising publicity for all participants participation.

The development of the area into a public "park" will in no way be suggestive or imply restriction on the future housing development of the land by the owners.

The motion seeks to create a partnership approach for the benefit of the residents of Ferryhill Station primarily, but the general populace in general

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella that this motion be withdrawn and be brought back to the Council meeting in April.

RESOLVED

That this motion be withdrawn and brought back to April meeting.

- c) That FTC write to the DCC to demand proactive action to remove abandoned and wrongly filled bins from the street.

This issue is a very concerning and disruptive cancer on our streets which demands action to review DCC current policy to encourage tenants to remove bins from streets, and ensure the correct waste is placed in the correct bin.

Numerous attempts have been made by councillors to end this terrible situation to no avail. The public deserves much better action from DCC to resolve this.

Hopefully DCC will change the current ineffective policy and adopt proactive measures than penalise offenders and keep our streets clear and clean.

Proposed by Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith that Council agree that Councillor Makepeace and the Town Clerk write to Durham County Council regarding the overall effectiveness of its bin collection/waste disposal policy and ask what remedies Durham County Council can suggest to vast improve the current unacceptable situation in Ferryhill as a whole, the Clerk to liaise with Councillor Makepeace on the wording of this letter.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Makepeace and the Town Clerk write to Durham County Council regarding the overall effectiveness of its bin collection/waste disposal policy and ask what remedies Durham County Council can suggest to vast improve the current unacceptable situation in Ferryhill as a whole, the Clerk to liaise with Councillor Makepeace on the wording of this letter.

190.18-19 COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Councillor Cansella stated that it had been previously agreed that all reports should include the COM number.

RESOLVED

That the COM number be added to all reports as previously agreed.

191.18-19 REQUEST FROM DURHAM CENTRE CARAVAN & MOTORHOME CLUB

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor N Jones to approve the request subject to the date being acceptable and the acceptable use of toilets and a fee of £9 per van per night be charged.

A named voted was requested:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
C. Atkinson	K. Campbell		J. Makepeace
P. Atkinson			Z. Roddam
G. Barker			
J. Cansella			
K. Conroy			
D. Farry			
K. Graham			
J. Lindsay			
N. Jones			
M. Seymour			
L. Smith			
R. Smith			
M. Walton			
C. Woods			
14	1	0	2

RESOLVED That the request be approved subject to the date being acceptable and the acceptable use of toilets and a fee of £9 per van per night be charged.

192.18-19 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF POLICY UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 CONSULTATION 2019

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor R Smith, **Seconded by** Councillor L Smith to approve 3.1a) with the addition that members make their own representation to Durham County Council, remove 3.1b).

RESOLVED

That this information be received and no comments be made and members make their own representation to Durham County Council.

193.18-19 CIVIC REGALIA

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Following an agreed visit by Councillors J Cansella and J Makepeace to Gregory Stephens, the goldsmith, at Brancepeth Castle, Councillor Cansella provided Council with a breakdown of the composition of each of the Mayoral chains as provided by Gregory Stephens:

- The Town Mayor's Chain of Office – non-authenticated gold plate on silver
- The Town Mayor's Consort's Chain – non-authenticated gold plate on silver
- The Deputy Mayor's Chain – gold paint on tin
- The Deputy Mayor's Consort's insignia – (Circa 2002/2005) Cold lacquer i.e. coloured araldite on silver

Proposed by Councillor J Cansella, that Councillors J Cansella and J Makepeace return to Gregory Stephens, at Brancepeth Castle, to get a cost for refurbishing the chains, as previously agreed by Council, together with an independent valuation of each piece for insurance purposes at a cost not exceeding £200.00. The valuations and the cost of refurbishing the chains to be brought back to Council at the April meeting, with savings on insurance (if any) to be reported by the appropriate officer. **Seconded by Councillor K Graham**

A vote was requested.

In Favour	8
Against	7

At this point the Clerk asked to speak and started to say 'he was disgusted' the Chair stopped the Clerk from speaking.

RESOLVED

That Councillors J Cansella and J Makepeace return to Gregory Stephens, at Brancepeth Castle, to get a cost for refurbishing the chains, as previously agreed by Council, together with an independent valuation of each piece for insurance purposes at a cost not exceeding £200.00. The valuations and the cost of refurbishing the chains to be brought back to Council at the April meeting, with savings on insurance (if any) to be reported by the appropriate officer.

194.18-19 MONTHLY ACTION REPORT SHEET

Members considered the report previously circulated.

The Town Clerk ask if it could be added to the log an item from the Annual meeting held on 16th May 2018, minute number 10.18-19 whereby Councillor Makepeace advised the Clerk that he would advise him in writing of the newly formed group namely Ferryhill Independent Group.

The Clerk was advised that the purpose of the log was for resolutions of Council meetings only.

Councillor J Cansella proposed that a column be added to the action sheet for a proposed completion date.

Councillor K Graham asked that Councillor J Cansella be commended for producing the detailed resolutions action log.

RESOLVED

That this be received and a column be added to the log for a proposed completion date.

195.18-19 CCTV POLICY

Members considered the report previously circulated and agreed to accept the subject to the following changes:

- Item 1.1 - Remove 'Chair of Corporate Governance Committee'
 - Item 1.2 - Remove 'investigated by the Clerk to the Council and'
 - Item 2.1 e) Add the word 'immediately' at the end the paragraph.
- Replace the word 'tape' with 'recording' wherever it appears in the policy.
Add page numbers to the policy.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the policy be accepted subject to the above changes.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....