

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, on **WEDNESDAY, 22nd January 2020** at **7.00p.m.**

PRESENT: *Councillor:* J Makepeace (Chair)

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

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

131.19-20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Graham, L Smith and M Walton.

132.19-20 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

133.19-20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C Atkinson, P Atkinson, C Woods declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda, Banner Group and Durham Miners Gala.

134.19-20 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

135.19-20 **MINUTES**

- a) To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th December 2019

Moved by Councillor D Farry to agree the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Mr D Shingleton advised members that in relation to minute no. 121.19-20 b) and work taking place on Council land without permission from the Council, this particular project was discussed at a Dean Bank Park Project Group meeting and as minutes from Working Groups don't get reported back to Council, this is why Members were unaware the work was going ahead. This process will be looked at.

Also, Mr Shingleton asked that in relation to minute number 126.19-20, the 3 Councillors who were not present at the December meeting sign the document relating to the legal advice received.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th December 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- b) To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 15th January 2020.

Moved by Councillor J Cansella to agree the minutes as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 15th January 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

136.19-20 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME**

Members considered the monthly Statement of Accounts & Income.

Councillor J Makepeace asked why the Council are still using Contractors who are not on the approved list. The Acting Town Clerk advised he would look into this, but it could be that no other Contractors were able to do the work.

Councillor J Cansella questioned if the Occupational Health payment was for a historic case. Mr Shingleton advised it wasn't a historic case it was another employee, Councillor Cansella then questioned why we are still using DCC and asked that it be minuted that priority be increased to look into finding alternative HR assistance and Occupational Health. Councillor K Conroy questioned if Council have a Service Level Agreement with DCC. Mr Shingleton confirmed we do and three months notice is required to cancel.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts & Income be accepted.

137.19-20 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Members considered the following motion **Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor M Seymour:

“That Ferryhill Town Council flies the Union Flag on Friday 31 January 2020 to recognise the day the United Kingdom leaves the European Union”.

A named vote was requested.

The motion was defeated by 8 votes to 6.

RESOLVED

That the Union Flag not be flown on 31st January 2020 to recognise the day the UK leaves the EU.

138.19-20 **POLICY REVIEW**

Members considered a report from the Acting Town Clerk covering the following policies.

- a) Disciplinary
- b) Grievance

Councillor J Makepeace queried if these policies include the Town Clerks role, Mr Shingleton advised that it covers all employees therefore the Town Clerk is included. Councillor Makepeace felt the Clerk should be specifically mentioned, Mr Shingleton advised he could amend the policies and put to the Corporate Governance Committee for approval and then bring back to Council.

RESOLVED

That the policies be amended and approved by Corporate Governance before being brought back to Council.

139.19-20 BANNER GROUP AND DURHAM MINERS GALA

Members considered a report previously circulated and discussed this matter in detail.

At the September Council meeting Members resolved that the Town Council engages directly with Ferryhill Town Band and to book their services to play and accompany the banner, when paraded, ensuring this covers the annual Durham Miners Gala. That the cost of transport for the Town Band and the banner(s) plus the provision of at least one additional bus, depending on demand, be met by the Town Council until 2029. This to be reviewed every 15 years thereafter, thus ensuring the heritage of coal mining in Ferryhill is secure for future generations and as parading of the banner is already in the Town Council’s programme of events, all arrangements to be agreed and organised by the Events and Community Engagement Sub-Committee.

Following this resolution a number of letters have been received delaying the progress.

Councillor J Cansella advised members that she had spoken with Ross Forbes, the Gala’s Programme Director, he advised amongst other things that the Durham Miners Association can provide mediation. Councillor Cansella added it is essential that we formally resolve this matter, not only for the benefit of the community of Ferryhill but also in the interest of ensuring that both the local banner parade is properly inclusive and adequately funded for future years.

It was therefore **Moved by** Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry that Councillor P Atkinson and Councillor C Woods from the Committee of the Banner Group and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of this Council, together with Mr Shingleton, meet with Alan Mardghum, Secretary of the DMA, and the Gala’s Programme Director, Ross Forbes with a view to mediation, by no later than 30 January 2020. Mr Shingleton to arrange this mediation meeting, at a time convenient to all those involved.

A named vote was requested.

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

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
M. Seymour	C.Woods		
R. Smith			
7	6	1	3

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED

That Mr Shingleton arrange a mediation meeting between Councillor P Atkinson and Councillor C Woods from the Committee of the Banner Group and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of this Council, together with Mr Shingleton, Alan Mardghum, Secretary of the DMA, and the Gala's Programme Director, Ross Forbes, by no later than 30 January 2020 at a time convenient to all those involved.

140.19-20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020/21

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith that the fees and charges be agreed as they are, apart from the field at Mainsforth Row and the garage site rents, these be deferred.

All members agreed.

Members all stated their preferences individually to the precept increase, it was decided to therefore take a vote first on a 0% increase.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
C. Atkinson	G. Barker		K. Graham
P. Atkinson	J. Cansella		L. Smith
K. Campbell	D. Farry		M. Walton
K. Conroy	N. Jones		
Z. Roddam	J. Makepeace		
C.Woods	M. Seymour		
J. Lindsay	R. Smith		
7	7	0	3

The Mayors vote counted as the casting vote and the proposal was defeated.

A vote then took place for a 1% increase, and a named vote was again requested:

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

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
7	7	0	3

The Mayor's vote counted as the casting vote and the proposal was carried.

RESOLVED

That

- a) the fees and charges be agreed as they are, apart from the field at Mainsforth Row and the garage site rents, these be deferred;
- b) the budget for events be agreed at a later date;
- c) the budgets for Christmas Decorations and Events for the year 2020/2021 be increased in total by £17,874 and the Council approve a Precept of £542,168 for the year ended 31st March 2021, resulting in an increase of 1% in Council Tax;
- d) Members agree to initiate a review of the budget, with the Budget Review Working Group, to ensure resources are properly allocated to the Council's priorities.

141.19-20 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks - a letter of appreciation had been received for the installation of the new seat in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED

That this be received.

- b) Fireworks Display 2020 – request to look into silent fireworks for next year.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy to refer this request to the Events Sub-Committee. All members agreed.

RESOLVED

This request be referred to the next Events Sub Committee.

142.19-20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members were 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 the remaining items on the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest.”

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the next section of the meeting. All members of the public left the meeting.

143.19-20 INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members considered a report from the Acting Town Clerk and Finance & Administration Manager, previously circulated.

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

RESOLVED

That the contract for the Council's Insurance arrangements be awarded to Zurich Insurance for the three year period commencing on 1 April 2020.

144.19-20 **PROPERTY CONDITION SURVEY**

Members considered the report by the Acting Town Clerk and the Condition Survey Report, previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella to get estimates from three companies on the approved list for the works required and bring back to Council. Councillor Cansella added to the proposal that no works be carried out prior to the quotes coming back to Council.

All members agreed.

RESOLVED

That three estimates for the works required be sought from the Approved Contractors list and be brought back to Council.

145.19-20 **PIT WHEEL AND PATH TO DOG WALKING AREA**

A report was circulated to Members before the meeting regarding the pit wheel and path to the dog walking area.

The installation of a footpath to the dog walking area was discussed first.

Councillor P Atkinson suggested advertising work on Facebook to try and attract local contractors/suppliers to come forward.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella to agree to installing path and send out formal tenders to local contractors wherever possible. All Members agreed.

With regards to the installation of the pit wheel, Members were advised that only one quote had been received. Members agreed that they would prefer the wheel to look natural and agreed that Mr D Shingleton progress the installation of the wheel.

RESOLVED

That Mr D Shingleton progress the installation of the pit wheel. Tenders be sent out to local contractors wherever possible for the installation of the path to the dog walking area.

146.19-20 **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Mr Shingleton informed Members that a last minute request for nominations to the Royal Garden Party had been received and the closing date for nominations was nearing.

It was suggested that Councillors P and C Atkinson be submitted to CDALC to be included in the draw for the Garden Party invites and they fit the criteria needed. All Members agreed.

RESOLVED

Mr Shingleton submit the names of Councillors P and C Atkinson to be entered in the draw for the Royal Garden Party.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....