

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held online via Zoom, on **WEDNESDAY, 21st October 2020** at 7.00p.m.

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

Councillors: G Barker, C Atkinson, P Atkinson, D Farry, K Graham, J Lindsay,
N Jones, Z Roddam, L Smith, R Smith, M Walton

Officials: D. Anderson, Town Clerk
K. Younghusband, Events & Projects Officer
S. Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

01.20-21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was agreed that apologies should be recorded for any Member unable to join the meeting via Zoom. Apologies were therefore received from Councillors K Campbell, J Cansella, K Conroy, M Seymour and C Woods.

02.20-21 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

03.20-21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests declared. The Clerk advised Members that a flowchart has been included on the agenda, and will be included on every agenda going forward, to help Members decide if they need to declare an interest.

04.20-21 **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 18th March 2020.
- 2) Special meeting of the Council held on 19th August 2020.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 18th March 2020 and the Special meeting of the Council held on 19th August 2020 be approved.

05.20-21 **CONTINUING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk, previously circulated, to consider whether an Annual Council meeting should be held or to continue with the existing arrangements for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor J Lindsay to continue with the existing arrangements.

RESOLVED

That the Council continue with the existing arrangements

06.20-21 **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

Members considered a report previously circulated providing a schedule of decisions made under delegated authority during the Coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and actions taken be endorsed.

07.20-21

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk which was previously circulated.

RESOLVED

That:

1. A further three month rent free period (covering October to December 2020) to Ferryhill Youth FC and Mainsforth Cricket Club for the facilities leased from the Town Council.
2. Arrangements be made to open the disabled toilet in the Public Toilets in the Market Place, with extra cleaning measures put in place.
3. A review be undertaken of ICT equipment and support.
4. A working from home policy be developed and implemented.
5. A delegation be included in Standing Orders to authorise the Town Clerk to make decisions, in consultation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and representative of the minority group, where the urgency is such that it would not be possible to call a meeting of Council to make the decision.
6. The Council continue to operate within Government guidance and advice in order to protect the health and well-being of its staff, members and the wider public during the coronavirus pandemic.

08.20-21

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE (2020/21)

Members considered a report previously circulated to agree dates of Town Council Meetings for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/2021.

RESOLVED

That Council Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month apart from December when it is the second Wednesday and January when it is the fourth Wednesday. Meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels etc be arranged as and when necessary for the remainder of the current municipal year. Meetings will be held via Zoom, unless restrictions are relaxed sufficiently to allow the Council to meet in person.

09.20-21

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCES

To receive the details of members' attendances for the Municipal Year 2020/21

RESOLVED

That this be received.

10.20-21

DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2019/2020

To receive, for information, the attached report of allowances paid to members during 2019/20.

RESOLVED

That this be received.

- 11.20-21 DIRECT DEBIT, DEBIT CARD AND BACS RENEWAL APPROVAL**
To receive the attached report from the Finance & Administration Manager

RESOLVED

That this be received.

- 12.20-21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME**
Members were provided with a copy of the Statement of Accounts and Income for the last 6 months.

RESOLVED

That this be approved.

- 13.20-21 MAYORS MEDAL**
Members received a report from the Town Clerk. A decision was made using delegated authority to introduce a Mayor's Medal to be used for Civic Awards, Special Recognition and to be awarded to outgoing Mayors.

A proposal had been made to introduce a procedure for the Mayor to award a Mayor's Medal during his/her term of office to a person, which in his/her opinion has made an outstanding contribution to Ferryhill or to recognise an outstanding achievement in their chosen field on the national or international stage, the criteria is set out in the report, candidates should meet the criteria set out in the report.

RESOLVED

That, the proposal for the Mayor to award a Mayor's Medal as detailed in the report be approved,

- 14.20-21 INVESTORS IN THE ENVIRONMENT**
Members considered a report from the Events & Projects Officer. Members welcomed the report and thanked the Town Clerk and the Events & Projects Officer for progressing the Investors in the Environment (iE) Accreditation Scheme.

RESOLVED

That:

1. The Events & Projects Officer continue to liaise with Narec Distributed Energy ensuring that the Town Council's Carbon Footprint is calculated, that EPC's for each Council property are put in place, and that a report outlining areas where the Council could best make environmental improvements is provided and presented to Council early in the New Year;
2. Officers continue to explore options with Narec on how best to host a community engagement event, to promote the impact of climate change and ways in which everyone can help to reduce their own environmental impact;

3. The Events & Projects Officer be identified as the Town Council's Green Champion;
4. The Draft Environment Policy be approved.
5. Update reports be presented to Town Council at each stage of the iiE Accreditation process.

15.20-21 SKATEPARK KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS - UPDATE

Members considered a report from the Events & Projects Officer which was previously circulated.

Members discussed the skatepark in detail and it was suggested that the Primary Schools be included in the consultation.

RESOLVED

That:

1. Members provide the Events and Projects Officer with feedback on the two Skate Park proposals received, by no later than 6th November 2020;
2. Members agree that community consultation be carried out with FBEC and primary schools on the two Skate Park proposals received;
3. Members agree that the two Skate Park designs received be placed on Facebook, to enable members of the public to vote on their preferred option.
4. Members agree that once the community consultation has been collated and analysed, that the most popular design be used to submit a planning application to Durham County Council, in turn enabling Leeming Associates to finalise the Feasibility Study, and the Town Council to apply for external funding to deliver the project.

16.20-21 MONITORING OFFICER'S DECISION NOTICES (X2)

For information only

RESOLVED

That this be received.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....