

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held online via Zoom, on **WEDNESDAY, 18th November 2020** at 7.00p.m.

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

Councillors: G Barker, C Atkinson, P Atkinson, J Cansella, K Conroy, D Farry,
K Graham, J Lindsay, Z Roddam, R Smith, M Walton, C Woods

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

22.20-21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Campbell, N Jones, M Seymour, L Smith.

23.20-21 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

24.20-21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests declared.

25.20-21 **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 21st October 2020.
- 2) Special meeting of the Council held on 28th October 2020.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 21st October and the minutes of the Special meeting of the Council held on 28th October 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

26.20-21 **MOTIONS**

Moved by Cllr Farry

- a) That Ferryhill Town Council formerly recognise the efforts of our new Conservative MP Paul Howell and his dedicated work so far to have Ferryhill Rail Station re opened. Also recognise the hard work of Independent Councillors in keeping the Leamside and Stillington lines and the reopening of Ferryhill Rail Station high on the local , County and National agendas, also notes the lamentable attempts by local Labour Party Councillors past and present. FTC write to all surrounding Town and Parish Councils asking to have placed on their agendas pledging support for the re opening of the Leamside Line and a passenger Rail Station in Ferryhill.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella to amend the policy by adding "Also write to the Prime Minister and local MP pledging Ferryhill Town Council's support."

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor C Atkinson to amend the policy as follows:

‘That FTC formerly recognise the efforts of our new Conservative MP Paul Howell and his dedicated work so far to have Ferryhill Rail Station re opened. Also recognise the hard work of all Councillors past and present and members of the community in keeping the Leamside and Stillington lines and the reopening of Ferryhill Rail Station high on the local County and National agendas. FTC write to all surrounding Town/Parish councils asking for their support for the reopening of the Leamside Line and passenger rail station in Ferryhill’.

Councillor Farry was in agreement to the amendment to his motion if his amendment could be added to the end. Councillor Conroy agreed.

Councillor J Cansella asked that the word ‘formerly’ at the beginning of the motion be changed to ‘formally’.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That FTC formally recognise the efforts of our new Conservative MP Paul Howell and his dedicated work so far to have Ferryhill Rail Station re opened. Also recognise the hard work of all Councillors past and present and members of the community in keeping the Leamside and Stillington lines and the reopening of Ferryhill Rail Station high on the local County and National agendas. FTC write to all surrounding Town/Parish councils asking for their support for the reopening of the Leamside Line and passenger rail station in Ferryhill. Also write to the Prime Minister and local MP pledging Ferryhill Town Council’s support

- b) **Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella, that Ferryhill Town Council agree to write to the CEO at Durham County Council asking for an explanation as the reason why Ferryhill once again not been given Main Town Status and the benefits that go with it also asking for the criteria/ formula to gain the Main Town Status. This has been of great concern for a long time to many businesses and residents of Ferryhill and it’s of my belief we are being victimised and missing out on tens of thousands of pounds of funding money available to Main Towns.

Councillor P Atkinson brought Members up to date on the fact that Durham County Council no longer using the Main Town Status categorisation as and this had been changed to County Durham Town’s & Villages.

Discussion took place regarding the Neighbourhood Plan as some Members were concerned that this had not been completed and was due to be finished by 2019.

Members felt it was important that Durham County Council were made aware of the aspirations of the Town. All members agreed.

RESOLVED

That Ferryhill Town Council write to the CEO at Durham County Council asking for an explanation as to why Ferryhill has once again not been given Main Town

Status and the benefits that go with it also asking for the criteria/ formula to gain the Main Town Status.

27.20-21

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

28.20-21

BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 31ST OCTOBER 2020

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

RESOLVED

That Members:

- a) Note the financial position of the Council at 31 October 2020 as indicated in the report and the projected figure for the year 2020/2021.
- b) Note that the next information on budget performance will be as part of the budget process presented to the Council meeting in December.

29.20-21

ACCOUNTS 2019-2020 – COMPLETION OF AUDIT

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

RESOLVED

That Members:

- a) Approve and accept Section 1 (page 4) of the audited AGAR – Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020, and ensure that such approval and acceptance is recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- b) Approve and accept Section 2 (page 5) of the audited AGAR – Accounting Statements for 2019/2020, and ensure that such approval and acceptance is recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- c) Confirm acceptance of the arrangements for the Notice of Completion of Audit to be displayed on notice boards within and outside of the Town Hall, and on the website, between 19th November 2020 until 18th December 2020 and the charge of 50p for a copy of the relevant information

At this point Mr Shingleton left the meeting.

30.20-21

KICKSTART SCHEME

Members considered a report, previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry to accept the recommendations, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson.

RESOLVED

That Members agree to Ferryhill Town Council participating in the Kickstart scheme by providing a horticultural placement opportunity.

31.20-21 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Members considered a report which was previously circulated proposing that the Town Council close for the Christmas period from Thursday, 24th December 2020, the last working day being Wednesday 23rd December 2020, returning to work on Monday 4th January 2021.

Members thanked staff for their hard work and commitment during the year, particularly during the difficult working arrangements due to the coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED

That the Christmas closure be approved as detailed in the report.

32.20-21 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.”

33.20-21 LEASED VEHICLES

Members considered a report, previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry that option c, lease purchase arrangement, be agreed, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella. Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Council enter into a lease purchase arrangement to replace two Berlingo vans as detailed in option c, with a view to purchase the vans at the end of the term for £1.00.

34.20-21 BUNGALOW PROJECT DEAN BANK PARK

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

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

RESOLVED

- a) That the quotation received from Durham County Council and Logic Architecture as detailed in the report be accepted.
- b) A Special Council meeting be held to consider the amended designs, tender process and evaluation criteria.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.05 pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....**DATE**.....