

## FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held online via Zoom, on **WEDNESDAY, 20 January 2021** at 7.00pm.

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

**Councillors:**       C Atkinson, P Atkinson, J Cansella, K Conroy, D Farry, K Graham,  
N Jones, J Lindsay, Z Roddam, R Smith, C Walton, C Woods

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

Before the meeting a minute silence was held in respect of former Councillor Brian Gibson who had sadly passed away.

### 48.20-21       **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors G Barker, K Campbell, M Seymour and L Smith.

### 49.20-21       **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

### 50.20-21       **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor P Atkinson declared an interest in agenda item no.11, Double Taxation, as a Durham County Councillor.

### 51.20-21       **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Councillor R Smith asked that an addition be made to minute number 39.20-21b to the effect that Councillors abstaining from the vote did so as the Council's policy regarding grants and donations was not being followed.

Councillor J Cansella asked for an amendment to be made to minute number 45.20-21, Councillor K Graham gave her apologies before leaving the meeting.

Councillor Z Roddam asked for an amendment to minute no.43.20-21b, she had declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.

**Moved by** Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to accept the minutes.

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendments.

### 52.20-21       **MOTIONS**

Members considered the following motions:

a. **Moved by** Councillor D Farry

That Ferryhill Town Council continues its commitment to the environment and wildlife with the purchase of 3 Barn Owl boxes, 5 Tawny Owl boxes and 50 open fronted bird boxes, works with local partners to distribute and install to local Schools and residents of Ferryhill.

Councillor J Cansella moved an amendment to the motion:  
'that the Council approach Endeavour Woodcrafts to make the boxes at a cost of no more than £900'.

Councillor Farry agreed to the amendment and Councillor J Cansella seconded the motion.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That the Council purchase 3 Barn Owl boxes, 5 Tawny Owl boxes and 50 open fronted bird boxes and works with local partners to distribute and install to local Schools and residents of Ferryhill, Endeavour Woodcrafts be approached to make the boxes at a cost of no more than £900.

b. **Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella

That Ferryhill Town Council agrees to add to its Annual Christmas Fayre a Santa Tour. The details and date of the Tour be agreed by the Events Management and Community Engagement sub Committee.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That a Santa Tour be added to the Annual Christmas Fayre. Details of the tour to be agreed by the Events Managements & Community Engagement Sub Committee.

c. **Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella

The Council agree to write to DCC expressing its disappointment at not being included in any Town Centre Master Plans and ask as a matter urgency to be included in the County's Town Centre Master Planning process to support the businesses of Ferryhill and its Town Centre in fear of being left behind once again.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk write to DCC expressing the Council's disappointment at not being included in any Town Centre Master Plans and ask as a matter of urgency to be included in the County's Town Centre Master Planning process to support the

businesses of Ferryhill and its Town Centre in fear of being left behind once again.

**53.20-21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME**

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

**Moved by** Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to accept the Statement of Income.

**RESOLVED**

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

**54.20-21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2021/2022**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk which was previously circulated. Mr Shingleton was in attendance and presented the report.

**Moved by** Councillor J Cansella, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to agree a Precept for the financial year 2021/2022 of £531,791, meaning a 0% increase on Council tax and utilise part of the savings on the current year's Events budget as a contribution from Reserves.

**Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to accept the fees and charges for the year 2021/2022 and the Clerk look into the fees for the fields managed by Ferryhill Town Council and advise members.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That

a) The fees and charges for the year 2021/2022 be accepted and no revisions be made and the Clerk look into the fees for the fields managed by Ferryhill Town Council and advise members.

And;

b) The Precept for the financial year 2021/2022 be £531,791, meaning a 0% increase on Council tax and utilise part of the savings on the current year's Events budget as a contribution from Reserves.

At this point Mr D Shingleton left the meeting.

**55.20-21 UPDATE ON ENERGY AUDIT/OPTIONS APPRAISAL OF FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY**

Members considered a report from the Events & Projects Officer which was previously circulated. Mrs K Younghusband was in attendance and presented the report.

**Moved by** Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to accept the recommendations.

Members agreed unanimously.

## RESOLVED

1. That Members note the contents of the report produced by Narec Distributed Energy.
2. That Officers consider the recommendations outlined in Narec's report identifying any potential external funding opportunities available, with a view to taking a phased approach to implementing each recommendation moving forward, with further update reports being brought to Council at the appropriate time.
3. Officers liaise with Narec to organise a Community Engagement Event in February, with an invitation to the event being sent to representatives from each organisation who lease/use Town Council owned property, as well as Managers of other community venues in the Town.

56.20-21

### **UPDATE REPORT – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SKATE PARK AT KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD**

Members considered a report previously circulated by the Events & Projects Officer. Mrs K Younghusband presented the report.

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

Members agreed unanimously.

## RESOLVED

1. That Members agree that designs by Canvass be used to progress the project, with Officers liaising with the Company to apply for the necessary planning permissions for the project;
2. That the cost of Planning Fees be taken from the Town Council's Unallocated Reserves

57.20-21

### **DOUBLE TAXATION**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk which was previously circulated requesting consideration of the following motion submitted to CDALC by Great Aycliffe Town Council:

**“Great Aycliffe Town Council acknowledges Durham County Council’s response to the issue of double taxation. We would request that, in the interest of fairness, there is a commitment by Durham County Council to reconsider the issue of double taxation and possible options to alleviate the unfairness that this causes for local council tax payers in County Durham. It is requested that this review is undertaken in consultation with the Local Councils Working Group.”**

All CDALC member councils had been requested to consider the information within the report and inform CDALC via an online survey indicating whether the council agrees, disagrees or abstains by no later than 31 January 2021.

**Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Cansella to abstain at this point in time.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That Ferryhill Town Council abstain at this point in time.

**58.20-21 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.”

**59.20-21 BUNGALOW PROJECT DEAN BANK PARK - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk updating members on the bungalow project. The intention was to provide members with monthly updates.

**Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor to continue with the project, accept the recommendations and look at possible funding streams once the tenders are in.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

1. That Members note the unsuccessful outcome of the bid for BEIS Decarbonisation Funding and the increase in costs of construction works.
2. That the project proceed to the tender stage.
3. That an additional £30,000 be allocated to the project.
4. That additional funding streams be examined.

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

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....