

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held online via Zoom, on **WEDNESDAY, 17 February 2021 at 7.00pm.**

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

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

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

60.20-21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

61.20-21 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

62.20-21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

63.20-21 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were 8 members of the public present, however, there were no questions.

64.20-21 **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 20th January 2021.

Councillor K Conroy pointed out that Minute No 59.20-21 did not record the name of the seconder. It was explained that in the preparation of the Minutes the recording of the meeting had been reviewed and no clear seconder could be identified. The resolution had however been agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 20th January 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

65.20-21 **MOTIONS**

Members considered the following motions:

- a. **Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry

The heritage of Ferryhill is a matter of interest to all who inhabit our town. Preservation of that heritage, whilst vital, often falls to the concern of individuals before effective measures to ensure preservation are taken. I cite the pit wheel, boar stone, and miners "knocky up" boards as examples. The signal box which has served our rail link since the 1800's is shortly to be de

commissioned, I assume technological advancement can now fulfil its role. Geoff Wall, Chairman of Ferryhill History Society, has indicated that the Society would like to preserve some of that history, and I believe it to be incumbent on Ferryhill Council to support Ferryhill History Society, thereby actively participating in this process.

I ask that FTC support my motion by writing to Railtrack, who have responsibility for the signal box, requesting Ferryhill History Society be allowed access, and also be allowed to identify those artefacts which they believe should be saved for future generations, and any larger artefacts that could provide permanent, display at Mainsforth with input from FTC, and or County Councillors. Perhaps a signal, or series of signal paraphernalia.

We therefore cordially invite Railtrack to participate in this preservation process by donating artefacts to the history society for permanent display in our Heritage Centre, and to consider possible external display of larger equipment by FTC .

RESOLVED

That the motion be approved and the Clerk write to Railtrack.

b. **Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith

The heritage of Ferryhill is a matter of interest to all who inhabit our town. Part of our heritage was the activity and dedication of all those involved in the now defunct "church lads brigade". When disbanded uniforms, bugles, drums and documentation were all put into storage in the attic of St. Luke's church. Ferryhill History Society would dearly like to preserve these artefacts for future generations, indeed the number of artefacts in storage would seem to suggest that some items may be of interest to this council also.

I ask that Ferryhill Council support my motion by writing to the Bishop of Durham, who has ultimate responsibility for safekeeping, requesting access to these artefacts to ensure their survival for future generations, within our Heritage Centre and possibly Town Hall.

We therefore cordially invite the church to participate in this preservation process by considering donation of selected artefacts to the history society for permanent display in our Heritage Centre for future generations.

Councillor P Atkinson queried if this matter could not be sorted out with the local Vicar. Councillor J Makepeace advised that the vicar had already been approached and it was his understanding that the request should be addressed to the Bishop.

A named vote was requested.

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

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		M. Walton	C. Woods
5	0	6	6

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the Bishop of Durham requesting access to the artefacts mentioned in the motion to ensure their survival for future generations, within our Heritage Centre and possibly Town Hall.

c. **Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith

The first floor of the Town Hall has long been a source of minor embarrassment to myself and many other councillors presenting as it does as a partial storage space for paperwork, dumping area for broken equipment, an unfinished room poorly decorated and generally unrepresentative of other areas in our town hall, the seat of municipal administration. It is long overdue some, indeed any attention.

Paul Eddy, an artist of some local renown, has kindly offered to undertake work to paint a mural representative of our heritage on the unfinished, bare plaster kitchen wall on the first floor. He requires no remuneration for this, will undertake all preparatory work, and will submit proposals for FTC to review and agree to. Paint costs would be our only financial contribution to the project, the completion of the mural would not impede any other planned work should that be planned in future years. This proposal would be immediate, free, and would undoubtedly enhance the dismal presentation of this room, Paul regards the opportunity as it's own reward.

RESOLVED

That the motion be approved.

d. **Moved by** Councillor N Jones, **Seconded by** Councillor K Graham

Due to a vast amount of residents concerns regarding the unacceptable amount of anti social behaviour and alleged drug related issues in Ferryhill, Ferryhill Town Council writes to the Head of County Durham Police and the Police and crime commissioner asking them to clarify the forces short , medium and long term strategies to reduce Anti Social Behaviour, drug abuse and speeding vehicles. All these things are becoming a big issue in Ferryhill and the people are asking for answers.

Councillor D Farry moved the following amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor R Smith, after the word vehicles add 'in Ferryhill'. Also, add after asking for answers. Also invite the chief of Police and the police and crime commissioner to attend a FTC meeting to advice members how reductions will be reached.

All members were in favour of the amendment.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the Head of County Durham Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner asking them to clarify the forces short, medium and long term strategies to reduce Anti Social Behaviour, drug abuse and speeding vehicles in Ferryhill. All these things are becoming a big issue in Ferryhill and the people are asking for answers. Also invite the chief of Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a FTC meeting to advice members how reductions will be reached.

66.20-21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

67.20-21 BUDGETARY CONTROL

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

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor to

RESOLVED

That Note the financial position of the Council at 31 January 2021 as indicated in the report and the projected figure for the year 2020/2021.

68.20-21 INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT 2021-2024

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

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

RESOLVED

That that Members support the extension of Mr Fletcher's contract for a further three years and accept the detailed audit plan for the next three years and the plan for the year 2021/2022.

At this point Mr Derek Shingleton left the meeting.

69.20-21 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2021-22

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

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to accept the recommendations of the report.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Members approve the Programme of Events for 2021-22 on the basis that they are subject to Government Restrictions;

Members approve the use of the existing traffic management/event support provider for those events which are permitted to proceed in 2021-2022 on an event by event basis.

70.20-21 UPDATE FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF COMPLETED ENERGY AUDIT OF FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY

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

Moved by Councillor D Farry to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED

That

- i) Members be invited to attend the Energy Engagement Event being held on 25th February 2021 via zoom;
- ii) Members agree to appoint Narec Distributed Energy to carry out Procurement Specifications for each building, as recommended in the Energy Audit, with monies totaling £5,400 being used from the Council's Unallocated Reserves to cover the costs involved;
- iii) Members agree to employ the services of a hydrogeologist to carry out a thermological assessment of the ground conditions at Dean Bank Football Facility at the current time, and at a cost of £1,200.
- iv) Members note the advice regarding installation of battery energy storage facilities.

71.20-21 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.”

At this point all members of the public left the meeting.

72.20-21 RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING DEBT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk which was previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, to write off the debt. The Clerk felt the debt should be left on file as actions already taken may result in the debt being paid at a later date. It was suggested that a report be submitted to Council in 6 months updating members.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the debt be left on file, however, no additional action be taken to recover the debt and a report be brought back to Council in 6 months.

73.20-21 IT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk which was previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to accept the quote from Durham County Council for the provision of computers at a cost of £15,155.

Members queried what will happen with the old computers, the Clerk advised the computers were old and he was unsure if they would be of any use. It was suggested that under the current circumstances it may be possible for the Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College to make use of the computers for their pupils.

RESOLVED

That the contract be awarded to Durham County Council and the Clerk contact FBEC regarding the use of old computers.

74.20-21 CORONAVIRUS – CONTINUING SUPPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk which was previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor K Graham to extend the free rent period to Ferryhill Town Youth FC & Mainsforth Cricket Club for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year and also offer those clubs a rent free period covering the first 6 months of 2021/22 financial year; that market stalls be offered rent free for the first 6 months of the 2021/22 financial year; free rent be offered to allotment tenants for the 2021-22 financial year and 6 months free rent be offered to the leaseholder of the kiosks in the Market Place.

Members agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. That the free rent period to Ferryhill Town Youth FC & Mainsforth Cricket Club be extended for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year and also those clubs be offered a rent free period covering the first 6 months of 2021/22 financial year.
2. That market stalls be offered rent free for the first 6 months of the 2021/22 financial year
3. That free rent be offered to allotment tenants for the 2021/22 financial year
4. That a 6 month rent free period be offered to the leaseholder of the kiosks in the Market Place.

75.20-21 BUNGALOW PROJECT DEAN BANK PARK - UPDATE

Members received an update report from the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Members note the contents of the report and endorse actions therein.
- 2. A special meeting be held on 3rd March 2021 as detailed in the report.

76.20-21

MONITORING OFFICER’S DECISION NOTICE (COM 325)

Members were provided with details of the decision notice for information.

RESOLVED

That this be received.

Councillor J Makepeace reminded members that the confidential orange papers should be destroyed after the meeting. Councillor J Lindsay advised that he would not destroy the decision notice (Item 17) as it was a public document and proposed a vote take place that it did not need to be destroyed. The motion was not seconded. Councillor D Farry **moved** to vote that all orange papers should be destroyed, **seconded by** Councillor R Smith, a named vote was requested.

No Labour Councillors took part in this vote.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
D. Farry		J.Lindsay	G. Barker
K. Graham			K. Campbell
N. Jones			J. Cansella
J. Makepeace			M. Seymour
R. Smith			L Smith
			C. Woods
5	0	1	6

RESOLVED

That the orange confidential papers be destroyed immediately after the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....