

## FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held online via Zoom, on **WEDNESDAY, 17 March 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, M Walton, C Woods

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

### 82.20-21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

### 83.20-21 **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

### 84.20-21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 85.20-21 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were 5 members of the public present, however, there were no questions.

### 86.20-21 **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The Clerk advised Members that C Walton in the present Councillors section would be amended to M Walton, this was a typo.

Councillor D Farry queried minute number 76.20-21, he was under the impression Councillor J Lindsay had voted against this proposal, Councillor J Lindsay confirmed he abstained from the vote, it was agreed this minute be amended to reflect this.

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendment.

- 2) Special meeting of the Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

### 87.20-21 **MOTIONS**

Members considered the following motions:

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

Incidences of dog fouling and littering seemed to have increased substantially during the past 12 months. I believe the majority of people don't toss litter or let their dogs foul, but the thoughtless minority are soiling our streets. While the principal responsibility rests with Durham County Council the Town Council should work with them to help combat the tossers and foulers.

I call on Ferryhill Town Council to agree littering and dog fouling as a high priority and work with Durham County Council to make progress in tackling the issue. I propose that the Town Clerk to meet with relevant officers of Durham County Council and bring a report to the Town Council setting out a plan of action together with potential costs.

Councillor J Cansella asked if an amendment could be made to the wording at the end of the first paragraph 'tossers and foulers'. Councillor D Farry did not agree to the amendment as this wording was part of a national campaign.

Members agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That the motion be carried and a report be brought back to Council setting out a plan of action together with potential costs.

**88.20-21 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk spoke briefly on the following the items of correspondence.

a. **Reopen Ferryhill Station**

Correspondence has been received from the following local councils giving support to the call to reopen Ferryhill Station. Copies of the correspondence has been forwarded to Paul Howells MP

Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council  
Bradbury & The Isles Parish  
Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council  
Shildon Town Council  
Spennymoor Town Council

Councillor D Farry expressed his disappointment at the amount of local Councils who had shown their support.

b. **Main Town Status**

Response from Stuart Timmiss, Head of Development and Housing attached

c. **Town Centre Masterplans**

Response from Stuart Timmiss, Head of Development and Housing attached

**RESOLVED**

That these be received.

**89.20-21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME**

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

**Moved by** Councillor P Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to accept the Statement of Accounts & Income.

**RESOLVED**

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

**90.20-21 INTERNAL CONTROL 2020 - 2021**

Members considered the Internal Control report from the Town Clerk which was previously circulated. Mr Derek Shingleton presented the report advising members that this is a statutory requirement to review every year.

**Moved by** Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor C Atkinson to accept recommendations a, b and c of the report.

**RESOLVED**

That Members:

- a) note the contents of the report in terms of the review of internal audit and internal control;
- b) support the principle of ensuring that effective risk management takes place in the Council; and
- c) approve the risk register with proposed changes.

**91.20-21 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

Members considered the Internal Auditor's Annual Report and accompanying audit reports listed below:

- a. Accounts Payable
- b. Accounts Receivable
- c. Budget Setting and Budgetary Control
- d. Income collection and Banking
- e. Payroll
- f. Main Accounting
- g. Risk Management
- h. Corporate Governance
- i. Cemeteries

Mr Derek Shingleton made himself available for questions from Members as these reports would normally be reported to Corporate Governance to consider and Mr Gordon Fletcher, Internal Auditor would be in attendance to answer any queries.

Councillor J Cansella said she appreciates the last year has been difficult, however, if this situation with Coronavirus continues could we ensure quarterly internal audits are carried out instead of presenting so much information at once.

**Moved by** Councillor J Lindsay, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy, to accept the reports. Members agreed unanimously.

Councillor K Conroy asked that Mr Gordon Fletcher be thanked for his reports.

**RESOLVED**

That the reports be accepted, Mr Fletcher be thanked for his reports and be asked that fewer reports be presented to Council at one time.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....