

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 16 June 2021** at **7.00pm** at **Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre.**

PRESENT: Councillor: D Farry (Chair)

Councillors: C Atkinson, P Atkinson, G Barker, C Bihari, K Conroy, P Donald, R Hume, B Lamb, Jane Makepeace, Joe Makepeace, R Petitjean, J Quinn, M Seymour, K Tinkler and C Woods

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

20.21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Varty.

21.21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22.21-22 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

23.21-22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were a number of members of the public present and the following questions were raised:

Mr S Rich queried why the notification of meetings was no longer displayed in the Council noticeboards, although they are advertised online not everyone has access to the internet. The Clerk advised Mr Rich that he would look into this matter.

Miss K Graham commented on agenda item 8, Planning Application, Refurbishment and modernisation of Feryemount – she fully supports the refurb of this derelict building and disagrees with some peoples comments on the proposed usage of the building and the false information they are spreading, Miss Graham asked 'where does the Council stand'? The Chair advised that the Council will be discussing this item later in the meeting however, only the refurbishment of the building will be discussed and not the usage.

Mrs Elizabeth Stannard queried proposed telegraph poles in Ferryhill and asked why they can't be put underground instead up putting poles up on grassed areas. Mrs Stannard was advised that Ferryhill Town Council was not the planning authority but did have an opportunity to comment on planning applications. The Town Council was had not been informed of a planning application being submitted to Durham County Council for consideration and therefore it had not been discussed by the Town Council.

Mr James Robinson asked if Ferryhill Town Council have an opinion on the telegraph poles, again he was advised that the Town Council had not considered the issue and therefore did not have a collective opinion.

Councillor Brian Avery informed the meeting that when the estates in Ferryhill were built all services were underground and that Durham County Council can't object to certain telegraph poles.

The Chair advised that although the issue was not listed on the agenda for consideration, two representatives from Netomnia were present. The representatives were asked to comment on the issue. They explained the process they use to install fibre and advised that they understand that people are passionate about the area in which they live and that given feedback from residents, the work had been paused for their network designers to look again at proposals.

The Netomnia representatives were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting to discuss the matter further with some of the members of the public in attendance.

RESOLVED

That the questions be noted.

24.21-22 MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor M Seymour to confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Annual Council held on 19th May 2021.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record

25.21-22 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following motion was **Moved by** Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor G Barker

That the Council write to Amanda Hopgood, the new Leader of Durham County Council, head of the coalition majority voteholders, regarding the rental proposals for Endeavour Woodcraft.

Every year officers of the County Council increase the rental burden on this charitable organisation, making it extremely difficult for them to operate with any degree of planned certainty. We propose consideration be given to acknowledging their charitable status by agreeing a "peppercorn" rent, or by freezing the current rental amount indefinitely.

RESOLVED

That the Council write to Amanda Hopgood, the new Leader of Durham County Council, head of the coalition majority voteholders, regarding the rental proposals for Endeavour Woodcraft, proposing consideration be given to acknowledging their charitable status by agreeing a "peppercorn" rent, or by freezing the current

rental amount indefinitely.

26.21-22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson to approve the Statement of Accounts & Income.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

At this point Councillor K Tinkler joined the meeting.

27.21-22 PLANNING APPLICATION – REFURBISHMENT AND MODERNISATION OF FERYEMOUNT, NORTH STREET, FERRYHILL

The Clerk advised Members that the purpose of this item was about the refurbishment of the building and not the future use, any comments would be forwarded Durham County Council Planners for consideration at the relevant planning committee.

Discussion took place in great details regarding possible issues with parking, deliveries, highways safety etc.

Moved by Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to support the refurbishment of the building.

All members agreed.

RESOLVED

That Ferryhill Town Council support the application for the refurbishment of the building.

28.21-22 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Mr D Shingleton, Consultant Accountant was in attendance and presented his report, which had previously been circulated, to members.

Moved by Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor J Quinn to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

That Members:

1. Note the financial performance for the year 2020/2021 and the financial position at 31 March 2021.
2. Approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), the Annual Governance Statement, and note the answers given to each of the questions
3. Approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), the Statement of Accounts for Ferryhill Town Council;
4. Authorise the Chair of the meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer/Town Clerk to sign the AGAR in the appropriate places on pages 4 and 5 and
5. Approve the placing of the Return and associated documents on the Council's

website by Thursday, 17 June 2021, with the 30 working day public inspection period to start on Friday, 18 June 2021 and end on Friday, 30 July 2021.

Mr Shingleton was thanked for his report whereupon he left the meeting.

29.21.-22 PARISH PLAN

A report was previously circulated to Members for the consideration of the development of a Parish Plan for Ferryhill, CDALC recommends that wherever possible all parish and town Councils should prepare a Parish Plan.

Councillor P Atkinson questioned where does this leave the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan was a different plan looking at development issues, whereas the Parish Plan was concerned with the issues, needs and wants of residents. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group would need to meet to consider how to proceed. The Town adding he would like to talk to other Councils about how their Neighbourhood Plan was developed and if it had brought the expected benefits.

Moved by Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Petitjean to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

That

1. The Council agree to develop a Parish Plan
2. A report be submitted to Council in due course setting out how the Parish Plan can be developed, including consultation methods and timescales
3. The establishment of a Community Safety Group and an Environment Group be explored with potential partners.

30.21-22 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, KING GEORGE PLAYING FIELD

Members considered a report previously circulated regarding the anti-social behaviour issues at King George V Playing Field and members expressed their concern with the amount of trouble within the park.

Moved by Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor G Barker to accept all proposals.

Councillor P Atkinson advised the meeting that he would like to commit £5,000 from his DCC Neighbourhood Budget and Councillor J Quinn added that he would also like to commit some money although was unsure of the amount at the minute.

RESOLVED

That;

1. The information be noted
2. Leeming Associates be requested to comment on the likely impact of the skatepark on antisocial within the feasibility report.
3. Recommendations for the crime surveys for both parks be reported to Council.
4. The proposal to establish a Community Safety Group (covered elsewhere on the agenda) be noted.
5. Councillors P Atkinson and J Quinn commitment to allocate monies from their Durham County Council Neighbourhood Budgets towards alleviating the problems at this site be noted

31.21-22 WATERING CONTRACT

Members considered a report, previously circulated, to consider quotations received in relation to the contract to carry out watering of hanging baskets, boxes and planters.

Moved by Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor Jane Makepece to appoint Thinford Nurseries.

RESOLVED

That Thinford Nurseries be appointed to undertake the watering contract for a period of three years, (2021/22 – 2023/24) at a total cost of £11,970.

32.21-22 DEAN BANK PARK – REPLACEMENT FENCE

Members considered a report, previously circulated, to consider quotes for the replacement of the western perimeter fence of Dean Bank Park.

Moved by Councillor Joe Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor C Atkinson to accept the lowest quotation.

RESOLVED

That the lowest quotation received from Ground Improvements Limited in the sum of £15,384 be agreed.

33.21-22 EXPIRY OF LEASE – CITROEN RELAY FLATBED WITH TAIL LIFT

Members considered a report previously circulated to consider options in relation to the expiry of the lease of the Citroen Relay flatbed van with tail lift (NU17 TWL)

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Petitjean to purchase the vehicle.

RESOLVED

That the Council purchase the vehicle which is currently leased, Citroen Relay flatbed van with tail lift (NU17 TWL), for £9,500

35.21-22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members are 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.”

Members of the public left the meeting. A 5 minute comfort break was held. At this point Councillor B Lamb left the meeting.

36.21-22 HERITAGE CENTRE

Detailed consideration was given to a report, which had been previously circulated, detailing the requirements of the two user groups that were to occupy the proposed heritage centre, the potential viability of a vacant building that had been identified by Members at a previous meeting. Members noted that the Town Clerk had submitted a non-binding offer for the building.

At this point in the meeting it was **Moved by** Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to accept recommendations 1,2 and 3 of the report.

RESOLVED

That

1. The non-binding offer submitted for the building identified in the report be endorsed.
and subject to the offer being accepted,
2. viewings be arranged for Councillors and representatives of the two user groups identified in the report.
3. further discussions be held with both user groups to agree how they could successfully use the building, either as a shared space or partitioned areas with a written commitment to do so.
4. the Secretary of State be requested to approve the use of the borrowing approval, which was granted specifically for the bungalow project, and loan which had already been drawn down, to purchase the building.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed by all Members that all future Council meetings be held at 6pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....