

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 12 January 2022** at **6.00 pm** at **Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute**.

PRESENT: Councillor: D Farry (Chair)

Councillors: C Atkinson, P Atkinson, G Barker, C Bihari, K Conroy,
P Donald, R Hume, B Lamb, J Lamb, J Makepeace,
R Petitjean, J Quinn, K Tinkler, S Varty, C Woods

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

The Chair welcomed newly elected member Councillor John Lamb to the meeting and announced that Mrs Margaret Seymour had resigned from her position as Town Councillor due to ill health, Members asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Margaret for her service to the Council and local community.

101.21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were present.

102.21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

103.21-22 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

104.21-22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present at the meeting, and he had 2 issues to raise relating to allotments;

1. The tenant in the corner allotment at Paxton Street Allotments is using the BT telegraph pole as a means of supporting 2 props onto fence, if there is another storm this could cause some damage, tenant should be asked to remove the props to avoid damage.
2. Allotment tenants at Paxton Street having problems with potholes on roadway in allotments, when the allotment association were responsible for the site they sought the help of one of the tenants who was capable of carrying out repairs.

The Clerk thanked the resident stating that the Council were aware of the telegraph pole issue and this was in hand and he would discuss the issue with the potholes with the Works Manager.

105.21-22 MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Council held on 15th December 2021.

Councillor J Makepeace asked that it be noted in the minutes that Councillor K Conroy left the meeting early. Councillor Conroy confirmed that she left just before item no. 99.21-22.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendment.

106.21-22 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Durham County Council re Endeavour Woodcrafts

To receive a letter from Councillor Amanda Hopgood, Leader of Durham County Council (attached), in respect of the motion carried by this Council at its meeting held on 15th September 2021 seeking the transfer of The Old Fire Station to the Town Council. It was agreed that any transfer or purchase would be subject to a full financial appraisal to ascertain the viability of the proposal and financial impact on the Council prior to making a commitment. (Minute No 61.21-22 refers).

Members are requested to note the contents of the letter. A report will be submitted in due course when further details have been established.

RESOLVED

That this be received and a report be submitted once further details have been established.

b. Ferryhill Athletic FC

To consider an email received from Fraser Reynolds, Chairman of Ferryhill Athletic FC (attached)

Members are requested to consider representatives to meet with the football club.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Petitjean to nominate 1 person from each group to meet with the football club.

The following members agreed to represent Ferryhill Town Council at the meeting:

Councillor P Atkinson – Labour
Councillor P Donald – Independent
Councillor R Petitjean – Ferryhill First

RESOLVED

That a meeting be arranged with Ferryhill Athletic FC and Councillors P Atkinson, P Donald and R Petitjean represent the Council.

107.21-22 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Moved by Councillor R Petitjean, **Seconded by** Councillor G Barker

“That Ferryhill Town Council celebrate it’s recent success in protecting and adding to its mining heritage and agree to adding to it by commissioning local artist Mr Derek Slater to produce a painting commemorating our mining history. The cost of the painting to be a maximum of £2,400 reflecting the cost of the parade for the two years it could not be held. The Town Clerk to carry out the necessary arrangements ASAP.”

Councillor Petitjean advised Members that Mr Slater had offered members to visit his gallery and view paintings.

Councillor C Bihari asked if it would be possible to contact Mr Slater to ask if he could provide a sketch.

Members agreed with the motion and it was suggested the Clerk contact Mr Derek Slater to obtain suitable images for members to view and shortlist.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk contact Mr Derek Slater to obtain suitable images for members to view and shortlist.

108.21-22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

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

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

109.21-22 PRECEPT 2022/2023

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk which was previously circulated. Mr Shingleton was in attendance and presented the report.

In accordance with Financial Regulations proposals had been received from the Labour Group by the required deadline for consideration within the report as follows: -

1. That a 0% increase in Council Tax be agreed for 2022/23 by reducing the total provision for Repairs and Maintenance by £17,500 and to agree an earmarked reserve of £5,000 to provide for any unexpected emergencies. (Attached at Appendix 3).
2. That the budget proposal for Grants and Donations (£7,390) be replaced by a Members Initiative Fund. An additional £260 was proposed to be re-allocation from the Members Allowances & Expenses budget to provide a total budget of £7,650 allowing each member an allocation of £450 to spend on contributions or donations to local projects.

Councillor Quinn, on behalf of the Ferryhill First Group, made the following proposal at the meeting: -

A. 0% increase in council achieved by taking £17,380 from the Council reserves. This was to be a one off as the current reserves are extremely high for a council of our size.

This would allow the full maintenance and repairs budget to be retained as identified in the report.

Ferryhill Town Council have approximately £140,000 outstanding work from its asset management plan. A three-year maintenance and repair plan should be developed ASAP as identified at paragraph 6.6 of the report.

B. That the Grants and Donations budget and process be retained. Ferryhill Town Council should not discriminate against any organisation or group that wished to apply, in fact we should be encouraging them. This follows advice within the report that the average grant was in the region of £500 which is over the £450 per member proposed by the Labour group.

C. That £1,200 be allocated from the Events budget to help fund activities for the Queens Jubilee. It's very important we embrace this special Jubilee and celebrated with our residents.

D That Ferryfest be given to an outside organisation to deliver funded by ticket sales etc. Officer support could be given if needed.

Following advice from the Town Clerk, proposal A was taken as an amendment to proposal 1.

Amendment A was **Moved by** Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace

The amendment was defeated.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
G. Barker	C. Atkinson	R Petitjean
D. Farry	P. Atkinson	
J. Makepeace	C. Bihari	
J. Quinn	K. Conroy	
K Tinkler	P Donald	
S Varty	R Hume	
	B lamb	
	J. Lamb	
	C.Woods	
6	9	1

Proposal 1 was **Moved by** Councillor C Bihari, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy.

The motion was approved.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
C. Atkinson	G. Barker	
P. Atkinson	D. Farry	
C. Bihari	J. Makepeace	
K. Conroy	R Petitjean	
P Donald	J. Quinn	
R Hume	K Tinkler	
B lamb	S Varty	
J. Lamb		
C.Woods		
9	7	

The Town Clerk advised that proposal B negated proposal 2 and therefore could be dealt with by that proposal being put to the vote.

Proposal 2 above was **Moved by** K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor C Bihari.

The motion was approved.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
C. Atkinson	G. Barker	
P. Atkinson	D. Farry	
C. Bihari	J. Makepeace	
K. Conroy	R Petitjean	
P Donald	J. Quinn	
R Hume	K Tinkler	
B lamb	S Varty	
J. Lamb		
C.Woods		
9	7	

With regard to proposal C and D, the Town Clerk advised that during consideration of initial budget proposals at the Council meeting held on 15th December it was suggested that the Events Committee consider a programme of events for 2022/23 and make recommendations to Council. Celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and arrangements for Ferryfest should be considered as part of the overall programme for 2022/23.

Councillor Quinn agreed to refer the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and arrangements for Ferryfest to the Events Committee as suggested and withdrew proposals C and D.

Members agreed the reintroduction of fees and charges detailed at Appendix 2, with the safeguard that financial assistance would be considered for community groups facing financial difficulties.

RESOLVED

1. That the Precept for the financial year 2022/2023 be £535,006, meaning a 0% increase in Council Tax achieved by reducing total budget provision for Repairs and Maintenance by £17,380 and earmark a reserve of £5,000 to provide for any unexpected emergencies.
2. The fees and charges for the year 2022/2023 be agreed.
3. That rents be reintroduced for market stalls, allotments and leisure services with effect from 1st April 2022 as detailed in the budget with the safeguard that financial assistance would be considered for community groups facing financial difficulties.
4. That a Members Initiative Fund be introduced funded by re-allocating the Grants and Donations budget (£7,390), together £260 from the Members Allowances & Expenses budget to provide a total fund of £7,650 allowing each member an allocation of £450 to make contributions or donations to local projects.
5. That a report be submitted to the Resources Committee to consider a suitable policy and criteria in relation to the Members Initiative Fund and make recommendations to Council.
6. That the Events Committee consider a programme of events for 2022/23, including celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and future arrangements for Ferryfest, and make recommendations to Council.
7. That funding of the outstanding projects in relation to renewable technology, 4G feasibility study, parish plan, public toilets-station and vehicle acquisitions be deferred and given further consideration in due course.

110.21-22 DEAN BANK PARK - FENCING

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

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor B Lamb to accept the lowest quote. All members agreed.

RESOLVED

That:

1. The quotation from MRM Fabrications in the sum of £10,500 to enclose the Children's Play Area with a 1m high, hoop top wrought iron fence and 1.2m self-closing gate, painted black to match existing fencing be agreed.
2. The quotation from Trevor Burn Fencing Ltd. in the sum of £9,490 to re-erect the existing eastern boundary fence be agreed.
3. The works be funded from S106 funding with the remainder being funded from existing budgets/unallocated reserves.

111.21-22 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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

The Clerk suggested that the appointment to committees be deferred as the resignation of Mrs M Seymour earlier that day affected the political balance of committees. Members agreed.

The Clerk suggested that appointments be made to the Community Safety Partnership Working Group and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Councillor P Atkinson queried if the membership of the Community Safety Partnership Working Group would include County Councillors. The Clerk advised that the membership would include all County Councillors representing Ferryhill.

The following members put their names forward:-

Community Safety Partnership Working Group
Councillors C Bihari, P Donald and J Makepeace

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Councillors C Atkinson, J Lamb, K Tinkler

RESOLVED

That the membership of the working groups be agreed as follows:

Community Safety Partnership Working Group
Councillors C Bihari, P Donald and J Makepeace

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Councillors C Atkinson, J Lamb, K Tinkler

112.21-22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 the one member of the public in attendance left the meeting.

113.21-22 WORKS MANAGER - RESIGNATION

Members considered a report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor B Lamb, **Seconded by** Councillor C Atkinson to accept the recommendations of the report.

Councillor P Atkinson asked that Members thanks be passed on to the Works Manager for his service, he added he would be sorry to see Mr Seymour leave as he had been a loyal servant to the Town Council and his experience will be greatly missed.

RESOLVED

That:

1. The resignation of the Works Manager with effect from 31st March 2022 be received and the Clerk pass on Members sincere appreciation to the Works Manager for his many years of service.
2. A report be submitted to the Human Resources Committee in due course with regard to suitable arrangements working up to and following the Works Managers departure.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....