

# FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 23 February 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, C Woods

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

Before the meeting a minute silence was observed following the sad passing of the Mayor of Hartlepool Borough Council, Councillor Brenda Loynes.

## **114.21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor S Varty.

## **115.21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Clerk reminded members that the Council had recently adopted Durham County Councils Code of Conduct and therefore if a Member declared an interest in an item they would be unable to take part in any debate and must leave the room during discussion and voting on that item.

There were no declarations of interest declared.

## **116.21-22 MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

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

## **117.21-22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one member of the public in attendance and he asked the following question; Will the Durham Miners Gala be going ahead this year and has consideration been given to encourage the participation of inhabitants. The Clerk advised that this is not an event organised by Ferryhill Town Council, however, Councillor C Atkinson who is a member of the Ferryhill Banner Group advised the meeting that the Durham Miners Gala is planned to go ahead.

## **118.21-22 MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- 1) Council held on 12 January 2022.

The Clerk asked that an amendment be made to item number 109.21-22 resolution 1 – the precept figure should be £535,006 and not £552,386.

**Moved by** Councillor P Atkinson to accept the minutes.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendment.

- 2) Events Management Committee held on 10 February 2022

**Moved by** Councillor J Quinn to accept the minutes.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Events Management Committee held on 10 February 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

**119.21-22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members considered the monthly statement of accounts and income.

**RESOLVED**

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

**120.21-22 REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk which was previously circulated and the Consultant Accountant, Mr Derek Shingleton presented the report to members.

**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) consider the risk register and make any changes required.

**121.21-22 DOUBLE TAXATION**

Members considered a report which was previously circulated.

**Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace to add 'at this time' to the end of the recommendation of the report, Members agreed.

**RESOLVED**

That the unfairness of double taxation be acknowledged, however given the huge amount of work necessary and costs involved, with very limited value to taxpayers, it would not be beneficial to pursue a special expenses scheme at this time.

**122.21-22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) **DM/21/02990/FPA - Croxdale Farms, Hett / Moor Farm, Hett, Durham. DH6 5LJ**

Installation and operation of a Solar Farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.

- b) **DM/22/00120/FPA - Land South of Spennymoor Electricity Substation (South), Thinford Lane, Thinford. DH6 5JX**

Installation of an energy storage facility, including battery containers, power conversion units, transformers, substation, grid connection infrastructure, vehicular access and associated works.

Detailed discussion took place regarding the planning applications and members viewed various plans of the proposals. Members agreed that the Council should support the views of the residents of Ferryhill and those of Hett & Croxdale Parish Councils and object to the applications on the same principals.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk submit a letter of objection to both planning applications on behalf of Ferryhill Town Council.

**123.21.22 FERRYHILL ATHLETIC**

Members considered the update report from the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED**

That the information be noted.

**124.21-22 PURCHASE OF PAINTING BY DEREK SLATER**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk and considerable discussion took place.

**Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy that the Council no longer go ahead with the purchase of a painting.

A vote took place:

**12 for**  
**2 against**  
**1 abstain**

The proposal was carried.

**RESOLVED**

That the Council no longer go ahead with the purchase of a painting by Derek Slater.

**125.21-22 APPLICATION FOR GRANT, CITIZENS ADVICE**

Members considered a request from Citizens Advice for funding, Members discussed options for funding.

**Moved by** Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to award funding of £4,137 to Citizens Advice County Durham, this be made up of the underspend in the 2021-22 donations budget with the remainder being taken from reserves and in future years this be budgeted for.

A vote was held and all members voted in favour.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Council support Citizens Advice County Durham and award funding of £4,137, this be made up from the underspend in the 21-22 donations budget and the remainder be taken from reserves

2. That a budget allocation be made to support Citizens Advice outreach in Ferryhill in future years.

## **126.21-22 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Members considered a report previously circulated and the following nominations were received for Committees.

### **Resources Cttee (10)**

Councillors C Atkinson, P Atkinson, K Conroy, P Donald, D Farry, R Hume, J Makepeace, R Petitjean, K Tinkler, Vacancy

### **Community Services Cttee (10)**

Councillors C Atkinson, C Bihari, D Farry, B Lamb, J Lamb, J Quinn, K Tinkler, S Varty, C Woods, Vacancy

### **Corporate Governance Cttee (6)**

Councillors P Atkinson, K Conroy, J Lamb, J Makepeace, S Varty, Vacancy

### **Events Committee (6)**

Councillors C Atkinson, C Bihari, P Donald, J Quinn, K Tinkler, Vacancy

### **Planning Licensing Cttee (6)**

Councillors C Atkinson, B Lamb, J Lamb, R Petitjean, K Tinkler, Vacancy

### **Human Resources Cttee (6)**

Councillors C Atkinson, R Hume, J Lamb, J Makepeace, J Quinn, Vacancy

### **Disciplinary & Grievance Cttee (6)**

Councillors G Barker, C Bihari, K Conroy, P Donald, K Tinkler, Vacancy

## **RESOLVED**

That the above Committee membership be agreed.

## **127.21-22 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 and members agreed to an extension.

## **128.21-22 EVENTS PROGRAMME 2022-2023**

Members considered a report previously circulated. Members were asked to consider the Programme of Events for 2022-2023 with particular attention to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and Ferryfest

It was noted that the events companies that had been contacted did not consider it feasible to take on Ferryfest on a commercial basis.

**Moved by** Councillor D Farry that the Ferryfest event be offered to a professional events company, community group or anyone else who would be interested in organising the event.

**RESOLVED**

That the programme of events for 2022-23 be agreed and the Ferryfest event be offered to a professional events company, community group or anyone else who would be interested.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.05pm.

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....

DRAFT