

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 6 April 2022** at **6.00 pm** at **The Masonic Hall, North Street, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillor: D Farry (Chair)

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

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

Before the meeting the Chair welcomed new member, Councillor Sue Jones to the Council and thanked Councillors for donations and help at the Mayors Charity Dinner.

129.21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor S Varty

130.21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

131.21-22 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

132.21-22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public in attendance in relation to item no. 8 on the agenda, Mainsforth Bowling Club and he explained the reason the Bowls Club were asking for Council to consider a reduction in rents.

133.21-22 MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- a) Council held on 23rd February 2022

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd February 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record, the minutes were duly signed by the Chair of Council.

- b) Community Services Committee held on 8th March 2022

Moved by Councillor C Atkinson to accept the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 8th March 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record, the minutes were duly signed by the Chair of the Committee

c) Human Resources Committee held on 10th March 2022

Moved by Councillor J Quinn to accept the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 10th March 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record, the minutes were duly signed by the Chair of the Committee.

d) Corporate Governance Committee held on 21st March 2022

Moved by Councillor K Conroy to accept the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee held on 21st March 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record, the minutes were duly signed by the Chair of the Committee

e) Human Resources Committee held on 22nd March 2022

Moved by Councillor J Quinn to accept the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 22nd March 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record, the minutes were duly signed by the Chair of the Committee.

f) Events Committee held on 23rd March 2022

Moved by Councillor J Quinn to accept the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Events Committee held on 23rd March 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record, the minutes were duly signed by the Chair of the Committee

134.21-22 ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR

To note the election of Councillor Sue Jones to the Council by an uncontested by-election on Thursday 24th March 2022

RESOLVED

That the information be noted.

135.21-22 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. **The following motion was moved by Councillor C Bihari and seconded by Councillor K Conroy:**

Renaming of Dean Bank Park Dog Walking Area after the late Councillor Avery: Brian was a big supporter of the new dog walking area in Dean Bank Park, often contributing funds from his Neighbourhood Budget towards its development including new fencing and a footpath. Given his many years of service to Ferryhill and Dean

Bank in particular, I would like to propose we rename this area 'Avery Walk' after him.

The Clerk suggested doing an online poll to gain support for the existing dog walking area and extension as this was only ever temporary and the poll could be used to show support when contacting the Secretary of State for permission.

It was suggested by Councillor Makepeace that the family of Brian Avery should be contacted before an online poll goes ahead. Councillor Bihari confirmed that he contacted the family before submitting the motion.

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That the Council agree the motion for the dog walking area be named Avery Walk and the Clerk arrange an online poll to identify support gather support.

2. The following motion was moved by Councillor J. Makepeace and seconded by Councillor B Lamb

*That Council direct replacement of the railway sleepers supporting the pit tub outside the town hall. The sleepers are rotten and crumbling, the tub could be in danger of slipping off its supports.
Funding from maintenance and Repair budget*

Councillor J Makepeace added that he and the Clerk had since looked at the pit tub and it seems the tub itself is rotten and in need of repair and suggested the sleepers be replaced with concrete sleepers.

Councillor B Lamb supported the motion and asked if an amendment could be made to the motion to look at the Pit tub on the Station Bank also as this was in a similar condition.

The Clerk advised that all of the pit tubs should be inspected and repaired as necessary and the name plaques should be replaced as previously mentioned.

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That all the pit tubs in Ferryhill be inspected and any necessary repairs be carried out to all including the replacement of name plaques.

136.21-22 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Mainsforth Bowling Club

Members considered a request from Mainsforth Bowling Club for a waiver/reduction in rents for this coming season giving the Club time to increase membership.

RESOLVED

That the Bowls Club be offered 1 years free rent and this be reviewed next year.

137.21-22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & INCOME

To approve the Statement of Accounts & Income.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts & Income be approved.

138.21-22 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members considered a report previously circulated.

The following nominations were received for Committees:

Resources Committee (10)

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

Community Services Committee (10)

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

Corporate Governance Committee (6)

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

Events Committee (6)

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

Planning Licensing Committee (6)

Councillors C Atkinson, S Jones, B Lamb, J Lamb, K Tinkler, Vacancy

Human Resources Committee (6)

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

Disciplinary & Grievance Committee (6)

Councillors C Bihari, K Conroy, P Donald, S Jones, K Tinkler

With regards to the Community Safety Partnership Working Group as Councillor Bihari had been elected as County Councillor, he will now sit on this working group in that capacity, it was necessary for members to appoint a town councillor to fill this vacancy.

Members agreed that this position be filled at the Annual Council meeting when a review of all committees takes place.

RESOLVED

That

1. The membership of Groups set out in paragraph 3 of the report be confirmed as accurate.
2. The above appointments be made to Committees.

3. That the vacant town councillor representative on the Community Safety Partnership Working Group be appointed at the Annual Meeting.

139.21-22 POLICY FOR CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

Members were advised that as Durham County Council had not received the required 10 signatures to call an election for the vacant position at Ferryhill Station, the Town Council were now able to co-opt a Member. Members therefore considered a report, which was previously circulated, proposing a policy for the Co-option of Members.

RESOLVED

That the Policy for Co-option of Members be adopted and the position be advertised.

140.21-22 MEMBERS INITIATIVE FUND

The Members Initiative Fund was agreed by Members at a previous Council meeting and it was agreed that a policy and application form be brought back to Council. Members therefore considered a report which was previously circulated along with a Policy and Application form for the Members Initiative Fund.

RESOLVED

That the Members Initiative Fund Policy and application form be approved and the scheme be advertised.

141.21-22 4G FEASIBILITY STUDY QUOTATIONS

Members considered a report, previously circulated, with regard to a quotation received for the appointment of a consultant to undertake a feasibility study with regard to the development of a 4G facility within one of the Town Council's parks.

Members were advised that since the quotation had been received it had been discovered that a 4G facility was to be developed at Whitworth Park Academy, Spennymoor, which was to be funded by the Football Foundation (FF) and had FA support. The FF had advised that Ferryhill came within the catchment area of that facility and therefore it would not fund an additional 4G pitch at Ferryhill in the near future. Furthermore, the FA had advised that it would not support a similar facility in the near future as the development of 2 facilities would not be economically viable.

Considerable discussion took place on whether the feasibility study, costing in the region of £10,500, should be undertaken given the likely impact of the development at Whitworth Park.

The Clerk suggested that further information be sought on how the development of a facility at Whitworth Park would impact on funding and the financial viability of the development of a facility at Ferryhill. A report would be submitted to the next Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor C Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor B Lamb to go with the Clerks recommendations.

RESOLVED

That this item be deferred until the Clerk gathers more information on how the installation of a 4G pitch at Whitworth School affects the 4G pitch proposal for Ferryhill

142.21-22 RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT UPDATE

Members considered a report, previously circulated, with regard to arrangements for the renewable technology project works.

Members noted that the Council had been successful in its application to Tarmac Limited's Landfill Communities Fund for £65,250 to contribute towards the installation of renewable technologies on Town Council buildings. The Town Council contribution to the project would be £21,525.

It was suggested that Durham County Council's Procurement Services manage the tender process using its online Contract Finder.

Councillor D Farry suggested that the funding be sought to provide renewable technology for Dean Bank Football Facility. It was explained that the feasibility study had recommended ground source heat pump and solar panels for the facility. As this required a significant investment in the region of £85,000 it had previously been agreed to seek funding as a separate project. (Minute No 78.21-22 refers)

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That:

1. The contents of the report be noted;
2. Durham County Council's Procurement Team be appointed to manage the tender process for the renewable technology project, with the costs involved (£3,738.13) being taken from the Town Council's Unallocated Reserves.
3. A further report be brought to Town Council for Members to consider tenders received for the Renewables project.
4. The Events & Projects Officer issues a Press Release (approved by Tarmac Ltd.) regarding the Renewable Technology project at the appropriate time

143.21-22 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.

144.21-22 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members considered a report previously circulated.

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

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That Ross Elliott Surveying be appointed to undertake condition surveys on Council owned property as suggested in the report.

144.21-22 VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

Before the meeting closed Members discussed the venue for the next meeting of the Council. Following a vote it was decided that the next meeting of the Council should be held in the Town Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

