

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 18 May 2022** at **6.00 pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillor: C Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors: G Barker, C Bihari, K Conroy, P Donald, D Farry, L Fellows, R Hume, S Jones, B Lamb, J Lamb, J Makepeace, J Quinn

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

Before the meeting commenced Councillor D Farry, thanked staff for their help over the last year and informed the meeting that he had raised £4,365 for his 5 charities, giving each one £873.

01.22-23 ELECTION OF MAYOR

Nominations were invited for the election of a Mayor for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Councillor K Conroy nominated Councillor C Atkinson, seconded by Councillor C Bihari.

All members agreed.

RESOLVED

That Councillor C Atkinson be elected as Mayor of Ferryhill for the 2022/23 Municipal Year. On taking office Councillor Atkinson made a declaration of acceptance of office.

02.22-23 PRESENTATION TO RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor D Farry was thanked by the new Mayor, Councillor C Atkinson, for his work over the previous year.

03.22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P Atkinson, K Tinkler, S Varty and C Woods.

04.22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Bihari declared an interest in agenda item 18, as a member of Mainsforth Cricket Club.

05.22-23 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

06.22-23 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Nominations were invited for the election of a Mayor for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Councillor P Donald nominated Councillor J Lamb, seconded by Councillor K Conroy.

All Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That Councillor J Lamb be elected as Deputy Mayor of Ferryhill for the 2022/23 Municipal Year. On taking office Councillor Lamb made a declaration of acceptance of office.

07.22-23

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The following nominations were made to serve on the Committees and Working Groups

Resources Committee (10)

Councillors C Atkinson, P Atkinson, C Bihari, K Conroy, P Donald, D Farry, L Fellows, S Jones, J Makepeace, K Tinkler

Community Services Committee (10)

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

Corporate Governance Committee (6)

Councillors P Atkinson, K Conroy, L Fellows, S Jones, J Lamb, J Makepeace

Events Committee (6)

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

Planning & Licensing Committee (6)

Councillors C Atkinson, R Hume, S Jones, B Lamb, J Lamb, K Tinkler

Human Resources Committee (6)

Councillors C Atkinson, L Fellows, R Hume, J Lamb, J Quinn, J Makepeace

Disciplinary & Grievance Committee (6)

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

Friends of Ferryhill Working Group (6)

Councillors P Atkinson, C Bihari, P Donald, L Fellows, S Jones, J Makepeace

Dean Bank Strategic Regen Working Group (4)

Councillors P Donald, D Farry, B Lamb, K Tinkler

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (3)

Councillors C Atkinson, P Donald, S Jones

Community Safety Partnership Working Group (3)

Councillors D Farry, L Fellows, J Lamb

RESOLVED

That the above appointments be made to Committees and Working Groups for the forthcoming municipal year

08.22-23

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The following nominations for representation on outside bodies were received.

County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)

Councillors C Atkinson and B Lamb, together with the Town Clerk.

Larger Local Councils' Forum

Councillors C Atkinson and B Lamb, together with the Town Clerk.

Dean Bank Residents Association

Councillor J Makepeace

Mainsforth Bowls, Cricket Club and Football Liaison

Councillor L Fellows

National Association of Councillors (NAC)

Councillor C Atkinson

PACT

Councillor C Atkinson

Lafarge

Councillors C Atkinson, P Donald, L Fellows

Ferryhill Athletic

Councillors C Bihari, P Donald, D Farry and J Quinn

RESOLVED

That the above appointments be made to outside bodies for the forthcoming municipal year.

09.22-23

REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members considered a report previously considered, the Clerk explained that these had recently been agreed at the Corporate Governance meeting held on 28th April, however since the meeting there had been an amendment to made to NALC's model standing orders to remove reference to EU procurement rules.

RESOLVED

That the Standing Orders – Procedures and Business, Standing Orders – Contracts and Procurement and Financial Regulations be adopted.

10.22-23

DIARY OF MEETINGS 2022/23

Members considered the diary of meetings for 2022/23 which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED

That the diary of meetings for 2022/23 be agreed.

11.22-23

DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2021/22

To receive, for information, the report of allowances paid to members during 2021/22

RESOLVED

That this be received.

- 12.22-23 DIRECT DEBIT, DEBIT CARD AND BACS RENEWAL APPROVAL**
To receive the attached report from the Finance & Administration Manager

RESOLVED

That the report be approved.

- 13.22-23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were 2 members of the public present. Mrs Glenys Newby made a comment about agenda item 16 (3) Buying a Jubilee themed portrait to hang in the Council Chamber at no more than £1500, she felt that at a time when a lot of people are tightening their belts it wasn't a good idea for such an expense as it will reflect badly on the Council.

RESOLVED

That the comments be noted.

- 14.22-23 MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- a) Council held on 6th April 2022

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th April 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- b) Events Committee held on 14th April 2022

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Events Committee held on 14th April 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- c) Corporate Governance Committee held on 28th April 2022

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee held on 28th April 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- d) Council (Special) held on 11th May 2022

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 11th May 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- e) Resources Committee held on 11th May 2022

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Resources Committee held on 11th May 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- 15.22-23 CORRESPONDENCE**

Members considered a letter received from Ferryhill PACT regarding concerns about the access road into the Dean and Chapter and asked if the Council would consider this as an urgent ongoing problem and contact Durham County Highways to raise the issue.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Durham County Council Highways to raise the issue and enquire what the plans are for this area.

16.22-23 MOTIONS

To consider the following motions:

1. **Moved by** Councillor Dave Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Quinn that Ferryhill Town Council acknowledges and supports the good work Councillor Joe Quinn has done with supplying CCTV in the Town Centre in his quest to reduce ASB within Ferryhill by agreeing:

- a. **to put a funding bid into the 4 Together AAP and or other funders for two Full time Youth Workers. The Youth workers to be managed by Derek Bradley and his experienced team from his Trimdon base.**

In consideration of this matter Councillor Bihari advised that a bid had already been submitted to the Safer Streets Fund with the aim of tackling anti-social behaviour. The general consensus was that everyone supports the safer streets bid, however this motion was about youth workers. It was suggested that the motion be deferred until the outcome of the bid was known.

Members voted on the motion, a named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
G. Barker	C. Atkinson	P. Donald	P. Atkinson
D. Farry	C. Bihari		K. Tinkler
J. Lamb	K. Conroy		S. Varty
S. Jones	L. Fellows		C. Woods
J. Makepeace	R. Hume		
J. Quinn	B. Lamb		
6	6	1	4

The Mayor used her casting vote to vote against this motion.

RESOLVED

That the motion be not approved.

- b. **that FTC, ASAP install CCTV cameras in Dean Bank Park to help Police identify ASB and criminal activity and protect FTC and others assets within the Park. ASB has increased since a dispersal order was placed in Ferryhill Village with members of the public reporting ASB in the Dean Bank and Ferryhill ward, Broom and Ferryhill Station. The cost of CCTV to taken from previous years understanding (reserves).**

Councillor C Bihari informed members that as County Councillors P Atkinson and J Quinn had funded the CCTV at King George, he was happy to contribute towards CCTV at Dean Bank, Councillor J Quinn confirmed that he would be happy to go halves with Councillor Bihari.

Councillor D Farry accepted this amendment to his motion.

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That the motion be agreed and CCTV cameras be installed in Dean Bank Recreation Park

- c. **to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking for clarification on appropriate Police numbers for Ferryhill and her short, medium and long term plans to reduce ASB and drug abuse in Ferryhill and how these plans / targets will be measured and reported.**

RESOLVED

That the motion be agreed and the Clerk write to the Police & Crime Commissioner asking for clarification on appropriate police numbers for Ferryhill and her short, medium and long term plans to reduce ASB and drug abuse in Ferryhill and how these plans/targets will be measured and reported.

2. **Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Quinn - With the Queen reaching the remarkable achievement of 70 years on the Throne FTC recognise this by: (*The costs to be met by external funding in the first place or by reserves if unsuccessful*):-

- a. **Buying a jubilee themed portrait to hang in the Council Chamber at no more than £1500**

Considerable discussion took place regarding this motion. Members suggested that rather than purchase a themed portrait, it would be a nice idea to hold a competition involving all schools and local art groups. These could be asked to submit a themed jubilee portrait of the queen and the winning portrait could be displayed in the Council Chamber with a plaque detailing the winner.

It was decided that the details of the competition be left to the Clerk, Councillor D Farry, as mover of the motion, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to arrange.

RESOLVED

A competition be held between local schools and art groups, details of the competition to be arranged with the Clerk, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Councillors D Farry as mover of the motion. The winning portrait to be displayed in the Council Chamber.

- b. plant a commemorative tree in each of our parks.

Members agreed to this motion in principal and gave authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Councillor D Farry as mover of the motion to arrange some commemorative tree planting involving local school children.

RESOLVED

That arrangements be made to plant suitable trees in each of our parks. Local school children be invited to assist with planting.

- c. Consider presenting each school child with jubilee themed gift of no more than £6 each.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the suitability of various gifts.

RESOLVED

That the motion be agreed with delegated authority given to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Farry as mover of the motion to purchase a suitable gift for all school children attending schools within Ferryhill.

- d. **opening a book of commemoration to mark the Jubilee, making it widely available to mark this historic event to the public.**

Councillor K Conroy asked that the book be forwarded to Buckingham Palace once complete.

RESOLVED

That the Council open a book of commemoration to mark the Jubilee and make it widely available to the public to mark this historic event, once complete the book be forwarded to Buckingham Palace.

- 3. **Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Quinn that Ferryhill Town Council recognise that Ferryhill Station ward, and in particular Chilton Lane is somewhat left behind with decades of no investment from DCC and is looking very run down. Ferryhill Town Council agree to replace its play equipment at Carlton St with a more modern and appropriate piece of play equipment ASAP. The cost be taken from the Council usual maintenance and repair budget.

Councillor L Fellows supported this motion but suggested that external funding be sought first. The Clerk advised members that the purchase of play equipment not usually be taken from the repairs and maintenance budget.

Members agreed that the Clerk should look into costs involved and funding and bring a report back to Council.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk look into costings and funding and bring a report back to Council.

4. **Moved by** Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry that in light of moving back to the town hall, that we, the council are to film all of our full council and committee meetings to then be uploaded onto our social media pages and YouTube. If there isn't a YouTube account set up for Ferryhill Town Council then one should be set for this purpose. This is to give residents that aren't able to attend meetings the opportunity to review what is discussed within the chamber. If the council is unsure on how to do this then they should reach out to Spennymoor Town Council who record their meetings and then up load them.

Members discussed this motion and agreed in principal and the Town Clerk look into costs & practicalities and bring back to Council.

RESOLVED

That this motion be agreed in principal and the Clerk look into costs and practicalities and bring a report back to Council.

5. **Moved by** Councillor C Bihari, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy that Ferryhill Town Council fly the pride flag on the weekend of the 28th May to coincide with the Durham Pride Event that weekend. Flying the Flag and supporting this event will send a clear message that Ferryhill is a tolerant and inclusive community in which people can take pride in.

Councillor J Makepeace moved an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor D Farry, that the Council should also recognise National Nurses Day on 12th May. The Clerk advised that this wasn't an amendment to the motion, this was a new motion.

The Chair advised Councillor Makepeace that he would need to bring his motion back to another meeting and moved to the vote on Councillor Bihari's motion.

RESOLVED

That the motion be carried and the Council purchase a pride flag to fly on the weekend of 28th May 2022 and subsequent years.

At this point Councillor B Lamb moved a 30 minute extension to the meeting.

17.22-23

Annual Accounts 2021/22

Members considered a report previously circulated and Mr Derek Shingleton was in attendance to present the report.

Mr Shingleton was thanked for his thorough and detailed report, **Moved by** Councillor D Farry and **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED

That Members:

- a) Note the financial performance for the year 2021/2022 and the financial position at 31 March 2022.
- b) 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
- c) Approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

- (AGAR), the Statement of Accounts for Ferryhill Town Council;
- d) 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
 - e) Approve the placing of the Return and associated documents on the Council's website by Tuesday, 31 May 2022, with the 30 working day public inspection period to start on Wednesday, 1 June 2022 and end on Thursday, 14 July 2022.

A further extension of 10 minutes was agreed at the point.

18.22-23 TOWNS AND VILLAGES FUNDING

NB. Having declared an interest in this item Councillor C Bihari left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.

Members considered the report previously circulated regarding possible applications to the County Council's Towns and Villages Fund, noting the criteria.

Consideration was given to projects that had been suggested by Mainsforth Cricket Club and Councillors.

The town Clerk advised that whilst it was understandable that Members wanted to maximise grant income to achieve various projects, the Towns and Villages Fund requires match funding of 30%. Significant contributions would therefore have to be made from the Council's reserves should any applications be successful.

The Council needed to develop a strategic Medium Term Financial Plan which takes into account:-

- Issues and aspiration of our communities. This will be developed as part of the parish planning exercise.
- Outcome of the condition surveys currently been undertaken to the Council's building. It is likely that they will reveal significant work to be undertaken.
- Plant and equipment requirements

In terms of applications to the Towns and Villages Fund it is suggested that the Council submit one or two projects that met the criteria, in particular evidencing community need, to maximise the potential of success. This approach would also maintain healthy reserves to allow the development of a meaningful MTFP to meet future priorities and challenges.

RESOLVED

That the following proposals be submitted for Towns & Villages Funding.

- Proposal No 1. - Refurbishment of the upstairs/office area of the Town Hall. To include a lift, office / conference and or meeting place, Wi-Fi sound system.
- Proposal No 5. - Provide a level access path within the dog walking area, internet access, dog themed exercise/ play equipment, lighting and more

tree and shrub planting and look at extending area.

- Proposal No 8. - Mainsforth Sport Complex. Resurface/ develop car parking area, look at the possibility of extending the Bowles Pavilion or and the score box to include possible tennis courts, covered training / exercise area. Have a level access walking area around the perimeter of the complex and include Wi-Fi electric charging points, possible turbine and tree planting. Upgrade the poorly maintained fence and wall area. Provide CCTV and lighting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....