

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 29 June 2022** at **6.00 pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillor: C Atkinson (Chair)

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

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

19.22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors R Hume, J Lamb & S Varty.

20.22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21.22-23 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

22.22-23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was 1 member of the public present at the meeting but no public participation.

23.22-23 MINUTES

a) Council held on 18th May 2022

Councillor D Farry asked if item 16.22-23 1a) could be amended and the following be added "the general consensus was that everyone supported the Safer Streets bid, although this motion was for youth workers"

Councillor D Farry also asked if his name could be included in item 16.22-23 2b as it was agreed he would be involved in the consultation regarding the tree planting along with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor J Makepeace asked for some reference to be made in item 16.22-23 5) about his amendment to the motion to include flying the NHS flag that wasn't accepted.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to accept the minutes with the amendments.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th May 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendments.

b) Events Committee held on 15th June 2022

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Events Committee held on 15th June 2022 be agreed a true and accurate record.

c) Resources Committee held on 22nd June 2022

Councillor K Conroy mentioned that minute number R3.22-23 should read '22-23' and not '21-22'.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 22nd June 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendment.

24.22-23

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Durham County Council, Access to Dean & Chapter Industrial Estate

The Clerk advised that a reply had been received from Durham County Council regarding the issues raised at the PACT meeting, a copy of the reply had been forwarded to PACT.

RESOLVED

That this be received.

b) Friends of Ferryhill, Book of Remembrance World War 1939 – 1945

A request was received that the 'Book of Remembrance' currently displayed in Ferryhill Library be transferred to Ferryhill Town Council's assets, if the time comes when DCC change their commitment in relation to the Library building in Ferryhill and the display area is no longer available.

Moved by Councillor B Lamb to agree to this request.

RESOLVED

That the Council approve this request.

25.22-23

MOTIONS

1. **Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry

Feryemount Nursing Home

Problem

Some considerable time ago FTC met with the "new owners" of the above. Their plans and strategy were outlined, and a timeframe for completion given. No one in the town or indeed passing through our town can fail to see the inactivity and measures that have been taken so far.

When DCC owned the property it was bad enough, however now it resembles a third world area.

Proposal

I propose we write to the company and to DCC to seek assurances that some, indeed any measures are to be taken to improve this site, or indeed progress the plans that were subject to so much public hype at the time. Enlist the assistance of DCC to use whatever statutory powers they have to enforce activity.

Rationale

Relief for our residents from the painful views this building and the “fencing” presents.

Progression of the plans for the site.

Involvement of DCC to enforce action from the owners.

Councillor J Makepeace asked that the Council write to the company and Durham County Council to seek assurance about work to this building.

The Clerk informed members that he had been advised that work was due to start on the inside of the building in a couple of weeks, security systems were now in place and there had been no anti-social behaviour in relation to the building for some time.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the company for assurances that the work will commence and a response be reported to the next Council meeting.

- 2. Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry, That FTC purchase appropriate NHS flag and arrange for it to be flown during the period 6th to 12th May each year.

The latter date is the birth date of Florence Nightingale, often referred to as the mother of all nurses, an innovative and devout career of renown.

Nurses have served in every conflict our great country has been involved in since the Crimean war in the early 1800's. They have selflessly sacrificed their lives under fire, unarmed, to relieve the suffering of wounded and dying combatants. More recently they have ensured our country has come through the COVID crisis, a pandemic that saw many people die. No furlough for them, no going home, no extra monetary, and often little protection. Our community through the action of FTC should honour their sacrifice and continued service through this simple gesture.

The Town Clerk advised that the Government had recently reviewed its flag flying policy and therefore the Council's policy would require updating. It was also noted that it is the birthday of the NHS on 5th July which would be an opportunity to commemorate the NHS by flying a flag if it was possible to obtain one in such short notice. An alternative could be to light the Town Hall blue.

RESOLVED

That the Council purchase an NHS Flag to be flown on the relevant dates.

- Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace that Ferryhill Town Council agree to write to Livin expressing its concerns about the state of the grass cutting in and around Ferryhill. Also the cutting back and maintenance of Livin shrub beds and hedges.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Livin expressing concerns about grass cutting and the maintenance of shrub beds and hedges.

- Moved by** Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace that Ferryhill Town Council agree to purchase 8 Jubilee themed benches and have them spread equally across the Town, one in each park, the Cemetery and one in each ward. The benches to be in a similar style to the Council's war memorial benches (£1,061.00 approximately) and or replace old rundown ones. The cost of the benches in the first instance be grant funded, if grants can't be obtained then out of Council reserves.

An amendment was moved by Councillor K Conroy, **seconded** by Councillor B. Lamb that the Council purchase only 3 benches, one for each ward.

Councillor J Quinn offered to fund a bench from his DCC Neighbourhood Budget and asked if Councillors P Atkinson and C Bihari would do the same, they both agreed to check how much they had remaining in their budget first.

Members voted on Councillor Conroy's amendment.

11 for
3 against

The amendment was agreed and therefore the substantive motion was as follows:

That Ferryhill Town Council agree to purchase 3 Jubilee themed benches, one in each ward. The benches to be in a similar style to the Council's war memorial benches (£1061.00 approximately) and or replace old rundown ones. The cost of the benches in the first instance be grant funded, if grants can't be obtained then out of Council reserves.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor D Farry, **seconded** by Councillor J Makepeace to the effect that if Durham County Councillors were to fund 3 benches, then 6 benches in total be obtained at the same cost to the Town Council of 3 benches.

All Members agreed.

RESOLVED

1. That Ferryhill Town Council agree to purchase 3 Jubilee themed benches, one in each ward. The benches to be in a similar style to the Council's war memorial benches (£1061.00 approximately). The cost of the benches in the first instance be grant funded, if grants can't be obtained then out of Council reserves.
2. That 3 additional benches be purchased if Durham County Councillors were able to fund the purchase from their Neighbourhood Budgets.

26.22-23

PAVING TOWN HALL GARDEN

Members considered a report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor B Lamb, **Seconded by** Councillor P Donald that the Council continue to use the event matting for events taking place in the Town Hall garden rather than extend the paving.

An amendment was moved by Councillor D Farry, **seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace that the Council consider not only extending the area around the memorial but also the steps and the pathway and come back with a full costing to the September meeting.

A named vote was requested:

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------|------------|----------|----------|
| G. Barker | C Atkinson | | R. Hume |
| D. Farry | P Atkinson | | J. Lamb |
| S. Jones | C. Bihari | | S. Varty |
| J. Makepeace | K. Conroy | | |
| J. Quinn | P. Donald | | |
| K. Tinkler | L. Fellows | | |
| | B. Lamb | | |
| | C. Woods | | |
| 6 | 8 | 0 | 3 |

The amendment was not agreed.

Members then voted on Councillor B Lamb's motion, a named vote was requested

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------|------------|----------|----------|
| G. Barker | C Atkinson | | R. Hume |
| D. Farry | P Atkinson | | J. Lamb |
| S. Jones | C. Bihari | | S. Varty |
| J. Makepeace | K. Conroy | | |
| J. Quinn | P. Donald | | |
| K. Tinkler | L. Fellows | | |
| | B. Lamb | | |
| | C. Woods | | |
| 6 | 8 | 0 | 3 |

The motion was approved.

RESOLVED

That the Council continue to use event matting for events held in Ferryhill Town Hall garden rather than extend the paving.

27.22-23

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Events & Projects Officer, which had previously been circulated, updating Members in relation to the renewable energy project and suggesting three options as a way forward.

Moved by Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to agree to Option 1 – “Negotiations take place with a single, competent contractor. Durham County Council would select an appropriate contractor to negotiate with. This would be the quickest option, and as such would be the option most likely to prevent further price increases affecting the project”.

The Events & Projects Officer confirmed that a further report would be submitted to Council before an appropriate contractor was appointed.

Members considered the table of individual projects to be prioritised and Councillor D Farry suggested changing the order and put the old chapel above Mainsforth Bowls Pavilion, this would make a better saving.

It was conformed that renewable technology for Dean Bank Football Facility was being pursued as a separate project due to the estimated costs involved.

Members were reminded of the procurement training which is due to be held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 2pm in Ferryhill Town Hall.

RESOLVED

1. That Option 1 be agreed.
2. That projects be prioritised in the following order; Town Hall, Mainsforth Cricket Pavilion, The Old Chapel, Mainsforth Bowls Pavilion, KGV Football Changing Rooms, Town Centre Toilets & Kiosk, Dean Bank Bowls Pavilion.
3. That funding for renewable technology at Dean Bank Football Facility be sought as soon as possible.

28.22-23

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.

29.22-23

NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – REQUEST FOR A DISPENSATION

Members were advised that a request had been received from Councillor S Varty for an extension of the six month rule for non-attendance at Council meetings.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to grant an extension of 6 months to Councillor Varty.

RESOLVED

That an extension of 6 months be granted.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

DRAFT