

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 7 September 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, R Hume, J Lamb, S Jones, B Lamb, J Makepeace, J Quinn and K Tinkler

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

37.22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor C Woods.

38.22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Bihari, P Donald and J Quinn declared an interest in item no. 11 as Members of Ferryhill Athletic FC and advised they would leave the meeting whilst discussion took place on this item.

39.22-23 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

40.22-23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

41.22-23 MINUTES

a) Council held on 29th June 2022

The Town Clerk pointed out an amendment that was needed to the minutes – item 26.22-23, the voting table in favour of Councillor B Lamb's motion had been duplicated from the table above and requires an amendment to read "8 for and 6 against".

Members agreed to the amendment.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th June 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendments

b) Special Council held on 27th July 2022

The Town Clerk pointed out that an amendment was needed to item 35.22-23, Councillor D Farry is listed as voting against the appointment of Councillor J Makepeace and he actually voted for, the table should be amended.

The Clerk informed members that he had checked standing orders following Councillor D Farry's statement that as Councillor J Lamb was late attending the meeting he was unable to take part in the vote on item 35.22-23, this was not the case. Councillor D Farry apologised to Councillor J Lamb.

Councillor D Farry requested that item 36.22-23 paragraph 3 be amended, he felt that the reason should be minuted, add "because they had taken part at previous meetings held on 6th April 2022 and 29th June 2022".

Members agreed to the amendments.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Special Council held on 27th July 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the above changes.

c) Resources Committee held on 31st August 2022

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 31st August 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

42.22-23

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

"The second flagpole has been missing now for several years, it's whereabouts are unknown. Council has debated restoration before, yet still it remains unresolved, a testament to our attention to detail regarding repairs and maintenance.

I propose Council reconsider again the reinstatement of the broken flagpole. This will restore symmetry to the garden area to the front of the town hall and allow greater flexibility to fly appropriate commemorative flags throughout the year.

I propose costs be met from the repair and maintenance budget and suggest allocation of £2,000 be made, until the clerk researches providers, and establishes costs with the company's selected to quote.

I personally see no practical reason to emulate the internal workings of the existing pole, a pole is a pole, manual operation without mechanical assistance should be adequate. However qualified and experienced advice should be considered".

During discussion Councillor Makepeace mentioned that the 'Ferryhill Town Council' sign at the front of the garden had not been replaced. The Clerk advised that he had asked a stone mason for an estimate to provide a sign on the front gate pillar made from the same or similar marble as the war memorial inscribed with 'Ferryhill Town Council'. He suggested that this would be more in keeping with the Town Hall garden.

Members voted for Councillor J Makepeace's motion:

For 7
Against 8

RESOLVED

The motion for the installation of the second flagpole was defeated.

43.22-23 BUS SHELTER – LINDEN ROAD

Members considered a report previously circulated regarding the outcome of consultation relating to the replacement of the bus shelter on Linden Road.

Moved by Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor S Jones, to replace the bus shelter at Linden Road.

RESOLVED

That the bus shelter at Linden Road be replaced.

44.22-23 INTERNAL AUDIT WORK PLAN SEPT – DEC 2022 (REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR)

Members considered a report from the Internal Auditor, Mr Gordon Fletcher setting out his audit work plan.

RESOLVED

That the audit work plan for September – December 2022 be received.

45.22-23 INSTALLATION OF SKATEPARK, KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS

Members considered a report which was previously circulated updating members on the effect of measures put in place to tackle anti-social behaviour in King George V Playing Fields so that further consideration could be given to the installation of the skatepark.

It was noted that should members wish to go ahead with the installation of the skatepark the estimated cost would need to be reviewed as all materials had increased in price.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace to apply for funding to move forward.

RESOLVED

That a revised estimate of the cost of the skatepark be obtained and the Council seek funding to cover the cost.

46.22-23 USE OF FUNDS DRAWN DOWN FROM PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD

Members considered a report previously circulated, regarding the use of funds drawn down from the Public Works Loans Board for which borrowing approval had been received to help fund the Heritage Centre (bungalow) project.

It was proposed that the loan be used to achieve the broad outcome of the initial purpose, to provide an improved heritage centre and a usable base for the town band.

Councillor J Quinn stated that he would support the loan being used to renovate Dean Bank Bowls Pavilion and the Heritage Centre on the condition

that Ferryhill Town Youth got free rent. The Town Clerk advised that the Council supported clubs in various ways and would provide details at a future meeting.

Moved by Councillor B Lamb, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

1. That approval be sought from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to use the PWLB loan to achieve the broad outcomes of the original approval, i.e. to fund improvements to the Heritage Centre at Duncombe Cemetery Chapel and Former Bowls Pavilion at Dean Bank Park.
2. Subject to approval being obtained, a detailed scheme of improvements be drawn up for the Heritage Centre at Duncombe Cemetery Chapel and Former Bowls Pavilion at Dean Bank Park.

N.B. Having declared an interest Councillors C Bihari, P Donald and J Quinn left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting on the following item.

47.22-23 3G / FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Members considered a report previously circulated regarding the feasibility of the Town Council pursuing a 3G facility pursuing and also the development of football within Ferryhill.

Members considered information sought from the following:-

1. **Durham County Council** re the County Play Pitch Strategy, a statutory document providing a strategic framework to ensure facilities meet local needs of existing and future residents.
2. **Sport England** re the availability of funds to support the development of a 3G pitch.
3. **Football Association** re support for development of a 3G pitch
4. **Football Foundation** re availability of funding for a 3G pitch
5. **Ferryhill Athletic FC** re future development

During discussion of the item Councillor K Conroy moved an extension of 15 minutes.

Following detailed discussion Members unanimously agreed the recommendations with the following amendment.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry to include an additional resolution that 'no current football club should be disadvantaged by development of facilities for Ferryhill Athletic.

RESOLVED

That:

1. The Council does not undertake a feasibility study at the current time.
2. That Durham County Council be informed of the increased demand for football pitches created by Ferryhill Athletic FC's first team and under 23's so it can be acknowledged in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
3. That future development of a 3G pitch be explored with the FA/FF with a view of gaining their support.
4. That consideration be given to Ferryhill Athletic FC's Development Plan when it is agreed by the FA to ascertain tangible support the Town Council could offer.
5. No current football club should be disadvantaged by development of facilities for Ferryhill Athletic.

N.B. Following the conclusion of the above item Councillors C Bihari, P Donald and J Quinn returned to the meeting.

48.22-23

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.

49.22-23

CORRESPONDENCE - FERYEMOUNT

Members were provided with a copy of a progress report from the developers of the Feryemount building.

RESOLVED

That the letter be received.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....