

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY, 22 February 2023** at **6.00 pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillor: C Atkinson (Chair)

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

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

84.22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor C Bihari.

85.22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Atkinson declared an interest in Item No. 13 'Advice Service 2023/24'. Following advice from Durham County Council, Councillor D Farry declared an interest in Item No. 17 'Update on Capital Projects' and also Item No 15.1 'Motions on Notice', proposing that dogs be kept on a leash in Town Council parks and play areas.

86.22-23 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

87.22-23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 10 members of the public present for Item No 14 'Public Spaces Protection Order' and Item No 15.1 'Motions on Notice' proposing that dogs be kept on a leash in Town Council parks and play areas.

Members agreed that items 14 and 15 be brought forward.

88.22-23 CONSULTATION - PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Members considered a report which was previously circulated.

Members discussed this item in detail. Members of the public also expressed their views.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor J Makepeace that the Council agree to the extension to the Public Spaces Protection Order as follows:

RESOLVED

That;

1. Members respond individually to the consultation survey.

2. Members agreed in principle to the proposed extension to the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).
3. That a request be made to Durham County Council for PSPO to be extended to:
 - a. The children's fenced off play area at Surtees Doorstep Green.
 - b. Duncombe Cemetery
 - c. The football facility at Dean Bank Park
4. Members were satisfied with the current approach to enforcement, i.e. Durham County Council continue to enforce when able to after prioritisation.

At this point Councillor D Farry left the meeting having declared an interest in the next item.

89.22-23 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. **Moved by** Councillor J Makepeace that all dogs in parks and in play areas that are under the control of FTC are kept on a leash. The only exception being the Dog Walking area where owners must take responsibility for their animals.

The importance of this motion cannot be underestimated given the recent fatal attacks by dogs on a two year old and a twenty year old, reported in the national press.

There has been two incidents in and near Ferryhill recently, one where a dog and owner were both injured by an unleashed dog in Dean Bank park, and one where an Alpaca was savaged to death by a dog, whose owners when challenged fled the scene. DCC have also reviewed their policy in this area. It should be noted that in the past 12 months in the UK 10 people have been savaged to death by dogs not under direct control of owners, aged between 17 months and 83 years.

It is vitally important that council support this motion to protect our residents, and to encourage owner responsibility.

There was no seconder for this motion. The motion therefore fell.

At this point the members of the public left the meeting. Councillor D Farry returned and the meeting resumed at agenda item 5.

90.22-23 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

Members noted the resignation of John Lamb as a Councillor with effect from 13th February 2023.

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to send a letter of thanks.

RESOLVED

That this be noted and a letter of thanks be sent to Mr John Lamb.

91.22-23 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR REMAINDER OF THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Moved by Councillor L Fellows, **Seconded by** Councillor S Bowron that Councillor P Donald be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

All members agreed.

RESOLVED

That Councillor P Donald be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

92.22-23 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

A request had been received from Councillor R. Hume to withdraw from the Human Resources Committee, together with a proposal that Councillor C. Bihari be appointed to the Committee.

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor J Quinn to accept the request and proposal.

RESOLVED

That;

1. Councillor R Hume's request be noted; and
2. That Councillor C Bihari be appointed to the Human Resources Committee

93.22-23 RESIGNATION OF TOWN CLERK

Members were asked to note the resignation of the Town Clerk with effect from 30th June 2023 and were advised that a meeting of Human Resources Committee will be arranged to deal with the recruitment of a new Town Clerk.

It is proposed that Derek Shingleton be the lead officer to the Human Resources Committee.

Members acknowledged the hard work and dedication received from David Anderson during his time as Town Clerk at Ferryhill Town Council.

RESOLVED

That a meeting of the Human Resources Committee be arranged to deal with the recruitment of a new Town Clerk and Derek Shingleton act as lead officer on the appointment process.

94.22-23 MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of:-

- a. Council held on 18th January 2023

Moved by Councillor K Conroy, **Seconded by** Councillor B Lamb to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Councillor D Farry proposed an amendment to include the following words to minute no. 82.22-23 (2)

‘Councillor Bihari said he couldn’t support Paul Howell’s Antisocial Behaviour Survey and we shouldn’t be supporting a Conservative Councillor, it was also pointed out by Councillor Farry that it wasn’t a political thing it was there to benefit the people of Ferryhill and generally look to reduce anti-social behaviour’.

Members present at the meeting held on 18th January commented that the amendment was not an accurate reflection of what was said.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
D Farry	C Atkinson		C Bihari
S Jones	P Atkinson		
J Quinn	S Bowron		
	K Conroy		
	P Donald		
	L Fellows		
	R Hume		
	B Lamb		
3	8	0	1

Councillors G Barker, J Makepeace, K Tinkler and C Woods did not take part in the vote as they were not present at the meeting held on 18th January 2023..

The amendment was defeated.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

- b. Events Committee held on 1st February 2023

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Events Committee held on 1st February 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

- c. Resources Committee held on 15th February 2023

The Town Clerk provided Members with an amended copy of the Resources Committee minutes, and members agreed these as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 15th February 2023 be agreed a true and accurate record.

95.22-23 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Response from Durham Police

Moved by Councillor D Farry, **Seconded by** Councillor L Fellows to write to the Police again as the response received did not answer the specific question on the police’s short, medium and long term plan for Ferryhill.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk write again to Durham Police.

96.22-23 INTERNAL CONTROL

Members considered a report previously circulated.

RESOLVED

1. That the review of internal audit and internal control be noted.
2. That the principle of ensuring that effective risk management takes place in the Council be supported.
4. That the Corporate Governance Committee consider risk and the register in more detail.

97.22-23 FILMING OF MEETINGS

Members considered a report which was previously circulated, the recommendations of the report were to advise if Members agree in principal for the Council to film meetings and if so a working group be established.

Moved by Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor D Farry that the Council film meetings and a working group be establish to consider te options and practicalities.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
D Farry	C Atkinson		C Bihari
S Jones	P Atkinson		
J Quinn	G Barker		
	S Bowron		
	K Conroy		
	P Donald		
	L Fellows		
	R Hume		
	B Lamb		
	J Makepeace		
	K Tinkler		
	C Woods		
3	12	0	1

This proposal was defeated.

RESOLVED

That Council meetings are not filmed.

At this point Councillor P Atkinson left the meeting as he had declared an interest in the following item.

98.22-23 **ADVICE SERVICE 2023/24**

Members considered a report which was previously circulated and considerable discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor J Quinn, **Seconded by** Councillor S Jones to accept the advice service proposed by Ferryhill LADDER Centre at a cost of £3,500 per year.

For	10
Against	4

RESOLVED

That the LADDER Centre be asked to deliver an advice service at Ferryhill Town Hall at a cost of £3,500 per year.

Councillor P Atkinson returned to the meeting.

99.22-23 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

The Council agree to having updated officer reports at Full Council Meetings. The reports to cover Staff attendance. Sickness. Overtime worked and TOIL. This giving members an idea of Council productivity, workload and the chance to highlight where staff possibly have /have not the correct work/life balance and helping members to asses upcoming budgets.

Background

Members need to have relevant up to date staffing issues highlighted in the motion to assess workloads and help setting Council budgets. This giving or highlighting possible issues, saving or costs.

The Town Clerk advised that day to day management of the Council was the responsibility of the Town Clerk and other senior managers. Members' input was via the Human Resources Committee and Disciplinary and Grievance Appeals Panel which will be called if/when needed.

The Chairman of Human Resources was briefed on staff issues if/when there was a need. The Council's policies with regard to HR issues may become compromised if members became too involved in staffing issues.

Reporting overtime, sickness and TOIL, would not give an indication of productivity.

The total cost of overtime was included in the Budgetary Control report

which was submitted to the Resources Committee (or occasionally direct to Council) on a regular basis. Members' should note that it was necessary for outside staff to work outside office hours to deliver services, including weekly market, public toilets, park gates, events.

Similar statistical information on overall sickness may not be possible to report overall sickness levels in a way that individual staff cannot be identified given the Council's small workforce.

A named vote was requested.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
G Barker	C Atkinson		C Bihari
D Farry	P Atkinson		
S Jones	S Bowron		
J Makepeace	K Conroy		
J Quinn	P Donald		
K Tinkler	L Fellows		
	R Hume		
	B Lamb		
	C Woods		
6	9	0	1

RESOLVED

That this motion be defeated.

At this point as the meeting was reaching the 2 hour limit, members agreed an extension.

2. Moved by Councillor D Farry, Seconded by Councillor J Quinn that:

FTC agree to reach out the Veterans and current serving personal with the view to provide them with a space within a Council premises so to be able to meet on a regular basis. If agreed the space should be at a peppercorn rent.

Background

Members will be well aware the British legion club has now closed. Having personally worked closely the Forces Charity's SAFFA , Help for Hero's, Veterans at ease and Forces Health specialists I know of the challenges facing Forces personal.

The Town Clerk advised that if there was a gap in service provision created by the closure of the Royal British Legion Club, the Council should respond positively to requests from recognised service associations for a room in which to meet.

RESOLVED

That the Council respond positively to requests from recognised service associations for a room in which to meet as a result of the closure of the Royal British Legion Club.

3. Moved by Councillor D Farry, Seconded by Councillor J Quinn that

FTC agree to have an update report of ongoing projects and decisions made by Council. The report to set out date of decisions made, progress to date and estimated completion. The report to be presented at each Full Council meeting.

Background

Members are regularly being asked what we were doing at FTC and when things are happening and going to happen. Without the updated notice boards and not everyone having access to the internet. It's important members can give updated information.

The Town Clerk advised that updates on capital projects are regularly reported to Council. A schedule could be provided with Council agendas setting out latest position on Council decisions not yet actioned to avoid any misunderstanding of decisions made. The information would be provided for information only and not for discussion.

Reports would naturally be presented to Council when a decision was required, or when further information needs to be presented to Members.

Members agreed.

RESOLVED

That a schedule be provided with Council agendas setting out latest position on Council decisions not yet actioned to avoid any misunderstanding of decisions made. The information would be provided for information only and not for discussion.

At this point Councillor D Farry left the meeting as he had declared an interest in the final item of the agenda.

100.22-23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members moved the following motion:

“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.”

101.22-23 UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Members considered a report that was previously circulated. The Events & Projects Officer was in attendance to present the report.

1. Commemorative Benches Project

Members discussed suitable locations for the benches.

RESOLVED

That

1. Members note progress made regarding the Commemorative Seats Project.
2. The benches be located in the three wards, Dean Bank Park, King George V Playing Field and for Ferryhill Station with 1 bench being installed at Surtees Doorstep Green and 1 bench at Mainsforth Sports Complex.

2. Mainsforth Car Park & Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points Project

RESOLVED

That:

1. Members note progress made regarding the Mainsforth Car Park and EV Charging Points project.
2. Members note that Drainage & Groundwork Services (DGS) have been appointed to undertake resurfacing and drainage works to the car park at Mainsforth Sports Complex.
3. The Events & Projects Officer continues to consult with the EV Officer at Durham County Council to organise works to install two semi-rapid EV Charging Points at Mainsforth Sports Complex.

3. Town Hall Renewables

RESOLVED

That

1. Members note the progress made regarding the Town Hall Renewables project.
2. A further report be brought to Town Council regarding how to progress insulation works at the Town Hall once advice has been received from Durham County Council Procurement Services.

4. Football Renewables Project

The Events & Projects Officer informed Members that prices received to deliver the original project, to install a Solar PV Array and a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) were in excess of the Council's budget for the project, and accordingly officers were working with the Company ranked first on NEPO's Renewable Technology Procurement Framework to scale the project back, so that it would come in on budget. The final project would still include a Solar PV Array, but the GSHP element had been removed from the scheme. Officers would continue to work with the Company to determine what else could be included in the final project.

RESOLVED

That:

1. Members note the progress made regarding the Football Renewables project.

2. Due to the tight timescales involved with external funding secured to deliver the project, that Delegated Authority be given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of Resources Committee to appoint a contractor, to undertake the works for the Football Renewables Project, subject to a satisfactory breakdown of costs being received for the project works.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....