

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 14th July 2021

Present: Cllr C Stanton (Chair), Cllr C Jopling (Vice-Chair); Cllr D Pittard, Cllr J Pittard.
1 members of the public + RMBC Cllr B Whomersley

- 3408 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil.
- 3409 Declarations of Interest. Nil.
- 3410 Public Discussion Period. Nil
- 3411 To Discuss and Consider and Applications for Co-option to fill the Councillor Vacancy. One eligible application, from Simon Copley had been received. **Resolved:** to co-opt Simon Copley to become a member of Firbeck Parish Council.
- 3412 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 17th May 2021. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 3413 Matters Arising from the Minutes. Nil
- 3414 Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30th June 2021. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30th June 2021. **Resolved:** that the budget monitoring report be approved.
- c. To Approve Accounts for Payment. **Resolved:** that the monthly accounts covering the period since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- d. To Appoint an Internal Auditor for FY 21-22. **Resolved:** to re-appoint Michael Pugh as Internal auditor for FY21-22.
- 3415 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues
- a. Highways and Verges. A grass cutting maintenance schedule had been received from RMBC, which raised numerous questions. The chair has requested that the relevant officer at RMBC makes contact and hopes to have a site visit to establish exactly what level of service can be expected from RMBC and where.
- b. Telephone Box Maintenance. All planned maintenance had now been completed.
- c. Footpath/Bridlepath Maintenance. RMBC were to be reminded of previous promises to maintain foot/bridlepaths that had so far not been kept.
- d. Public Use of Non-Dedicated Footpaths. Nothing significant to report. RMBC to be chased for response to previous emails.
- e. Emergency Plan. Vice-Chair to complete one outstanding action before completion.
- f. Village Speed Signs – update. Nothing significant to report.
- g. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Promotional flyers had been distributed and litter pick volunteers were required for a village litter pick on 17th July. Pictures and videos had been received for the Firbeck in Bloom project and were to be

- submitted by 25th July, with nominations for Royal Horticultural Society awards to be submitted by the end of August. Plans for 2022 were already being considered.
- h. Councillor Roles and Responsibilities. The previous list had been circulated to members and it was agreed there was a need for such a record. Members to contact the Chair with updates as required.
 - i. Village Drainage/Sewerage Issues. No progress to report re drainage but Severn Trent had recently undertook further surveys of the sewerage system.
 - j. To Address Three Acres – Its Use and the Dereliction at the Site. Councillors continue to be concerned about activities at the site - viz bonfires emitting pungent black smoke. RMBC were to be chased to establish whether a planning enforcement notice to improve had been served or not.

3416 Correspondence – Nil

3417 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2021/0987 - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of front, side and rear extensions to farmhouse Stone Farm Kingswood Lane Firbeck. Comments: Nil.
 - ii. RB2021/0989 - Extensions and alterations to existing barn to create a residential dwelling and the installation of a biomass boiler Stone Farm Kingswood Lane Firbeck. Comments: Nil.
 - iii. RB2021/0991 - Side extension to the east elevation of the existing cottage Stone Farm Kingswood Lane Firbeck. Comments: Nil.
 - iv. RB2021/1254 - Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by RMBC TPO No. 05, 1977 Lime House Salt Hill Firbeck. Comments: Nil.
 - v. RB2021/0993 - Extensions and alterations to existing barn to create a residential dwelling and the installation of a biomass boiler Stone Farm Kingswood Lane Firbeck. Comments: Nil.

ADDITIONAL LATE RECEIVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- vi. RB2021/1376 – Change of use to Residential Care (use class C2) Limestone Cottage Lamb Lane Firbeck.

Comments: Comments in the application statement relating to communications with the community and proximity to local services were felt to be a gross exaggeration, and concerns regarding the surrounding continued.
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting:
 - i. RB2021/0871 – Erection of single storey orangery extension to rear at Pear Tree House Lime Avenue Firbeck – GRANTED CONDITIONALLY

3418 Neighbourhood Plan – Update. Following the initial meeting with the Planning Advisor it was **resolved**: to proceed with developing a Neighbourhood Plan, with Andrew

Towlerton to be appointed as the Planning Advisor. RMBC were to be informed that Firbeck parish wishes to be designated a Neighbourhood Plan area, and a Neighbourhood Plan Group, to include members of the community as well as the council, was to be formed. The scope of the Plan was to be formed at the next meeting.

- 3419 To Discuss the new Code of Conduct. Deferred to the next meeting.
- 3420 To Discuss the Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Although not a parish council initiative, Caroline Jopling had, nevertheless, operated the scheme for many years and wished to stand down from her role. Dirk Pittard volunteered to assume responsibility.
- 3421 To Discuss Options for the Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations. A public holiday weekend was scheduled for 2-5 June 2022, with events nationally and locally planned. The Chair was to liaise with other local groups to form an event planning group to decide how Firbeck would celebrate the event.
- 3422 To Discuss Maintenance of the Village Sign. The wooden village sign required treatment and there was a discussion regarding whether to add colour or not. Volunteers were also sought to carry out the maintenance and the option of taking a mould to produce a weather-proof sign, and therefore preserve the original was also discussed. Cllr Stanton was to investigate options with a view to completing the maintenance before the Queen’s Jubilee.
- 3423 To Discuss Proposals for the Future use of the Telephone Box. The primary use of the telephone box was felt best to be a second defibrillator for the village. Secondary uses were discussed and could be seasonal, but would be decided once a defibrillator had been installed.
- 3424 To Arrange a Village Litter Pick. A litter pick had been arranged for Sunday 3rd April 2022.
- 3425 To Discuss Arrangements for the Christmas Event. New lights were required for the main tree and would be sourced by Cllr Stanton. In addition, all the small trees would require replacement this year. The event would, as normal, take place on Advent Sunday. Cllr Pittard and Cllr Jopling will lead on arrangements for this event.
- 3426 To Agree Updates to the Guidance on Public Participation. The Chair asked members to review the draft circulated and to email her with any comments/suggested drafting changes. To be reviewed at the next meeting.
- 3427 Items for Future Agenda.

Ratification of FPC nomination(s) for RMBC’s Standards and Ethics Committee

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

The next meeting of the parish council would be held at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd September 2021.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

