

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 26th January 2022

Present: Cllr C Jopling (Chair), Cllr D Pittard, Cllr J Pittard.

1 member of the public

3458 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil. Cllr C Stanton has resigned for personal reasons. Sincere thanks were expressed from members for the tremendous service he had given to the village over many years, much of his work being unheralded and in addition to his work as a councillor.

3459 Declarations of Interest. Nil.

3460 Public Discussion Period. Nil

3461 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

a. 24th November 2021. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3462 Matters Arising from the Minutes. Nil

3463 Ward Update. No RMBC Ward Member was present however responses had been received from RMBC to issues raised in the last meeting, including a change of procedure in the way RMBC will notify parish councils of planning applications they have commented on that will be decided by the Planning Board.

3464 Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st December 2021. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 31st December 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 Review Financial Regulations. **Resolved:** to approve the Financial Regulations as presented.
- e. To Discuss and Agree the Precept and Budget for FY 2022-23. Members reviewed and discussed the budget proposals presented by the Clerk. It was agreed to increase the funding for social events due to the Queen's Jubilee.

Resolved: it was resolved by unanimous decision to increase the precept at its current level to £8900 for the year 2022/23, the whole of the increase being funded by a change in the tax base for the village. A budget deficit for the year of c.£4.4k was approved, which was to be funded from general reserves.

3465 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and general Street Scene. RMBC had visited the village and initial discussions regarding possible improvements had commenced and a further response was awaited from RMBC.

- b. Costings for Second Defibrillator in Phone Box and Interim Use. Item deferred – Cllr D Pickard to assume responsibility.
- c. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Firbeck had been entered into the Britain-in-Bloom contest for both spring and summer judging.
- d. Councillor Roles and Responsibilities. Nothing significant to report.
- e. Wooden Village Sign Maintenance. Item deferred – Cllr D Pickard to assume responsibility.

3466 Correspondence – Nil. Item to be removed from future agenda.

3467 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications: Nil
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting:
Nil
- c. Firbeck Hall Update. Nothing significant to report.
- d. Three Acres Update. Nothing significant to report.

3468 Neighbourhood Plan.

- a. Update. A contract for services with the appointed advisor, Andrew Towleron, had been received and was approved.
- b. Review and Finalise Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Steering Group. The Clerk was to research example terms of reference for members to consider.

3469 To Agree Updates to the Guidance on Public Participation. Item deferred.

3470 To Discuss Possible Measures to Stop or Reduce the Village Being Used as a Rat Run for Traffic from Lamb Lane to A634. This issue would be reviewed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. In order to take action sooner supporting information was required and efforts were to be made to collect such information.

3471 Review of Christmas Tree Event. After all collections, the event showed an overall overspend of c.£175, entirely due to replacing the lights on the main tree. The quality and service from the Xmas tree supplier was felt to be very good, as was the support from tree sponsors and the village overall. Areas to improve identified included better publicity, better co-ordination with the church, review the large tree decorations and determine the best location for refreshments.

3472 To Discuss the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Village jubilee events were to be coordinated by the council and church. Several ideas as to how best to mark the occasion were discussed but it was felt best to seek ideas from residents. Cllrs Jopling, D Pickard and J Pickard would form the working group to plan events.

3473 To Agree Meeting Dates for 2022. The meeting dates for 2022 were agreed and would be published on the council website and attached to these minutes.

3474 To Consider a Response to a School Term Dates Consultation for 2023-24. Members felt a fixed Easter holiday would be a positive move. Comments to be submitted.

3475 Confidential Item – Staff Pay Review. The HR committee had reviewed the Clerk's contract and agreed the role should be ranged on scale SCP 7-12, with 1 increment awarded on the anniversary of each satisfactorily completed year of service until the

maximum is reached (notwithstanding any increments awarded due to qualifications etc.). It was further agreed the Clerk should have been paid at SCP10 level since Apr 21 and pay was to be backdated until this date.

3476 Items for Future Agenda. Nil

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on Wednesday 16th March 2022.

Signed:.....

Date:.....