

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 25th January 2023

Present: Cllr C Jopling (Chair), Cllr D Pittard, Cllr J Pittard, Cllr R Potts, Cllr B McManus.

In attendance: RMBC Ward member Cllr Whomersley; 1 member of the public

- 3556** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil
- 3557** Declarations of Interest. Nil.
- 3558** Public Discussion Period. Mr R Collins of the Village Hall Committee outlined plans for improvements and maintenance to the Village Hall, to support the budgeted £1k grant, including the installation of stage lighting to enhance village hall events.
- 3559** To Consider any Applications for the Casual Vacancy. Cllr Jopling proposed that Beverley McManus be elected as a new member of Firbeck Parish Council. Vote – unanimous. **Resolved:** that Beverley McManus is elected as a member of Firbeck Parish Council.
- 3560** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 23rd November 2022. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 3561** Ward Update. Cllr Whomersley provided updates on various matters throughout the Dinnington ward, including feedback from the most recent CAP and Where We Live meetings. It was hoped to arrange a site visit by RMBC Highways to discuss various traffic issues.
- 3562** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st December 2022. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 31st December 2022. **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 Discuss and Agree the Precept and Budget for FY 2023-24. Members reviewed and discussed the budget proposals presented by the Clerk. It was noted the council's reserves had been significantly boosted by the receipt of £16.6k in CIL monies. Of this, £1.2k was to be allocated to cover the cost of refurbishing the village sign. The chair also presented members with possible CIL projects, to be discussed at the next meeting before being presented to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

It was also agreed that the monies allocated to cover the cost of developing a Neighbourhood Plan should be held in an earmarked reserve until required.

Resolved: it was resolved by unanimous decision to increase the precept at its current level to £10,000 for the year 2023/24, the majority of the increase being funded by a change in the tax base for the village and just a 1% increase for village taxpayers. A budget deficit for the year of c.£2.7k was approved, which was to be funded from general reserves.

3563 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene. Nothing to report.
- b. Future Use of the Village Phone Box. The phone box was to be re-purposed as a 'seed bank' in support of the Britain-in-Bloom efforts.
- c. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Cllr J Pittard has registered the village for the next Britain-in-Bloom contest. Dates for this year's litter picks would be notified to residents in February.
- d. Wooden Village Sign Maintenance. Work on the sign had now been completed, but the frame required maintenance and appropriate weather before the sign could be hung.
- e. Arrangement for Unveiling of new Painted Village Sign. Item deferred.
- f. New Information, if any, on New Procedures for Neighbourhood Planning and how to Take This Project Forwards. A new Government white paper was hoped to bring fresh impetus to neighbourhood planning but the detail/impact was not known at this stage.
- g. Village Road Safety, Including Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. To be discussed with RMBC Highways (see 3561 above).

3564 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2023/0023 - Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) imposed by RB2022/1288 Firbeck Hall New Road Firbeck – no comments.
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting:
 - i. RB2022/1412 – Erection of boundary fence to front elevation at 1 Princes Plantation New Road Firbeck – refused

3565 Review of the Christmas Tree Festival. The events was excellently attended and was felt to be a great success. It was agreed the council was to pay for the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall. The idea of a road closure was to be explored for the 2023 event.

3566 To Discuss the Clerk's Laptop. Following recent issues an engineer's report had concluded that the current laptop was incapable of coping with modern operating systems and the battery would continue to deteriorate. Options to upgrade or replace were discussed and it was **resolved** to purchase a new laptop up to a value of £650.

3567 To Discuss CCTV for the Village. It had been suggested to members that there may be a requirement for CCTV for the village, but members were not convinced that current problems merited such an investment, and it was unlikely to satisfy the requirements of the 'Surveillance Code'. An alternative may be similar to what was recently installed in Brookhouse, which monitored vehicles entering and leaving the village, but more research was required.

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

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 22nd March 2023**.

Signed:.....

Date:.....