

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 22nd January 2020

Present: Cllr C Stanton (Chair), Cllr C Jopling (Vice-Chair); Cllr W Hamilton.
3 members of the public

- 3264** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil. Members noted that A Butcher has resigned since the last meeting and thanked her for her service to the council.
- 3265** Declarations of Interest. None other than standing interests.
- 3266** Public Discussion Period.
- a. Village Hall. The Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee requested the council consider restoring an annual grant to the Village Hall in its annual budget. See item 3270d below.
- 3267** Andrew Towleron, Neighbourhood Plans. Andrew Towleron, an experienced planner and National Planning Advisor to the Society of Local Council Clerks, provided members with an overview of neighbourhood plan processes, benefits, costs and their legal standing, especially with respect to local planning authorities. He also outlined funding sources and options, as well as areas a neighbourhood plan for Firbeck could focus on. He estimated a neighbourhood plan for Firbeck could involve a net cost to the council of £1-£2k.
- 3268** To discuss and Decide on the Casual Vacancies for Firbeck Parish Council. One candidate, Yolande Tose, had volunteered to fill one of the two current vacancies on the council. It was proposed and unanimously supported to co-opt Yolande Tose on to Firbeck Parish Council. **Resolved: to co-opt Yolande Tose on to Firbeck Parish Council.**
- A leaflet to raise awareness of the other vacancy had been prepared by Cllr Hamilton. Potential costs to produce and distribute were c.£39 +VAT for 200 leaflets, which was agreed. Amendments to the draft leaflet were discussed and would be finalised after the meeting, with the aim being to produce and distribute the leaflet within two weeks.
- 3269** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 27th November 2019. **Resolved:** that the minutes be approved as an accurate record with one minor change to item 3244.
- 3270** Matters Arising from the Minutes. Nil.
- 3271** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st December 2019. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2019. **Resolved:** that the budget monitoring report be approved.
- c. To Approve Accounts for Payment. **Resolved:** that the monthly accounts be approved for payment.
- d. To Approve the Budget and Precept for FY2020/21. Members reviewed and discussed the budget proposals presented by the Clerk. It was agreed to

- i. include an annual donation to the Village Hall;
- ii. raise the grant to the PCC to £1k;
- iii. allocate £2k from the general reserves to a new 'Village Maintenance' reserve, initially to look at improvements to the Kidd Lane junction;
- iv. include funds for one-off projects to renovate the phone box and commence a neighbourhood plan.

Resolved: it was resolved by majority decision to raise the precept by £500 to £8750 for the year 2020/21. Inclusion of the items listed above would mean a budget deficit for the year of c.£5k which was to be funded from general reserves.

3272 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Highways and Verges. Builders were parking in a manner on New Road that was causing a current issue. Members would issue a polite reminder for considerate parking.
- b. Firbeck Hall. The stable block external walls had now been completed.
- c. Emergency Plan. Nothing significant to report.
- d. Fracking. The Inspector's report had been submitted to the Secretary of State and a decision was expected by 8th April 2020.
- e. Tree Planting. This item was now complete with all new trees installed. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Jopling for her efforts with this project.
- f. Telephone Box Maintenance. Suppliers of spare parts had been identified and quotes for repairs were to be requested.
- g. Footpath/Bridlepath Maintenance. It was felt the village footpaths/bridlepaths were in their worst ever condition, mainly due to the recent bad weather, and restoration was required.

3273 Correspondence. An email had been received from the Treasurer of Rotherham Holiday Aid thanking the council for its recent donation.

3274 Planning.

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications. RB2020/0005 – Single storey front and rear extensions, partial external cladding to front and rear and installation of ground floor side windows – 5 St Martins Close, Firbeck. No comments
- b. To Note the Following Planning Determination. RB2019/0985 – Erection of detached garage – 5 Lime Avenue, Firbeck – granted conditionally.

3275 Neighbourhood Watch. Recent emphasis had focused on protection against cyber-crime.

3276 To Discuss Road Safety for Road Users. Owing to Cllr Jopling's attendance at the Where We Live group, a radar speed sign was to be installed in the village in the near future.

3277 To Discuss Liaison with Farmers re Traffic in the Village - Update. Nothing significant to report.

3278 To Discuss Flooding Issues Experienced in the Village. The Salt Hill and Yews areas were the worst affected and the blocked sewer, which caused much of the issues, had now been cleared.

3279 To Discuss a Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition. Nothing significant to report.

- 3280** Xmas Tree Festival - Review. The event was felt to be a great success and had been delivered within budget. Minor comments for improvement were suggested for next year.

- 3281** To Discuss Replacing the Notice Board. Three quotes had been received ranging from £2994 + delivery down to £2112 including delivery but not installation (prices ex VAT). The Village Hall Committee had agreed to contribute a third of the costs and the cheapest quote was approved subject to Village Hall Committee agreement

- 3282** To Agree an Audit of Protected Trees. Whilst a current violation of a protected tree was under investigation it was felt an audit of all protected trees in the village was required with appropriate action to be taken if any violations were found.

- 3283** To Discuss and Agree a Response to a School Terms Consultation from RMBC. Members reviewed the consultation distributed by RMBC but offered no comments in response.

- 3284** Items for Future Agenda. Nil

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:05pm.

The next meeting of the parish council would be held at 7pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th March 2020.

Signed:.....

Date:.....