

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 5th August 2020 (held remotely via Zoom under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 R4(1))

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

- 3285** Confirmation of Council Appointments for 2020-21 iaw the local authorities and police and crime panels (coronavirus) (flexibility of local authority police and crime panel meetings) (England and Wales) regulations 2020 r.4(2).

Confirmation that all council appointments made in May 2019 would continue until May 2021 as permitted under the above regulations.

- 3286** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil. Members noted that Y Tose has resigned since the last meeting and thanked her for her service to the council.

- 3287** Declarations of Interest. None other than standing interests.

- 3288** Public Discussion Period.

The Chair wished to place on record thanks to all those involved in supporting the village during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular Cllr Jopling and the members of Firbeck Friends.

- a. Footpaths/Road Safety. The issue of safety for wheelchair users on village footpaths was raised, caused by both the condition of the footpaths and parking on pavements. It was also felt that safety for cyclists was also causing concern. It was requested that RMBC be asked to upgrade the infrastructure to provide safe passage for both wheelchair users and cyclists in the area.

- 3289** To discuss and Decide on the Casual Vacancies for Firbeck Parish Council. Members noted that Yolande Tose had resigned since the last meeting. Item deferred to the next meeting.

- 3290** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 22nd January 2020. **Resolved:** that the minutes be approved as an accurate record.

- 3291** Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- a. New Noticeboard – update. Following delays caused by the pandemic, the new noticeboard was now in production and should arrive within the next few weeks.

- 3292** Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st July 2020. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report to 31st July 2020. **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 Approve a Change of Signatory and Approver for the Bank Account. Following recent resignations Cllr Jopling was now the only remaining signatory and approver on the council's bank account.

Resolved: it was resolved that Cllr Stanton be added as a signatory and approver on the council's bank account.

- e. To Confirm the Council's Compliance with Auto Enrolment Pension Requirements. The Clerk informed members that the council had re-declared compliance with auto-enrolment pension requirements in July, in accordance with the obligation to declare compliance every three years.
- f. To Approve the Annual Accounts for 2019-20 and Annual return Sections 1 and 2. Members were presented with the accounts for 2019-20 and requested to approve the relevant sections of the Annual Return.

Resolved: that Firbeck Parish Council approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for Firbeck Parish Council on page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20.

It was then;

Resolved: that Firbeck Parish Council approve Section 2 Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2019/20 for Firbeck Parish Council on page 6 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020

- g. To Receive a Report from the Internal Auditor. Members were presented with a report from the Internal Auditor, who raised no issues. Members were then asked to note the relevant section of the Annual Return.

Resolved: that the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2019/20 included at page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 be noted.

- h. To Agree Exemption from External Audit. Members were asked to agree that the council met the requirements to be exempt from external audit.

Resolved: that Firbeck Parish Council is exempt from external audit for the year 2019/20 as its annual turn-over does not exceed £25,000.

3293 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Highways and Verges. An issue with verge parking on Kidd Lane had been reported to RMBC and a idea to convert the area to a flower bed was being investigated, although it was unclear as to who had ownership of the land.
- b. Firbeck Hall. Work continued to progress well and issues surrounding a boundary wall and a private water main were both being worked through with the property owner.
- c. Emergency Plan. Additional minor amendments were required and the plan would be reviewed again in line with the COVID pandemic.
- d. Fracking. A decision regarding the planned fracking site at Woodsetts had been delayed, with no indication yet as to when the decision may be made.
- e. Telephone Box Maintenance. Suppliers of spare parts from 2 companies had been identified and quotes/recommendations for repairs were to be submitted as soon as circumstances permitted.
- f. Footpath/Bridlepath Maintenance. All footpaths seemed to have recovered from the weather damage earlier in the year. Cllr Jopling was to liaise with RMBC regarding improving surfaces for wheelchair users etc. A number of parishioners had raised

concerns regarding 'No Access' signs that had appeared on footpaths at Kings Wood, paths that had been used for years by local residents. The council were currently liaising with RMBC regarding the legalities and history of the signs and path ownership in an effort to resolve the issue.

3294 Correspondence. Nil.

3295 Planning.

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications. RB2020/1076 – Single storey rear extension – 2 Princes Plantation, New Road, Firbeck. No comments
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed During the COVID-19 Lockdown Period. Members noted the following planning applications:
 - i. RB2020/0005 - Single storey front & rear extensions and installation of ground floor side windows - 5 St Martins Close, Firbeck. Granted conditionally
 - ii. RB2020/0445 - Listed Building Consent for alterations to previously approved scheme - Firbeck Hall New Road, Firbeck. Granted conditionally
 - iii. RB2020/0665 – Demolition of 3No. outbuildings and erection of new detached garage - 1 Princes Plantation New Road Firbeck. Granted conditionally

3296 Neighbourhood Watch. The lockdown period had seen increased activity in and around the village from 'boy racers' and nuisance quad- and off-road bike users.

3297 To Discuss Road Safety for Road Users. It was decided to submit a request to RMBC for cycles lanes to neighbouring settlements (Maltby, Tickhill and Blyth) to be considered/installed to increase safety for cyclists in the area.

3298 To Discuss Liaison with Farmers re Traffic in the Village - Update. Nothing significant to report.

3299 To Discuss Flooding Issues Experienced in the Village. Deferred to the next meeting.

3300 To Discuss a Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition. Deferred to the next meeting.

3301 To Discuss a Quote for Consultancy Services for a Neighbourhood Plan. A quote had been submitted from Andrew Towleron Associates and, this being the only local consultant, was the only quote considered. The quote submitted detailed a maximum cost to the council, net of grants, of c.£1.5k for a completed neighbourhood plan. A recent government announcement regarding a possible change to planning laws and neighbourhood plans meant members required further details.

Resolved: to proceed in principle with the quote from Andrew Towleron Associates subject to a meeting with the contractor to discuss the recent government announcement.

3302 To Consider a Council Response to the Code of Conduct Consultation. Members had no response they wished to submit to the consultation.

3303 Items for Future Agenda. Nil

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

The next meeting of the parish council would be held at 7pm on Wednesday 30th September 2020 online via Zoom.

Signed:.....

Date:.....