

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 30th September 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.
1 member of the public

- 3304** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil.
- 3305** Declarations of Interest. None other than standing interests.
- 3306** Public Discussion Period. Nil
- 3307** To discuss and Decide on the Casual Vacancies for Firbeck Parish Council. Cllr Jopling proposed that Dirk and Jo Pittard (who were both present online) be elected as new members of Firbeck Parish Council. Vote – unanimous. **Resolved:** that Dirk and Jo Pittard are elected as members of Firbeck Parish Council.
- 3308** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 5th August 2020. **Resolved:** that the minutes be approved as an accurate record.
- 3309** Matters Arising from the Minutes.
- a. New Noticeboard – update. Following delays caused by the pandemic, the new noticeboard should be delivered within the next three weeks.
- 3310** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st August 2020. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report to 31st August 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.
- 3311** Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues
- a. Highways and Verges. The junction of the public footpath with Kidd Lane had now been established by Cllr Jopling and Cllr Stanton by reference to the definitive map. Two areas of planting on the wide verge over which the line of the footpath runs were proposed which would both ameliorate the entrance to the village and delineate the route of the footpath. The verge is owned by RMBC and therefore application is to be made to them for approval of this scheme. Also proposed and approved (for road safety reasons) that RMBC be requested to make a small extension to the public footpath so that it ran as far along the grass verge as possible before people are required to step onto the road.

- b. Firbeck Hall. New photos of the development had been released and looked 'magnificent'. A further planning application to provide further detail on 'enabling development' was expected to be submitted imminently.
- c. Emergency Plan. The Chair had carried out a further review and further amendments were required before finalising.
- d. Fracking. The current moratorium on fracking was continuing and there had been no decision yet on the Woodsetts application.
- e. Telephone Box Maintenance. The door had been repaired locally at a cost of £200, to be refunded to the Chair - approved. Further maintenance had yet to be completed.
- f. Footpath/Bridlepath Maintenance. RMBC were planning to re-surface Salt Hill from New Road to the bridge in a surface that was suitable for all users. RMBC were also planning major works to the drains in that area and therefore re-surfacing work would not be started until the works to the drains were complete.
A proposal to install a gate on a bridlepath just outside Stone had caused consternation in the village. Following a site visit RMBC had confirmed that a bridlepath cannot be 'gated' without permission and they would liaise with the landowner.
- g. Airfield Footpath Access. Legal ownership of the footpaths where notices had been erected was still being established. Historic use of the paths by parishioners was also being researched.

3312 Correspondence. Nil.

3313 Planning.

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications. Nil
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting. Nil

3314 Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Jopling reported there had been little crime in the village. She also stated she would ask the police to pass on relevant information to her as the NW Co-ordinator, although she did get statistics from quarterly WWL meetings.

3315 To Discuss Road Safety for Road Users. Nothing significant to report.

3316 To Discuss Liaison with Farmers re Traffic in the Village - Update. Nothing significant to report.

3317 To Discuss Flooding Issues Experienced in the Village. Further to 3311f above, following several site visits by the responsible RMBC Highways Officer, RMBC Drainage Department are drawing up proposals for a large scheme to increase the capacity of the underground drainage system and add more gullies at the east end of the village where serious flooding had occurred and are to advise on steps for the protection from flooding to gardens for properties on St Martins Close/New Road..

3318 To Discuss a Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition. Nothing significant to report

3319 To Discuss a Planning White Paper. A planning 'white paper' that was intended to ease the planning process had been published, and it could also enhance the relevance of Neighbourhood Plans. Details of the white paper were, as yet, unclear and therefore advice on a way forward was not yet available. Members were to meet with the Neighbourhood Plan consultant after 16th October when it was hoped more details would be available.

3320 To Discuss the Village Defibrillator. Owing to the erection of a marquee by the owners of the Black Lion, the location of the defibrillator had been moved to further along the same wall of the pub. Thanks were expressed to Andy Shiel for his help in resolving the issues that arose and for his ongoing support for the defibrillator.

Members then discussed whether a second defibrillator was required for the village, possibly to be sited in the old telephone box. Research on the costs of a suitable defibrillator were required.

3321 To Discuss the Village Pavements. The pavements on New Road were felt to be in a poor state and RMBC were to be asked to inspect. A recent RMBC newsletter suggested funding was available for pavement repair so now was felt a good time to approach the subject.

3322 To Discuss Arrangements for Xmas. Owing to the COVID -19 pandemic it is clear that there can be no social gatherings for a Christmas Tree Festival in the format of previous years either at the Church or the Village Hall. Trees, however, would still be erected and lit as normal. Julie Dunker had offered to source the large tree as in previous years; however, the lights were defective and therefore replacements were required – approved. All the small trees from last year had survived and therefore no new trees were required to be purchased. The organisations that sponsored the trees were therefore to be given a ‘free’ year but asked to decorate as normal. In addition, an idea of a Christmas Tree trail was mentioned and Cllr J Pittard agreed to pursue this idea.

3323 Items for Future Agenda.

Social media
Councillor roles and responsibilities
Meeting dates 2021

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 25th November 2020 online via Zoom.

Signed:.....

Date:.....