

# FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

In attendance: 5 members of the public

**3636** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllr D Pittard - work. Accepted.

**3637** Declarations of Interest. Nil

**3638** Public Discussion Period.

- a. Village Hall Garden Refurbishment Project. It was requested that thought be given to possible alternative locations for the grit bin currently located within the Village Hall grounds due to the renovation of the gardens.
- b. Poppy Appeal. A Shiel proposed the purchase of 50 lamppost poppies for the village for a donation of £150 to the Royal British Legion. He would co-ordinate the installation, removal and preservation of the poppies for future years.

**3639** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

**3640** Ward Update. No Ward member was present.

**3641** Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. **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 including a late invoice for £5839 to RMBC for 3 x CCTV cameras (see item 3642d below).
- d. To Consider a Grant Request from the Village Hall. A request had been received for a grant towards plants required for the Village Hall Garden project; however, members preferred to purchase a bench for the garden instead. This was acceptable to the Village Hall, and it was **resolved** to purchase a bench up to £600 in value.

**3642** Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene. Concerns had been raised in both Firbeck and Letwell regarding the management of hedgerows by local farmers, mud on the roads and tractor movements through the villages. The Chair proposed a joint 'environment' group be created with Letwell PC and local farmers (which was approved by members) with the following aims:
  - i. An appreciation by the farmers of their impact on the villages.

- ii. A better understanding of farming operations.
- iii. Improved respect for the infrastructure and appearance of the villages.

The Kidd Lane junction and HaHa were both on RMBC's projects list, but no action had been taken yet. The Chair advised the meeting she had been liaising with RMBC and the farmer for possible 'self-help' improvements to the HaHa.

- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Cllr J Pittard advised that village litter picking dates would be advertised soon, along with ideas for the old telephone box.
- c. Village Road Safety, Including Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. A follow-up traffic/speed assessment following the previous survey in 2022 was discussed. Members felt the previous survey did not best capture the traffic picture in the village and therefore any future survey would require directions about when and where the data should be collected. Members agreed that a survey was required during term time (not during a school holiday) and should be located around the junction of St Martin's Close and New Road. Approved.
- e. Village CCTV – update. 3 x CCTV cameras had been ordered by RMBC at a cost of £5839.00. The Ward Councillors had previously donated £2k towards this project, with the remainder being funded from CIL monies.
- f. Second Defibrillator – update. Nothing significant to report.
- h. Village Neighbourhood Plan. An initial meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to outline what a Neighbourhood Plan was and what it could achieve. Up to 10 volunteers had so far expressed an interest in assisting with developing a plan. A first meeting to commence the development process would hopefully be held in the very near future.

### 3643 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
  - i. RB2024/0293 – Application to undertake works to trees(s) protected by RMBC Tree Preservation Order No.1 1992 Firbeck Hall New Road Firbeck – no comments.
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting.
  - i. RB21023/1540 - Demolition of existing dwelling and associated buildings and replacement new dwelling and detached garage including reinstatement of original garden wall at Firbeck Hall, The Bothy New Road Firbeck. Granted conditionally.
  - ii. RB2023/1694 - Erection of stable block and tack room at 1 Princes Plantation New Road Firbeck. Granted conditionally.
  - iii. RB2023/1713 - Single storey side extension to existing garage, single storey front extensions, alterations to the roof including increase in roof height to create rooms in roof space and installation of 3 No. dormer windows to front with roof terraces/balconies & glass balustrade at Penwood, 1 Park Hill Drive Firbeck. Granted conditionally.
- c. To Note the Following Planning Appeal Determination
  - i. RB2023/0249 - Erection of boundary fence at 1 Princes Plantation New Road Firbeck – APPEAL DISMISSED

**3644** To Discuss the Poppy Appeal 2024. See item 3638b above. Proposal approved unanimously.

**3645** To Consider a Proposal to Establish a Joint Working Group with Letwell PC to Tackle Environmental Issues incl. Loss of Wildlife Habitat. See item 3642a earlier.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

The next meetings would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Annual Parish Meeting)**, and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 (**Annual Council Meeting**).

Signed:.....

Date:.....