

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 22nd May 2024

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

In attendance: 3 members of the public

- 3646** Appointment of a Chair of the Council for the Year 2024-25. Cllr C Jopling was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Potts and J Pittard. Vote: unanimous.
- 3647** Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Jopling signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to become the Chair for 2024-25.
- 3648** Appointment of a Vice-Chair. Cllr J Pittard was proposed by Cllrs Potts and McManus. Vote: unanimous.
- 3649** To Agree any Nominations to Represent the Council with the South Yorkshire Branch of the YLCA. No nominations received.
- 3650** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil.
- 3651** Declarations of Interest. Nil
- 3652** Public Discussion Period. Nil
- 3653** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 27th March 2024. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 3654** Ward Update. No Ward member was present.
- 3655** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30th April 2024. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30th April 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.
- d. To Approve the Annual Accounts for 2023-24 and Annual Return Sections 1 & 2. **Resolved:** that the annual accounts be approved.
Resolved: that Section 1 of the annual return, the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
Resolved: that Section 2 of the annual return, the Annual Accounting Statements, be approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
- e. To Receive a Report from the Internal Auditor. Members received the report from the Internal Auditor – no issues were raised.
- f. To Agree Exemption from External Audit. **Resolved:** that the council, due to the level of turnover, qualified to be exempt from external audit.
- g. To Agree Adoption of the General Power of Competence. **Resolved:** to adopt the General Power of Competence as the council satisfied the qualifying criteria.

- i. To Agree the Council's Insurance Renewal. The renewal quote from Zurich Municipal Insurance was received and was identical to last year's premium. **Resolved:** to renew insurance with Zurich Municipal.

3656 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene. RMBC had offered to drain the HaHa and look at improvements to the banking, which allow the planting of cowslips, but no improvement was expected this year.

A couple of issues were raised regarding the Kidd Lane/Lamb Lane junction:

- i. The hedgerows and verges were so overgrown it was dangerous for road users joining Lamb Lane.
- ii. Some fly-tipping was evident and had damaged the verge at the junction.

Both matters were to be reported to RMBC.

- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Cllr J Pittard advised that the annual plant exchange had been very well supported and a 'village tidy' was planned for the last weekend in June..
- c. Village Road Safety, Including Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. A date for the traffic/speed assessment had yet to be finalised.
- d. Village CCTV – update. Locations for the cameras had yet to be agreed. The first sites proposed were acceptable but had been revised due to objections from RMBC dept responsible for street furniture / lampposts. The revised locations were unacceptable to the council and we have asked for a site visit to see if we can agree better locations so as to ensure entry/exit points of all the village roads are covered. Ongoing.
- e. Second Defibrillator – update. Cllr D Pittard advised that the British Heart Foundation had advised that 2 different packages had been offered at a £400 discount, both with lockable cabinets. Members **resolved** to approve the package priced at £1400 inc. VAT which, although slightly more expensive (£120 difference) it was felt to be a better quality defibrillator and would be more effective in the long term.
- f. Village Neighbourhood Plan. One package of possible funding for development of the Plan had been rejected but should not make much difference to the development of the Plan. The inaugural meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan development group would take place in the very near future.
- g. Firbeck/Letwell Joint Environment Group – Update. Nothing to report at this stage.

3657 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications: Nil
- b. To Note the Following Planning Applications Processed Since the Last Meeting.
 - i. RB2024/0018 - Prior Notification for the proposed change of use from an Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) at Barn at Lamb Lane Firbeck - REFUSED
 - ii. RB2024/0293 – Application to undertake works to trees(s) protected by RMBC Tree Preservation Order No.1 1992 Firbeck Hall New Road Firbeck – granted conditionally

c. To Note the Following Planning Appeal Determination

- i. RB2022/1863 - Outline application for the erection of 5 No. dwelling houses with garages including details of access and layout at Three Acres Lamb Lane Firbeck – APPEAL DISMISSED

3658 To Adopt a new Biodiversity Policy. **Resolved:** to adopt the Biodiversity Policy as presented.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:50pm.

The next meetings would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 24th July 2024.**

Signed:.....

Date:.....