

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 22nd January 2025

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public

3695 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllrs D Pittard and J Pittard - accepted.

3696 Declarations of Interest. Nil

3697 Public Discussion Period. Nil

3698 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

a. 27th November 2024. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3699 Ward Update. Nil

3700 Finance:

a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st December 2024. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.

b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 31st December 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 Discuss and Agree the Precept and Budget for FY 2025-26. Members reviewed the budget proposed by the Clerk and it was noted that no proposed changes to the precept were required this year to achieve a balanced budget. Members also noted that the purchase of a second defibrillator would hopefully be completed soon, reducing earmarked CIL reserves. In addition, the earmarked reserves for the Neighbourhood Plan had increased during the current financial year; this was due to a grant being received but not fully spent yet.

Resolved: it was resolved by unanimous decision to retain the precept at its current level to £12,000 for the year 2025/26.

3701 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene.

i. New Road/Kidd Lane Junction. Severe damage to the verge at this junction had recently occurred. This had been reported to RMBC.

ii. New Road Markings. The road markings, particularly in the area near the Black Lion on the bend, were not particularly visible and RMBC had promised to visit the site and re-instate the markings if required. Other ideas to improve markings in the area in a bid to prevent parking on both the bend and pavements were discussed and the Chair offered to contact RMBC's Parking Services manager for advice.

- iii. Salt Hill. The condition of Salt Hill was felt to be very poor and the Clerk was to contact RMBC Highways to request improvements.
 - iv. New Road Drainage. The drainage on New Road opposite the entrance to Firbeck Hall was felt to be inadequate and had led to numerous issues during the recent bad weather. The Clerk was to contact the RMBC Drainage Team to request a review of capacity in the area.
 - v. The Haha. The new gateway to the field had been constructed without planning permission but, due to the time elapsed, no enforcement action was possible. However, the impact the construction was having on the HaHa and the road was noticeable and RMBC Highways were to be contacted to inspect the area. In addition, permission was to be requested from RMBC to undertake voluntary maintenance of the upper part of the HaHa (ditch clearance, grass cutting on the verge). The outgoing RMBC Conservation Officer believed the HaHa should be 'listed' as a structure of national significance, and this would be followed up with the new officer once in post.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Nil
 - c. Village Road Safety, Including Parking, Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. The recent survey commissioned by the parish council showed there were +800 vehicle movements per day through the village, with c.50% travelling over the speed limit. In an effort to reduce speeding, RMBC Highways were to be contacted to discuss possible speed calming measures and the Chair would contact the local PCSOs to attend with mobile speed measuring devices.
 - d. Second Defibrillator – update. Nothing to report on the second defibrillator, however following a recent incident in the village hall it was felt a first aid course for locals would be useful. The Red Cross could provide a 4½ hour course for £350 for up to 12 people. This was approved a date would be confirmed in due course.

3702 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2024/0488 – Construction of wildlife pond. Stone Farm, Kingswood Lane, Firbeck. No comments.

NOTICE OF FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF AGENDA

 - ii. RB2025/0077 – Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 1 (1992). Firbeck Hall New Road Firbeck. No comments.
- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations. Nil.

3703 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. The Group had recently completed a survey of architectural and historical assets in the village, which had been passed to the consultant for inclusion in the Plan. The group were now reviewing flora and fauna in the area, and the next meeting was scheduled for early March.

3704 To Discuss VE Day 2025. There was felt to be no enthusiasm for an event to be held in the village to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and therefore the council would not commit any resources to such a project.

3705 Review of Christmas Tree Festival. The event was felt to be a great success with an excellent turnout. Arrangements for Santa needed to be reviewed before next year's event.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:00pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 26th March 2025.**

Signed:.....

Date:.....