

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 20th May 2025

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

In attendance: 3 members of the public, DMBC Cllr Clarke

- 3717** Appointment of a Chair of the Council for the Year 2025-26. Cllr C Jopling was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Potts and J Pittard. Vote: unanimous.
- 3718** Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Jopling signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to become the Chair for 2025-26.
- 3719** Appointment of a Vice-Chair. Cllr J Pittard was proposed by Cllrs Potts and Jopling. Vote: unanimous.
- 3720** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllrs D Pittard and B McManus - accepted.
- 3721** Declarations of Interest. Nil
- 3722** Public Discussion Period.
- a. Defibrillator. Following a recent use of the defibrillator, a request was made to purchase a replacement set of pads. Approved.
- 3723** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 26th March 2025. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 3724** Ward Update.
- a. Rural crime – Cllr Clarke had recently attended a meeting with the police and was advised the specialist team responsible for tackling rural crime require every piece of information possible relating to possible rural crimes in order to create a full understanding of issues being experienced. Members if the public are urged to report all incidents to 999 if a crime is in progress, 101 if it is non-urgent, online at <https://orlo.uk/KDWQu> or email sypoffroadteam@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
- b. The public enquiry for the Dinnington regeneration project will be held on 1-3 July 2025 at the New York Stadium, Rotherham.
- c. Following a spate of recent incidents, the public are encouraged to report all findings of nitrus oxide canisters to 101.
- d. More services are to be provided by Rotherham Hospital with appropriate infrastructure works planned to support the increased services. Concerns have, however, been raised over inadequate parking and drop-off points which patients currently experience even before any increase in provision.
- 3725** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30th April 2025. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.

- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30th April 2025. **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 2024-25 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. Members also **resolved** to appoint Michael Pugh, P&N Accountants, as the council's Internal Auditor for the year 2025-26.
- f. To Agree Exemption from External Audit. **Resolved:** that the council, due to the level of turnover, qualified to be exempt from external audit.

3726 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene.
 - i. Kidd Lane Junction. The verge at the top end of Kidd Lane was overgrown to the extent it was causing a hazard to drivers – Clerk to report to RMBC.
 - ii. The Ha Ha. The verges near the Ha Ha had recently been cut but to a poor standard. The Ha Ha itself was to be cut properly during a second cut later in the year.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. A plant exchange had been arranged for Saturday 24th May 2025..
- c. Village Road Safety, Including Parking, Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. Nothing significant to report.
- d. Second Defibrillator – update. Cllr Potts was investigating options to install a second defibrillator in the old phone box using solar/wind energy sources. This option, however, was likely to cost c.£4.5k and the cost, along with the likely visual impact of installing such energy sources, made this option extremely unlikely. Ongoing.

3727 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2025/0482 - Application to vary condition 01 (approved plans) to include 2 No. new gables to the front elevation & additional Velux roof lights to side elevation imposed on RB2024/1453 Penwood, 1 Park Hill Drive Firbeck
 - ii. RB2025/0583 - Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 5 (1977) 44 New Road Firbeck

Members had no comments on the above applications.

- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations.
 - i. RB2025/0376 - Installation of solar panels to garage roof at Firbeck Hall - West Hall New Road Firbeck – granted conditionally

- ii. RB2025/0482 - Application to vary condition 01 (approved plans) to include 2 No. new gables to the front elevation & additional Velux roof lights to side elevation imposed on RB2024/1453 Penwood, 1 Park Hill Drive Firbeck – granted conditionally

- 3728 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. A full report was given by the group at the recent Annual Parish Meeting and their findings were to be presented to the village in the first week of June. A total of £1600 was unspent from the grant awarded last year and had to be returned to the provider. If further funding was required, a new grant application would be submitted.
- 3728 To Approve Updated Standing Orders. **Resolved** – to adopted the amended Standing Orders as presented.
- 3729 To Approve Updated Financial Regulations. **Resolved** – to adopt the amended Financial Regulations as presented.
- 3730 To Discuss Plans for the Racehorse Sculpture Garden. It was planned to create a small garden to surround the racehorse sculptures once they had been installed. The sculptures required planning permission prior to installation and plans were in the process of being created.
- 3731 To Discuss the Creation of a Village Garden Committee. It had been suggested that a 'village community garden committee/group' be created as an independent group (supported by but not part of the council) be established to look after communal areas/assets, e.g. the planters, phone box/village sign area, racehorse garden (once created) etc. to maintain and enhance the appearance of the village. Members agreed to support such an initiative as and when required.
- 3732 To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. The Chair was to attend a site meeting on 3rd June 25 to discuss ongoing and future maintenance of the Ha Ha. The Chair requested members support an initiative to gain 'listed' status for the Ha Ha in order to protect it for the future. Approved.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:05pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 23rd July 2025.**

Signed:.....

Date:.....