

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 23rd July 2025

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

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

3733 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Nil – Cllr R Potts absent.

3734 Declarations of Interest. Nil

3735 Public Discussion Period. Nil

3736 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 20th May 2025. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3737 Ward Update.

- a. Vehicle signs – 2 new vehicle activated signs were to be installed on Oldcotes Road, and a new accompanied horse warning sign and SLOW marking were to be installed on Lamb Lane.
- b. Dinnington Regeneration Project – a public inquiry had recently been held and full planning permission had now been granted. Works were expected to commence soon.
- c. Cllr Clarke was actively working health and transport authorities to ensure any new 'health hubs' in the region were connected to public transport links to ensure access for all.
- d. Cllr Jean Hart (Dinnington St John's Town Council) attended alongside Cllr Clarke to inform all of her Ward-wide role as the elected representative for transport on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Her role is to try and improve public transport links for the Ward by raising issues at quarterly meetings, being involved in the bus franchising project (a 3-phase project to be completed by the end of 2029) and to explore all options to increase the use of the Dinnington transport hub. She requests input from all parishes to help her achieve her aims, with questions/comments for ahead of the next meeting required by 8th September.

3738 Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30th June 2025. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30th June 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.

3739 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene.

- i. Kidd Lane Junction Update. RMBC had offered to complete a project to improve the Kidd Lane junction with a parish council contribution of £4k. **Resolved:** members unanimously resolved to contribute £4k to the project from council CIL money and requested consultation/involvement in the planning and works cycle.
 - ii. New Road Footpath. The council had been informed that the New Road footpath was scheduled to be re-surfaced in the current financial year. Members requested clarity over the scope of the works and that grass verges be trimmed back to the boundary edging.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Judging for the Yorkshire in Bloom contest took place in early July, with results expected in September. Cllr J Pittard was to produce leaflets to promote the proposed independent village garden committee to generate support for the idea.
 - c. Village Road Safety, Including Parking, Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. Nothing significant to report.
 - d. Second Defibrillator – update. Nothing significant to report.
 - e. To Discuss Plans for the Racehorse Sculpture Garden. A quote for revised (smaller) sculptures had been received at £4356+VAT. Members had previously agreed to suspend Financial Regulations due to the limited number of suppliers of such sculptures and in recognition of the work that had been undertaken so far at zero cost. **Resolved:** it was unanimously resolved to accept the quote and fund from council CIL money.
 - f. To Discuss the Creation of a Village Garden Committee. See item 7b above.
 - g. To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. No progress and been made regarding the unauthorized entrance. 'Listed' status for the Ha Ha was to be applied for.

3740 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:

NOT ON AGENDA

- i. RB2025/0680 - Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 1 (1952) 34 new Road Firbeck

Members had no comments on the above application.

- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations.

NOT ON AGENDA

- i. RB2025/0583 - Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 5 (1977) 44 new Road Firbeck – granted conditionally

3741 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. A village consultation event was held in June and was well attended, generating a very positive response. The committee were currently working through all comments/feedback received before producing a final Plan.

Whilst grant funding was no longer available, the Planning Consultant had confirmed that the costs of the referendum would still be covered by RMBC and therefore the only cost to the council to complete the Plan would be £2.8k, mainly to cover the consultancy work

required to produce a final Plan. The council already £2k in reserves to cover Plan costs and the rest could be met with unbudgeted interest income. **Resolved:** it was unanimously resolved to cover the costs required to complete the Neighbourhood Plan project.

3742 To Discuss a Possible Village Play Area. An idea for a village play area in a dedicated small area of the church yard had recently been suggested by the church, however there were concerns over nearby yew trees (poisonous berries), the limited space available, the 'listed' status of the whole churchyard and the likely significant cost of installing any play equipment. Taking everything into account, whilst the council appreciated the desire to help locate an area for a village playground, it was felt that hiving off a portion of the graveyard was not a workable proposition. An alternative idea of developing the proposed area as a 'quiet space' instead, with benches, was proposed and this was to be discussed with the church.

3743 To Approve an Updated Risk Assessment. **Resolved** – to adopt the updated Risk Assessment as presented.

3744 To Approve a new I.T. Policy. **Resolved** – to adopt the new IT Policy as presented – a new requirement of the audit process.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:55pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 24th September 2025.**

Signed:.....

Date:.....