

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 24th September 2025

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

In attendance: 4 members of the public, DMBC Cllr Clarke

3745 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllr D Pittard – accepted.

3746 Declarations of Interest. Nil

3747 Public Discussion Period.

- a. A phone signal booster had been installed in the village hall to boost mobile phone reception.
- b. Residents raised concerns, supported by council members, over several recent articles in the FLAG magazine that were expressing personal/political views. Whilst keen to stress that individuals are entitled to their views, it was felt the FLAG magazine was not the right forum to air such opinions. Clerk to contact the editor of FLAG.

3748 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 23rd July 2025. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3749 Ward Update.

- a. The compulsory purchase order for the Dinnington Regeneration Project was granted on 23rd September, which should enable the project to proceed.
- b. Cllr Clarke requested ideas to be submitted for a 'winter works' programme of 'enhanced grubbing and weeding' to be undertaken during the period October to March. The council agreed to submit suggestion for the HaHa and footpath no. 5 alongside St Martin's Church.

3750 Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31st August 2025. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 31st August 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.

3751 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene.
 - i. Kidd Lane Junction Update. Work was provisionally scheduled to commence the week beginning 27th October 2025 but the council had yet to receive any information regarding the project. The council had previously requested consultation and this was being pursued.

- ii. Kidd Lane Closure. Kidd Lane was to be closed for 1 day on 23rd November for works required by Yorkshire Water.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Results for the latest Yorkshire in Bloom competition were expected on 26th September. Note: The village was awarded Gold and Category winner for small villages for the 2nd year running.
- c. Village Road Safety, Including Parking, Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. Nothing significant to report.
- d. Second Defibrillator – update. An electrician had been consulted and was doubtful a suitable connection could be made to the old phone box, and therefore recommended a battery-operated device. However, the batteries do not work in low temperatures so it was agreed to speak to the church again and explore options with them.
- e. To Discuss Plans for the Racehorse Sculpture Garden. A planning application had been submitted to RMBC and was going through the final scrutiny before the standard public notice period would commence in the very near future.
- f. To Discuss the Creation of a Village Garden Committee. Nothing significant to report.
- g. To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. See items 3749 above.

3752 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications: Nil
- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations.
 - i. RB2025/0680 - Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 1 (1952) 34 New Road Firbeck – PART GRANTED PART REFUSED

3753 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Work was ongoing to prepare a final submission for scrutiny by RMBC before a public referendum could be called.

3754 To Discuss/Agree Arrangements for the Christmas Tree Festival. The event would be held on Advent Sunday as normal (first Sunday in December) with the same plan as last year. Up to 8 small trees may be required for purchase in addition to the usual large tree for the village. A contribution may be required to source/support a santa sleigh for the event. **Resolved:** members agreed to support the event in line with the outline above.

3755 To Discuss and Agree a Response to the Whitestone Solar Farm Project. A vast area of greenbelt land had been earmarked for a solar farm project across the borough, to which the local MP was objecting. A major concern was a general lack of public awareness and Cllr Clarke was to forward a map that was to be displayed for the village. The public consultation closes on 28th October and all members of the public were encourage to submit their responses via www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk Details of public consultation meetings were on the parish council website. Council members agreed to submit their individual responses to the Clerk for collation as a council submission.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:20pm.

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

Signed:.....

Date:.....