

# FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public

**3771** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllr R Potts (personal) – accepted.

**3772** Declarations of Interest. Nil

**3773** Public Discussion Period. Nil

**3774** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

a. 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

**3775** Ward Update. RMBC Cllr Clarke provided the following written update:

- a. The solar farm construction at Common Farm is starting to impact the area and Cllr Clarke asks all residents to provide feedback and join her at the next online construction liaison meeting, scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm (details of how to access the meeting can be obtained from the Clerk).
- b. The demolition of the burnt-out building on Laughton Road, Dinnington, will commence in February (dated tbc by RMBC).
- c. Vehicle crime in the area remains above national averages, while anti-social behaviour statistics have fallen.
- d. The poor customer service concerning bin collections should be improved soon following a successful recruitment campaign.

**3776** Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 Discuss and Agree the Precept and Budget for FY 2026-27. 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 had yet to be completed as viable options were still being assessed.

**Resolved:** it was resolved by unanimous decision to retain the precept at its current level to £12,000 for the year 2026/27.

- e. To Discuss a Request for a Contribution Towards Repair Costs to the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee (VHC) had informed the council that repairs to the Village Hall roof were required and had been costed at over £12k. The VHC had requested a contribution of £2k, in addition to the £1k budgeted contribution the

council planned to make to the VHC this financial year. With underspends in other budgeted areas, plus unspent CIL monies, the Clerk advised members the council could afford the requested contribution. **Resolved:** it was resolved that the council make total contribution to the Village Hall of £3k to go towards the cost of roof repair, and this would be an appropriate use of CIL money.

### 3777 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene.
  - i. Kidd Lane Junction Update. Work has now started on improving the junction and should be completed soon.
  - ii. New Road footpath. RMBC had recently completed a resurfacing of the footpath on New Road and it was agreed that it was a significant improvement.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Nothing significant to report.
- c. Village Road Safety, Including Parking, Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. Nothing significant to report.
- d. Second Defibrillator – update. A battery-operated defibrillator had been identified as being a possible solution to overcome power supply issues for a second village defibrillator. Further research was required.
- e. To Discuss Plans for the Racehorse Sculpture Garden. Conditional planning permission had been received, however, before a licence could be granted, RMBC Road Safety required small amendments to the design. An updated design had been submitted for approval and a final decision from RMBC was awaited.
- f. To Discuss the Creation of a Village Garden Committee. Interested persons were to be invited to the next meeting to try and create the committee.
- g. To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. The thorns and brambles had recently been cut back, and a request was to be made to RMBC to cut the whole bank twice per year. The Clerk was to contact the farmer whom it was believed had carried out the recent maintenance to both thank him and elicit ideas how the area could be better maintained in the future.
- h. Access to Countryside/Public Footpath Issues. Salt Hill was experiencing similar issues to last year and this had been reported to RMBC.
- i. FLAG Magazine – Letwell PC Response to Issues Raised. Letwell PC had rejected the request to form an 'editorial board' and stated the editor should be free to decide what goes in the publication. No further action.

### 3778 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications: Nil
- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations.
  - i. RB2025/1038 - Erection of a Corten steel sculpture of two horses with jockeys land adjacent 8 Kidd Lane Firbeck – Granted Conditionally

**3779** Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. The draft Plan was nearing completion and the Group required permission from the council to move to the next stage – consultation. It was planned to hold a presentation in Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 1000-1400hrs (tbc), after which the draft plan would be updated with any further comments received. Any additional funding requirements from the parish council were to

be confirmed in due course. **Resolved:** it was resolved to permit the Group to move to the consultation phase of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**3780** To Discuss Possible Options for Commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St Leger Race. The year 2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St Leger Race and, given the links to the village, it was hoped to commemorate the event and include an official unveiling of the racehorse sculpture garden during this year's race festival. Ideas would hopefully be discussed at the next meeting.

**3781** Review of the Christmas Tree Festival. This was another successful event that was well supported by the village. Further to September's meeting, members **resolved** to donate £150 to the Sitwell Rotary Club for the provision of a sleigh for the event.

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

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

Signed:.....

Date:.....