

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 25th March 2026

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public

- 3782** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllrs D Pitard and R Potts (personal) – accepted.
- 3783** Declarations of Interest. Nil
- 3784** Public Discussion Period. The subject of training in defibrillator use/first aid was raised and the Chair stated she would attempt to arrange training for interested village residents on dates to be advised.
- 3785** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 28th January 2026. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 3786** Ward Update. RMBC Cllr Clarke updated members on various ward issues and informed those present that the Ward members were looking to purchase a speed gun for community use throughout the ward via local speedwatch groups/champions.
- 3787** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 28th February 2026. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 28th February 2026. **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.
- 3788** Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues
- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene.
- i. Kidd Lane Junction Update. Work was now complete – item closed.
- 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. Nothing significant to report.
- e. To Discuss Plans for the Racehorse Sculpture Garden. A licence had been granted but RMBC recommended a road safety audit for insurance purposes. They provided details of the company they use for such audits, who had quoted £600 +VAT. Given the specialist nature of the work and the company being a trusted supplier to RMBC, members **resolved** to proceed with the audit without further quotes.
Since the last meeting, a further site meeting had been held and the site marked out. Due to the time elapsed since the first quote, a price increase was likely and final costs were awaited.

The Chair also stated that she would speak to the contractor that maintains the church yard regarding ongoing maintenance of the new racehorse garden area.

- f. To Discuss the Creation of a Village Garden Committee. It was agreed to attempt to arrange a meeting around May Bank Holiday with interested parties. Chair to check on Village Hall availability – details to be confirmed.
- g. To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. Recent correspondence with the farmer had been very positive for mutual efforts to maintain the Ha Ha on both sides, including agreement to remove 2 x trees that were growing into the wall itself, and the planting of cowslips/primroses. It was also agreed to contact RMBC to ensure they maintained the grassed area in their area of responsibility.
- h. Access to Countryside/Public Footpath Issues. Nothing significant to report.

3789 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2025/1605 - Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 1 (1992) Firbeck Hall New Road Firbeck
 - ii. RB2026/0136 - Discharge of conditions 3, 4, 6, 8, & 9 imposed by RB2023/1540 Firbeck Hall, The Bothy New Road Firbeck – info only

Members had no comments on either of the planning applications.

- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations.
 - i. RB2025/1605 - Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 1 (1992) Firbeck Hall New Road Firbeck – Granted Conditionally

3790 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Nothing significant to report.

3791 To Discuss Possible Options for Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the St Leger Race. It was noted that the village hall committee had a diary full of events this year and was unlikely to have the manpower around the time of the St Leger meeting (Sept 13th). The council therefore, was likely to focus on an event to unveil the racehorse sculpture garden at the time of the St Leger meeting. Other ideas were still being evaluated, including exploring naming a local circular walk the ‘St Leger Walk’, and using miniature versions of the racehorse sculpture in the Britain in Bloom efforts.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:50pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 29th April 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting), and Wednesday 20th May 2026 (Annual Council Meeting).**

Signed:.....

Date:.....