

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 20th May 2026

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public

- 3792** Appointment of a Chair of the Council for the Year 2026-27. Cllr C Jopling was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Potts and B McManus. Vote: unanimous.
- 3793** Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Jopling signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to become the Chair for 2026-27.
- 3794** Appointment of a Vice-Chair. Item deferred to next meeting.
- 3795** Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllrs D and J Pittard - accepted.
- 3796** Declarations of Interest. Nil
- 3797** Public Discussion Period. The issue of parking on pavements and blocking/restricting access for wheelchairs and pushchairs was raised, with a request for action. The issue had previously been reported to the police and council and there was no obvious answer to the problem; however, it was decided to place a 'polite notice' on the wall to see if that had any effect. In addition to signage, the resident was requested to keep a photographic diary (date and time stamped photos) of times when use of the pavement is hampered or made impossible by pavement parking.
- 3798** To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:
- a. 25th March 2026. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 3799** Ward Update. (Written). The take up on the speed watch group volunteers is slow despite a promising start; a couple of volunteers from Firbeck was requested because if speeding is an issue meaningful data can be collated to influence priorities when Highways are setting budgets.
- 3800** Finance:
- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30th April 2026. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30th April 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.
- d. To Approve the Annual Accounts for 2025-26 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 2026-27.
- f. To Agree Exemption from External Audit. **Resolved:** that the council, due to the level of turnover, qualified to be exempt from external audit.

3801 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene. Nothing significant to report.
- 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. The sculptures were currently being manufactured and it was hoped they would be installed in June (date tbc).
- f. To Discuss the Creation of a Village Garden Committee. An inaugural meeting had recently been held, with several enthusiastic volunteers in attendance. Item closed.
- g. To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. Nothing significant to report.
- h. Access to Countryside/Public Footpath Issues. Nothing significant to report.

3802 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2026/0438 – Demolition of existing building and erection of new self-build residential dwelling The Chicken Shed New Road Firbeck
 - ii. RB2026/0341 – Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by RMBC TPO No.1 1952 48 New Road Firbeck

Members had no comments on either of the planning applications except it was believed that application RB2026/0438 had been refused although confirmation of this had yet to be received.

- b. To Note the Following Planning Determinations. Nil

3803 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Details of the public consultation would be announced in the next few weeks.

3804 To Discuss Possible Options for Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the St Leger Race. Nothing significant to report.

3805 To Consider a Response to RMBC's Community Governance Review. After discussion the members **resolved** to respond to the review with a request to consider changes to the parish boundary, to include properties at The Yews, Thwaite House Farm, Lingodell Farm, Beckridge Farm and Four Lane Ends, all of which were on the edge of the village and had always been considered part of the Firbeck community.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:40pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 22nd July 2026**

Signed:.....

Date:.....