

FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 22nd July 2026

Present: Cllr C Jopling (Chair), Cllr B McManus, Cllr J Pittard, Cllr R Potts
In attendance: 5 members of the public, RMBC Cllr Clarke

3806 Apologies – To Receive and Approve Reasons for Absence. Cllr D Pittard - accepted.

3807 Declarations of Interest. Nil

3808 Public Discussion Period.

- a. Speeding. Concern was raised at the frequency of speeding traffic, particularly on the stretch of New Road heading out of the village to Four Lane Ends, with seemingly no enforcement. Such concerns had been raised before and requests had been submitted for mobile speed patrols from the police, but the council had been informed there was no safe place for such a patrol in that area. The Ward member present stated she had recently been working with Highways to produce a ward-wide road safety plan, and this area could be included in discussions. She also encouraged local residents to join a local Community Speedwatch Group she had created to tackle such issues. Residents were encouraged to report all such incidents of speeding to 101.
- b. Microlight Activity. Concern was also raised about frequent recent microlight activity in the area (noise and privacy concerns), but it was unclear what could be done. Activity would be monitored.

3809 To Approve the Parish Council Minutes:

- a. 20th May 2026. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3810 Ward Update. The Ward member updated those present on recent matters in the area, including fly-tipping in Oldcotes that had been reported but RMBC were unwilling to act as it was on private land. Also, a new Affected By Cancer (ABC) support group had been created that met every second Tuesday at 1130-1300 in the Salvation Army Hall, Dinnington. Anyone affected by cancer could attend.

3811 Finance:

- a. To Approve the Bank Reconciliation – 30th June 2026. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliation be approved.
- b. To Approve the Budget Monitoring Report – 30th June 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.

NOT ON AGENDA

- d. Auto-enrolment Pension Compliance. The Clerk advised members that, since the agenda had been published, he had re-declared the council's compliance with auto-enrolment pension scheme requirements. Firbeck PC did not operate a

pension scheme as employee earnings were below the minimum threshold. The council is required to declare its compliance every three years.

3812 Updates on Current/Ongoing Issues

- a. Verges/Grass Maintenance and General Street Scene. The village verges and Ha Ha were currently being maintained by a small army of volunteers rather than RMBC, including Cllrs Jopling and Pittard. The Clerk was to contact RMBC to address this situation.
- b. 'I Love Firbeck' Project – update. Regional Britain In Bloom judges visited Firbeck on 16th July, with the result expected in September. Cllr Pittard requested the council pay a fee of £47 to become affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Society, which would open avenues of funding to further improve the village – approved.
- c. Village Road Safety, Including Parking, Speed Limits and HGV Traffic. Covered in item 3808 above.
- d. Second Defibrillator – update. Nothing significant to report.
- e. To Discuss Plans for the Racehorse Sculpture Garden. See item 3815 below.
- g. To Discuss the Preservation and Protection of the Ha Ha. Nothing significant to report.
- h. Access to Countryside/Public Footpath Issues. The footpath on Kidd Lane had become overgrown – Clerk to request the farmer to clear the path.

3813 Planning

- a. To Consider the Following Planning Applications:
 - i. RB2026/0812 – Application to vary condition 09 (to allow changes to the wording of the condition) imposed by RB2023/1540 Firbeck Hall, The Bothy New Road Firbeck
 - ii. RB2026/0834 – Application to undertake works to trees protected by RMBC TPO 1 (1992) Firbeck Hall 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.
 - i. RB2026/0341 – Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by RMBC TPO No.1 1952 48 New Road Firbeck
 - ii. RB2026/0438 – Demolition of existing building and erection of new self-build residential dwelling The Chicken Shed New Road Firbeck - REFUSED

3814 Report from Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. The consultation period was planned to commence on 22nd August 2026, with a public consultation event in the Village Hall planned for 29th August. The documents relating to the plan would appear on the council's website before the consultation on a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan page along with full details of the consultation.

3815 To Discuss Possible Options for Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the St Leger Race. This year's St Leger Festival was to take place on 10th-13th September. Members considered options to have an official unveiling event of the horse sculptures during the festival, hopefully with a well-known name in attendance. It was felt that an event on the morning of Saturday 12th September, with local dignitaries and the press invited, would

be the best option if possible. To support the event, bunting could be erected in the village along with miniature horse sculptures, and refreshments provided in the Village Hall car park (weather permitting). Cllr Jopling would pursue this option with details to be confirmed in due course.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:10pm.

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on **Wednesday 23rd September 2026**

Signed:.....

Date:.....