

Fishburn Parish Council

Chair Cllr. S.Dowson

Minutes of the June monthly meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday 9th July 2026 in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

Present : Cllr. S.Dowson (Chair),
Cllrs. S.Tinkler, V.Anderson, K.Payne, M.Barker, D.Dowson, C. Leonard.

In attendance : Mr. J.Robinson Parish Clerk.

35.0/26 Apologies

Councillor S.Hughes, County Councillor I. Catchpole, C. Lines

36.0/26 Declaration of Interest

The following declaration of interest were made Cllr. M.Barker, D.Dowson, S.Dowson, V.Anderson K.Payne.

37.0/26 Member dispensation

No issues raised.

38.0/26 Durham County Councillor Report

Cllr. C. Lines had submitted a written report (copy attached to minutes). Clerk advised he had requested both County Councillors to provide details on the County Plan and its effect on the division particularly the additional housing. To date nothing received. Member also noted the comments in Cllr. C. Lines report in regard to Section 106 funding to the tune of £270,000 being spent in Hardwick Country Park. Members strongly objected to this scheme as the funding should be for the benefit of the division's communities and work in Hardwick Country Park is the role of DCC. It was agreed to raise an objection to the scheme and to invite Mr. S.Reed to the next meeting to discuss. Cllr. D.Dowson raised the issue previously agreed to provide young people with lights/yellow strips for the autumn. Both county Councillors agreed to support financially, it was agreed to raise this with them at the September meeting.

39.0/26 Chairman's Report

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the following

1. She had recently placed posts on Facebook regarding dog fouling because of several complaints from residents
2. WAVE invoice received
3. Very successful Battle of the Somme memorial event
4. A successful Upper Skerne Church walk had recently been held
5. Still no update from Cllr. I. Catchpole regarding the planning issue raised by residents concerning Elderberry Mews.

6. An excellent Italian Night had been organised by the church, to allow them to hold more such events have requested a grant from the Solar Power Fund to purchase a cooker. It was proposed Cllr. S.Dowson seconded Cllr. S.Tinkler and agreed to donate £250.
7. She reported that Blachere have had an external firm undertake an assessment of the trees and remedial work. All trees working bar 1. DCC have identified several issues and written formally to Blachere.
8. Land Sale proceeding, Council have engaged Evans in Spennymoor.
9. Members invited to a joint meeting between FYCC/School/Church/Council on 30th July 2026.to discuss the 100th Celebration of the opening of the Welfare Hall.

39.0/26 Minutes of monthly meeting held on 11th June 2026.

The minutes were proposed Cllr. K.Payne seconded Cllr. V.Anderson and agreed.

40.0/26 Correspondence

The following was received:-

- a. Register of Electors monthly alterations
- b. Various e-mails circulated for information, received
- c. Clerks and Councils Newsletter.
- d. _Request from Open Reach to replace previous scheme with ducts across the green
It was agreed to the scheme but Open Reach to ensure no effect on the Christmas lights.
- e. Concern regarding anti-social behaviour and young people on bikes. Members noted Cllr. I. Catchpole had agreed to arrange a meeting with the police to discuss this but yet no date given for the meeting.
- f. Woodland Association advising application for tree saplings had been successful and they will arrive in September
- g. DCC Press release asking Councillors to support NALC Civility Campaign.
- h. NEAS advises they are looking into ownership of Fishburn Ambulance Station before they can give permission to site a de-fibrillator on the wall of the station.

41.0/26 Report on Outside Bodies/Meetings

Cllr. M.Barker reported on the site visit to the allotments. 3 gates need repair, Cllr. S.Dowson advised she would ask Mr. H.D to look at the gates and advise on what is required. Cllr. Barker advised there is a major issue of Russian Vine affecting several allotment's and coming from the WMC side of the wall. It was agreed to hold a meeting in September with WMC Chairman, Allotment Committee, S.E.Landscape and Council to discuss the way forward. Clerk to co-ordinate meeting date with Cllr. M.Barker and then contact WMC.

42.0/26 Environment/Cemetery/Allotment Issues

1. Clerk advised there have been several issues on the former coke work site involving the police and young people riding bikes
2. Several members expressed concern regarding the bushes/area in front of Aged Miners Bungalows, Clerk to refer the issue to this housing group

3. Several members expressed concern at the flower beds being all white and no colour. Members also felt future should have more sustainable planting. Agreed to invite S.E.Landscape to the September meeting to discuss
4. Clerk advised he had spoken to the Clerk of the Bishopric Court, and they are prepared to accept a Statuary Declaration that the Council own Fishburn Cemetery followed by application to register with Land Registry, once this is completed they would arrange consecration in Autumn. Agreed Chairman and Clerk arrange Statuary Declaration asap.

43.0/26 Annual Accounts

Clerk re-presented the Annual Accounts for those members who had been unable to attend the special meeting and answered members queries.

44.0/26 Monthly Financial Reconciliation

Cllr. M.Barker proposed seconded Cllr. C. Leonard and agreed to accept report on Invoice and Expenditure and to authorise payment of monthly accounts. Copy attached to minutes.

45.0/26 Planning Matters

There was no planning issues raised.

46.0/26 Floodlighting of Church

PCC had written to the Council advising the electrician has submitted a quote of £900 to undertake first phase of the work. This was agreed.

47.0/26 Road Traffic Management Plan

Members noted no progress has been made since September when Cllr. I. Catchpole had agreed to arrange a multi meeting between DCC/Police/Council to discuss

48.0/26 Bowling Green Pavillion

The Chairman advised she had recently been to look at the bowling pavilion and the possibility of using it for Council events. It was agreed to meeting at the site to look at the pavilion 6.30pm on 23rd Jule 2026.

49.0/26 Spirit of Fishburn

Members unanimously agreed that the 2026 award be presented to Mr. Jason Bell for his work across the Parish. It was agreed to present the award at the September meeting. The Chairman agreed to advise him of his success and invite him to the meeting on behalf of the Council.

50.0/26 Date of next meeting The next meeting to be held on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre

Signed:-
September 2026

Chair Fishburn Parish Council 10th

