Fishburn Parish Council

Chair Cllr. S.Dowson

Minutes of the November monthly meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday 12th November 2026 in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

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

In attendance : County Councillor C. Lines

Mr. J.Robinson Parish Clerk.

Prior to the meeting a resident spoke of his wish to produce an in-depth village emergency plan, a copy of which had been previously circulated to members by the Clerk. It was agreed the Chairman and Clerk meet with the resident and report back to a future meeting.

83.0/26 Apologies

County Councillor I. Catchpole

84.0/26 Declaration of Interest

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

85.0/26 Member dispensation

No issues raised.

86.0/26 Durham County Councillor Report

Both County Councillors had submitted written report. Cllr. C. Lines answered member question relating to his report.

87.0/26 Chairman's Report

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the following

1. After a technical issue the church floodlighting has been switched on and receiving positive comments from across the Parish. Over 5000 hits on the Facebook alone. It was agreed for safety reasons to purchase a lockable cupboard to cover the switch box inside the church. Cllr. D.Dowson agreed to arrange this.
2. Cllr. S.Dowson and M.Barker had attended the joint Parish meeting to discuss the proposed Wynard Village development. It was agreed to plan into the 27/28 budget £1000 in case it will be required to support the campaign.
3. Cllrs. S.Dowson, M.Barker, the Clerk and S.E.Landscape had attended a meeting with the Chair of Fishburn Working Men's Club to discuss the overgrown Russian Vine. The meeting had agreed the club commission the removal of the vine and

insure the contractor. The Council to pay for the removal of the vine from the allotments. The cost to be £430. This approach was endorsed by members.

4. She advised a hole had appeared on the village green which after approach from the Council NWA had dealt with
5. NWA bill for the Pavillion is still being challenged. NWA have inspected the area and their report is awaited.
6. An issue has arisen in regard to a 4 year bill from Northern Power for standing charges for the box on the green. The box having been disconnected 4 years ago. An update from the company is awaited.
7. She advised the outstanding bill from Blachere for providing the Christmas lights has been challenged. £5300 has been paid and the remainder challenged due to them not working fully in 2025. She is awaiting a report from their Regional Manager.

88.0/26 Minutes of monthly meeting held on 1st October 2026.

The minutes were proposed Cllr. K.Payne seconded Cllr. M.Barker and agreed.

89.0/26 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. CDALC requesting Nominations for Local Network Panel, Cllr. S.Dowson and V.Anderson were nominated
e. DCC advising allotment holders must now house all birds due to avian flu
f. Confirmation that the Annual Return for both Charities has been accepted by the Charity Commission

90.0/26 Report on Outside Bodies/Meetings

Cllr. V.Anderson gave a report on the recent Sedgefield Charities and Educational Foundation meeting

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91.0/26 Environment/Cemetery/Allotment Issues

Members were advised a white cross has been spray painted at the cemetery. Matter to be monitored and cross to be removed.

92.0/26 Annual Budget setting

Clerk advised DCC have sent the budget projections for 2027/28 with an increase of 3 properties. It was agreed the Clerk circulate a draft budget ready for consideration at the next meeting.

93.0/26 Monthly Financial Reconciliation

Cllr. M.Barker proposed seconded Cllr. S.Dowson and agreed to accept report on Income and Expenditure and to authorise payment of monthly accounts. Copy attached to minutes. In regard to the application for funding from DCC for the outdoor adult gym they still require

agreement for CISWO which the Clerk is following up ,and confirmation planning permission is not required an item Cllr. I. Catchpole has agreed to follow up.

94.0/26 Planning Matters

There was no planning issues to discuss.

95.0/26 Commonwealth Graves

Members discussed an approach by a resident about Commonwealth Graves in the Cemetery. The Clerk advised he had confirmed with the Commonwealth Grave Commission and there are no graves in Fishburn Cemetery relating to the armed services.

96.0/26 Car Parking Village Green

Chair advised a resident had complained regarding cars parking on the village green to attend local businesses. Clerk had circulated to members the email and relevant photographs. Chair had asked the environment contractor to install extra posts to prevent it happening again. Clerk has written to County Councillors, highways and local police requesting a meeting to discuss same. Concern was also expressed in regard to cars parking on the corner, sometimes double parking, this to be raised at the meeting also.

97.0/26 Signage into/out of Fishburn

A resident had expressed concern at the signs into the village and need to separate them from the Sedgefield signs. Cllr. C. Lines agreed to take this forward to ask DCC and request for blue/yellow signs on all 4 entrances. Cllr. C. Lines advised legal notices will be required to undertake the moving of the signs, plus the provision of the signs will attract a cost in the region of £10,000. At this point in time he advised DCC does not have this funding, and members agreed the Parish Council are unable to fund. It was agreed to contact the resident advising of this and when funding is available it will be addressed.

98.0/26 Christmas Light Switch On

The event is planned for 2nd December and band confirmed. Cllr. S.Tinkler has purchased a special bauble for the young person who switches them on. Clerk has purchased selection boxes and mince pies.

93.0/26 Date of next meeting

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 10th December 2026 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre

Signed:- Chair Fishburn Parish Council 10th December 2026