Fishburn Parish Council

Chair Cllr. S.Dowson

Minutes of the September monthly meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday 1st October 2026 in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.

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

In attendance : County Councillor I. Catchpole,

Mr. J.Robinson Parish Clerk.

68.0/26 Apologies

Councillors V.Anderson, C. Leonard, County Councillor C. Lines

69.0/26 Declaration of Interest

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

70.0/26 Member dispensation

No issues raised.

71.0/26 Durham County Councillor Report

Cllr. I. Catchpole advised the bollards are to be installed south of the village to try and stop parking on the junction edge. He advised he is now the Chair of the Local Network Partnership.

72.0/26 Chairman's Report

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the following

1. Mr. G. Hindson film company will begin filming in Fishburn shortly and has invited members to a meeting to discuss same 3rd October.
2. WAVE will be onsite to investigate the leak 13th October, Cllr. D.Dowson agreed to be present to assist them in entry to the Pavillion and stop tap.
3. The signs for the proposed bus stop library have arrived and it will be completed mid-October.
4. DCC are to install switches to each tree with Christmas lights attached at a cost of £1305.32

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73.0/7326 Minutes of monthly meeting held on 10th September 2026.

The minutes were proposed Cllr. D.Dowson seconded Cllr. S.Dowson and agreed.

74.0/26 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. Flyer from Sedgefield Area Men's Social advertising a talk on Prostrate Cancer 8th October
e. Confirmation Pitch Power Inspection visit 25th November 2026 at 1.30pm
f. Invite to a meeting to discuss proposed housing developments on edge of Wynard, 19th October 2026 6pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall.
g. Letter from a resident regarding safety of animals, Cllr. Catchpole agreed to raise the matter directly with DCC.

75.0/26 Report on Outside Bodies/Meetings

Clerk reported on the recent meeting with DCC regarding the awarding of Section 106 Funding to a project in Hardwick Park. DCC stated they had done nothing different with this application to others across the County and dealt with in accordance with the DCC Policy.

76.0/26 Environment/Cemetery/Allotment Issues

Members discussed concerns regarding Russian Vine on the allotments. It was agreed to a meeting on site/in wmc club 6pm October 20th, 2026. Cllr. M.Barker agreed to discuss with allotment committee and invite a representative from this body to the meeting and the Chairman agreed to discuss with the Chair of the club and invite them as well.
Cllr. S.Tinkler raised the issue of were to site the de-fibrillator in Fishburn Colliery area. It was agreed to approach DCC to see if it may be attached to lamppost 226/32, Cllr. I. Catchpole agreed to follow up.
Members discussed the application to the Local Network for funding towards the provision of an adult gym on the sports site. Cllr. S.Tinkler agreed to chase up 3 tenders and Cllr. I. Catchpole agreed to liaise with the planners at DCC to see if it will need planning permission as it will not be a permanent structure like a playground.

77.0/26 Annual Audit

Clerk advised the Annual Audit has now been completed and an un-qualified report issued. One minor issue raised was the need to alter figures on the AGAR, this not to be repeated in forthcoming years. Completion Notice has been uploaded onto the website.

78.0/26 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.

79.0/26 Planning Matters

There was no planning issues raised.

80.0/26 Floodlighting of Church

It was agreed to switch on the floodlighting 6pm on 18th October 2026 and to provide refreshments up to £200.

81.0/26 Road Traffic Management Plan

Cllr. I. Catchpole had emailed a copy of a plan given to him by Durham County Highways. It was agreed to discuss at the November meeting.

82.0/26 Date of next meeting

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 13th November 2026 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre

Signed:- Chair Fishburn Parish Council 13th November 2026