

Fishburn Parish Council

Chair Cllr. S.Dowson

**Minutes of the June monthly meeting of Fishburn Parish Council held on Thursday
10th September 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 : County Councillors I. Catchpole, C. Lines

Mr. J.Robinson Parish Clerk.

51.0/26 Apologies

Councillor S.Hughes

52.0/26 Declaration of Interest

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

53.0/26 Member dispensation

No issues raised.

54.0/26 Durham County Councillor Report

Cllr. C. Lines and I. Catchpole both submitted written reports and answered questions in respect of both. Cllr. I. Catchpole referred to an £8 million shortfall in the County Budget as well as major financial issues with the Fire Authority, major decisions to be made by both organisations.

55.0/26 Chairman's Report

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the following

1. The Council Facebook now has 741 followers
2. WAVE invoice received, agreed to investigate a possible leak
3. Excellent response to the VJ/Navy flags being raised.
4. The 'Happy Bench' has been repaired at a cost of £141
5. Mr. Hindson is doing a film in the village and is seeking funding. It was moved Cllr. M.Barker seconded Cllr. S.Dowson and approved to donate £300 under Section 137 funding.

56.0/26 Minutes of monthly meeting held on 9th July 2026.

The minutes were proposed Cllr. D.Dowson seconded Cllr. V.Anderson and agreed.

57.0/26 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. Letter from NEAS advising installing the De-fibrillator at the ambulance station will require major work and not financially viable. It was agreed to explore installing it on the fencing next to the church. Cllr. S.Dowson agreed to raise it with the company installing the lamppost.
- e. DCC Environmental Health re fires on the allotments. Cllr. M.Barker advised the allotment committee are aware of the issue and remind allotment holders of the rules regarding fires. DCC have not followed the issue up further.
- f. Resident concerned about the state of the road in front of Salvin garages. Chair advised area to be repaired shortly.
- g. British Telecom agreement for the new open reach fibre optic received and way leaf payment.
- h. Notification from Charity Commission Annual Report submitted and accepted
- i. Circular from Sedgefield Education Foundation
- j. Letter from Mr. S.Reed offering a meeting to discuss S106 funding to Hardwick Country Park, 11th September 4pm
- k. Complaint regarding the piece of land behind the Co-op currently being sold. It was agreed to contact them advising the land is currently being sold and to ask S.E.Landscape to look at the land and report back.

58.0/26 Report on Outside Bodies/Meetings

Cllr. S.Dowson reported on the running issue of Christmas Lights and Blachere. At present every tree is working. She is negotiating the final invoice with the company
Cllr. V.Anderson and S.Dowson advised members they had met the electrician and are able to use the control panel for the church floodlighting. Cllr. S.Dowson advised the preparatory work for the new Street Light will be £350, this was agreed
Cllr. S.Dowson, M.Barker and Clerk had met with other Parishes in the Division and Cllr. C. Lines to discuss the emerging Durham County Plan. Members agreed to continue to meet with other Parishes and to fully participate in the programme and if funding is required refer to Council for agreement.

59.0/26 Environment/Cemetery/Allotment Issues

A general discussion took place regarding all areas.

60.0/26 Annual Audit

Clerk advised the Annual Audit has still not been completed.

61.0/26 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.

62.0/26 Planning Matters

There was no planning issues raised.

63.0/26 Floodlighting of Church

It was agreed to switch on the floodlighting 6pm on 18th October 2026 and to provide refreshments up to £300. Cllr. S.Dowson agreed to post on Facebook an update for residents.

64.0/26 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.

65.0/26 Local Government Pay Award

Proposed Cllr. S.Dowson seconded Cllr. M.Barker and agreed to pay the Nationally agreed salary increase of 3.3% backdated to 1st April.

66.0/26 Events

Remembrance Day Sunday 9th November floodlights to red for the weekend
Christmas Light Switch On 2nd November same format as in previous years

67.0/26 Date of next meeting

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 6.30pm in Fishburn Youth and Community Centre

Signed:-
October 2026

Chair Fishburn Parish Council 10th