



MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 19th June 2023 at 7pm
at Fernwood Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: David Mack, Ian McGregor, Neill Mison (Chair), Leigh Rixon, Kimberley Shepherd (Vice-chair), Jim Weale, and Mollie Weale

Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

Residents/Public 2 Fernwood residents (left during item 117b)

Newark & Sherwood District Councillors Neil Allen, Simon Haynes, Jack Kellas (left after item 107)

Agenda, reports and accompanying information for this meeting is available on the Council's website here: [Agenda pack for this meeting](#)

101. Declaration of intent to record, film or photograph the meeting by members, members of the public or the press

The meeting was recorded by the Clerk.

102. Apologies for absence - None

103. Declarations of Interest - None.

104. Public Forum

A resident gave an update on the rumble strip near their home detailing that they have asked their neighbour to write to Via directly regarding the issues this is causing them.

105. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and May Parish Council meetings held on 15th May 2023

Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record and Councillor Mison signed them.

106. Councillors' and Clerk's Report

Cllr Mison – Remembered the people in Nottingham who sadly lost their lives last week and asked the attendees to join him to pause the meeting for reflection. Detailed, that it has a busy month for the council and thanked the councillors for their contributions over the last four weeks.

Cllr Shepherd – Regarding the flats on Johnsons Road and Gardiner Avenue, the residents have been raising concerns about the overgrown hedging/overgrowth. She has had a lot of correspondence with Centrick. The work was finally done last week.

Cllr Rixon – Has investigated who manages Sherwood Lodge due to concerns regarding the fencing/upkeep of the area and will contact Via regarding this. Regarding the coat of arms, he has checked, and the Lancaster has 4 engines rather than 5.

Councillor training completed since the last meeting: Code of Conduct Training – Cllrs Mack, Mison.

June Clerk's report	Agenda Item
Barratt David Wilson Homes (BDWH) transfer of the open spaces in central Fernwood – Our solicitor is due to meet with BDWH regarding this.	21/46c 23/37
CCTV for Rubys Walk and Over park off Rubys Avenue – Still awaiting formal quote from N&SDC – they will get this to us as soon as possible but cannot confirm when this will be.	22/113
Hollowdyke Lane – Via have said they will not change the mandatory speed limit to 30mph. They had offered this previously (2019), but the County Councillor opted for advisory 20mph signs. Response received - see item 115. Our transport planning specialist has suggested that the costs for keeping Hollowdyke Lane will be prohibitive – still awaiting written confirmation.	22/24 22/139 22/153 23/17 23/31
Interactive Speed Sign on Dale Way – See item 108di – the lead time to obtain the sign is 12-14 weeks once we have agreed the expenditure.	22/114
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – See item 108e. Council to consider consultation results when the council's strategy is reviewed (due July meeting).	22/163f
Woodland Update - Costall Woods – Wildlife Garden – N&SDC continue to return to water the plants/trees as necessary. They also cut the area directly behind Marron Court. Community bat box making went very well with 19 boxes being made. They will be put up in Costall Woods. Thanks go to the ranger, Simon, from Sconce Park (N&SDC) for his help on this project and all the residents that attended.	23/34
Rumble Strips Replacement – A report with collated consultation responses was sent in March for NCC/Via with a request to address this issue and an offer for CIL to fund works required. A response was received from Via which did not seem to consider the evidence the FPC had sent. Via East Midlands has responded to request to ask them to reconsider the letter fully as it provides references to Nottinghamshire County Council's policy not to have rumble strips in residential areas and of the effect they're having on some of the households that are close by. See item 115	23/17a 23/24 23/44
Double Yellow Lines Ruby Avenue – (As last month) Via/NCC consultation ended on 10/3/23. A Via officer had advised 'Objections have been received for this scheme to which a report will be submitted to NCC to the Cabinet Member for the Environment for their adjudication.' The Traffic Regulation Order no longer appears on and NCC's website. The officer who was dealing with the consultation has said it is still going through the objection procedure.	23/28
Village Hall: Extension Investigations – Parking survey was conducted from May 11th to 15th. Awaiting report from contractor. Cellar Cooler: Bar provider has confirmed the product chosen is suitable. Due to be fitted in first week of July. Canvases: Some of our regular users have ben invited to partake; updates to follow.	
Dog bins – Replacement bin on Cross Lane (opposite the nursing home) has now been replaced. All bins were checked w/c 5/6/23	23/26
Community Event – Road closure application – Awaiting paperwork from Via officer but this has been agreed and will be free of charge. Planning meeting held 9/6/23 with councillors and FirstPort. Volunteers meeting due to be arranged and Event Management Plan being worked on. See item 114	23/45c
Village Hall Fencing (being replaced due to poor condition of current fencing) – Lawful Development Certificate has been issued by N&SDC. To be completed in September (taking 5-6 days for completion).	23/45c
Request for improved Bus Service to/from Fernwood – NCC Councillor has been consulted on high level priorities. No response has been received following the letter that was been sent to NCC's portfolio holder for public transport (21/4/23).	23/51a
Training and Development – All councillors have attended a Parish Council Induction session and have received an induction pack. N&SDC code of conduct and planning training	23/66

June Clerk's report	Agenda Item
has been scheduled – Councillors requested to report back on training during their councillor reports (item106). Also see item 108 – courses to be booked.	
Phoenix Park: Drainage Issue – Cllr Shepherd collecting photos/data. BDWH have said they are looking for solutions so they shouldn't need to move the dog bin. A resident raised concerns regarding the woodchips and their suitability and the exposed fitting on the climbing frame. This has been raised with BDWH and they have said 'there is very little that can be done with this. They are not typically covered on play parks.'	
A qualified play park inspector assessed the park before it opened.	

107. District Councillors Reports

Cllr Mison introduced Cllrs Neil Allen, Simon Haynes and Jack Kellas. Cllr Haynes reported that there has been lots of training, a cabinet has been formed and a coalition between Labour and the Independents are leading the council with the Conservatives in opposition. Cllr Kellas reported that he had attended the Audit and Governance Committee. A question was asked about what support parish councils get and what support is offered by N&SDC. He was assured that the monitoring officer is always there if anyone from parish council needs to seek advice. The Policy, Performance and Improvement Committee will be meeting w/c 26th June. Cllr Allen told attendees that a household glass recycling scheme is planned, with new glass bins being emptied every 8 weeks. The council asked various questions about this.

Link to FAQ on glass bins on N&SDC website:

<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/kerbsideglassfaq/>

108. Finance

- a. [Bank reconciliation](#) – noted.
- b. Year to date income – noted.
- c. Expenditure since last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure was noted.
- d. Items of Expenditure considered:

Expenditure	Budget Area	Amount	Decision
i. Interactive speed sign	Capital projects signage (CIL)	£9539.23	Unanimously agreed* - see note below.
ii. Hedge trimmer (VonHaus)	Miscellaneous - open spaces	£91.66 plus VAT	Unanimously agreed.
iii. Preliminary Legal work (Allison Homes land/maintenance agreement)	Legal services	In region of £4100 plus VAT	Unanimously agreed.
iv. Councillor Training (5 new councillors)	Training - Councillors	£225	Unanimously agreed.
v. Chairman Training (Clerk and vice chair)	Training - Councillors	£90	Unanimously agreed.
vi. Engaging with local communities through digital engagement	Training - Councillors	£32.68 plus VAT	Unanimously agreed.
vii. Empowering young voices in your community	Training - Councillors	£32.68 plus VAT	Unanimously agreed.

Expenditure	Budget Area	Amount	Decision
viii. Making the planning system work for local councils (Training - Councillors	£32.68 plus VAT	Unanimously agreed.

* Interactive speed sign – Clerk to establish wording and size of the sign, obtain an image and as a courtesy contact resident living near to where it will be located. Once responses have been received the Clerk will send a purchase order.

- e. The council noted the Community Infrastructure Levy Monitoring Report for 2022/23.

109. Planning

- a. Planning Authority decisions which were noted:

23/00718/LDCP	Fernwood Village Hall, Rubys Way, Fernwood	Replacement of existing fencing with V-mesh fencing to the perimeter of the village hall garden and car park.	Certificate of Lawful Use issued
23/00630/HOUSE	14 Gilmores Lane, Fernwood	Wooden gazebo structure (part retrospective)	Grant Householder Application

110. Policy

Updated documents considered:

- a. Communications and Engagement Policy – The council unanimously agreed to the proposed changes to this document.

Documents reviewed

- b. Model Document Publication Scheme
- c. Village Hall Fire Safety Policy
- d. Village Hall Fire Emergency Plan
- e. Banner Policy

The council unanimously agreed to make no changes to items b, c and d and to the minor changes suggested to the Village Hall Fire Emergency Plan.

111. Bat Activity report

The Council noted the bat activity survey report and agreed the pollarding of tree 853 should be arranged after the bird nesting season (October onwards).

112. Dale Crescent

The Council unanimously agreed to the following actions:

- a. Write to residents who have complained to suggest they speak to the families of the young people involved to try to find solution. Also, to signpost residents to the community protection team at N&SDC to see if they could help with this matter.
- b. Contact gas and water suppliers to try to identify the pipe and whether any action is required.
- c. Arrange for N&SDC to do a one off visit and weed/edge and define the shrubbery.
- d. Arrange for the shrubbery to be redesigned (to reduce maintenance requirements) for planting in the autumn.

113. August 27th event

The clerk gave a verbal update and the council agreed to call the event 'Fernwood's Party in the Park'. An advert for the event will be included in the July Fernwood Gazette.

114. Consideration of Via East Midlands' response regarding Fernwood Parish Council's requests for a 30mph TRO on Hollowdyke Lane and adaptations to rumble strips on Goldstraw Lane and Dale Way

The council agreed it could do no more (CIL funding offered but declined to pay for work involved) to persuade Via EM's and NCC to reduce the speed limit to 30mph. The local police officer's feedback offering to deploy a mobile speed camera to show presence and offer reassurance will be accepted. Drivers could be stopped to advise them about driving at a safe speed rather than enforcement. The fact that signs are missing will be raised with Via to address.

Rumble strips – Clerk to request a quote for the work, write to residents being disturbed by the strips and advise them to contact Via East Midlands directly and research possible alternatives which would allow for people crossing and reduce speed.

115. Consideration of a grant application from Fernwood Petanque Club

The council agreed to award £200 to Fernwood Petanque Club under LGA 1972, S 137.

116. Consideration of a free usage require for a carers' group

The council unanimously agreed to provide free usage of the small hall for 1.5 hours per month for this group.

117. Correspondence

- a. Email regarding FirstPort/leaseholders/freeholders – Clerk to reply to clarify what was said in the councillors' manifesto and invite the resident to the July meeting.
- b. Update from Nottinghamshire County Council on the new Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan – noted.
- c. Email regarding lack of burial facilities in Fernwood and excessive charges elsewhere – the council noted the email and confirmed that they will conduct a residents' priorities consultation in due course.

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council unanimously agreed to close the meeting to the press and public.

118. Discussion on legal arrangements for Allison Homes development ownership and maintenance

The council unanimously agreed to proceed with the initial legal work to move this forward.

119. Discussion on how to proceed with communications with Nottinghamshire County Council

The council discussed potential options but will seek advice from the monitoring officer regarding activity following the last parish council meeting before agreeing how to proceed.

Meeting closed at 10.25pm

Next Meeting: Monday 17th July 2023, 7pm, Fernwood Village Hall