



MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 18th January 2021 at 7pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Parish Councillors: R. Cullen, D. Harrison, H. Micah, J. Newton, B. Smith
 (Chair), J. Weale, M. Weale

District and County Councillors: Neill Mison (District) left after item 10

Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

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

2. Public Forum

5 households joined the meeting. No items were raised for discussion in the public forum.

3. Apologies for absence

None.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16th November 2020

The Parish Council minutes were approved as accurate record. Proposer: R. Cullen, Seconder: J. Newton, RESOLVED unanimously. *Councillor B. Smith to sign the minutes and send to the Clerk.*

6. Councillors & Clerk Reports

Councillor J. Weale – Suggested that the Council discuss what the CIL will be used for.

Councillor R. Cullen – Attended Bantycok Liaison meeting in December. The consultation has finished on the southern development. Recently blasting has been closer to Fernwood – they are now moving away from Fernwood again but will come closer again in approximately 6 months time. In approximately 7 years time, a nature reserve will be made at the end of Cross Lane (over the bridge).

Clerk to include CIL on future agenda.

JANUARY Clerk's report	Agenda Item
Met with NSDC on December 14 th . Discussed maintenance and land ownership in Fernwood – Reminded them that we need figures to assist with long term budget.	19/249a 19/297e
No feedback from Saint-Gobain Formula/British Gypsum following attempts to pursue the idea of extending Cross Lane toward the Southern Relief Road.	19/294
Village Hall transfer from NSDC to Fernwood Parish Council – Our solicitor still awaiting feedback from NSDC.	19/287b
Meeting with Robert Jenrick to discuss managed estates and land ownership – still awaiting date – reminder has been sent	20/18
Great North Road (B6326) repairs – Latest feedback (21/12/20) – ‘The work at Fernwood is programmed in for the week commencing 8 th March. This is provisional especially if we have bad weather in the meantime but the work is programmed in which is the main thing’	20/18
Derry's woodland. See agenda item 11	20/35e 20/125
Covid 19 Update – The village hall is currently closed again due to National lockdown. Ready to reopen as soon as we are allowed. Now receiving Business Support Grant.	20/33
Signage regarding dogs – new sign on order for the village hall fence.	20/69
Dale Crescent – Suggestions for additional equipment items – see agenda item 12.	20/96 20/128
LCP properties have repaired the 2 street lights which were not working in the car park between the village hall and nursery. Clerk has also reminded them that the Council would like the flower beds to be improved/tied up. See item 13	20/107
Streetlight that is out on the path between Dale Way and Rubys Avenue – This will be dealt with by the Parish Council if the woodland purchase proceed. If not, the land owner will need to do this – see item 11.	20/114g
B6326 Road Safety – Via East Midlands have agreed to install more 40mph signage on this road following the Parish Council's request in December. Liaising with the Suthers School on this who met with representatives from NCC in December. NCC has put together a proposal of further measures to address concerns raised and that this set of proposals (in addition to the proposed increase in number of speed limit signs) The Parish Council and Suthers School will continue to work together on this.	20/120
BT Cloud phone has been installed. Loft insulation was done in December – third quote was more competitive so this cost less than expected.	
More CIL will arrive on 19 January £ 109,057. Most of this will be moved to the Yorkshire Building Society 24 month term deposit account.	
Developer signage – planning enforcement feedback see agenda item 17 c ‘At the moment I do not consider further enforcement action is necessary’.	
The Council has gained the Ministry of Defence's Bronze Award in Defence Employer Recognition Scheme	20/130a

<p>Update regarding Anti Social Behaviour in Fernwood following a meeting held on 1 November 17th. Next meeting due this month.</p> <p>Representatives from Fernwood Parish Council, Police Constable Mead (Fernwood and Balderton Beat Manager) and Newark and Sherwood District Council's Anti Social Behaviour Officer met yesterday to update on what has/is being done to tackle anti social behaviour in the village.</p> <p>Since the last meeting in September, it was agreed anti social behaviour has reduced. PC Mead detailed that a no nonsense approach has been taken when a crime has been committed. 'A youth was arrested and taken home and we will police the issues and enforce when possible. In certain circumstances, offenders could be taken to Mansfield custody and dealt with at a higher level if necessity grounds are met'. The problem seems to have dispersed and individuals involved have moved on.</p> <p>There have been issues with knock and runs and the Police have been working to tackle this by coming in plain clothes/cars and doing foot patrols. The District Council's Community Protection Officer are coming to the village to keep an eye on things too. The fight detailed in the press last week was not antisocial behaviour related. The issue was exacerbated on social media but the Police have reassured us that it has been dealt with appropriately.</p> <p>We are hoping to get a Youth Initiative meeting organised before Christmas; this has been delayed due to Covid.</p> <p>If you missed the anti social behaviour survey that was delivered with the Fernwood Gazette last month and you would like to have your say, please email Hannah.Cox@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk as soon as possible.</p> <p>If you have any issue, please Report It: For a crime in progress or emergency, ring 999. To report a crime or nuisance, call the Police on 101.</p>	
<p>Barratt David Wilson Homes Meeting. Liaison meeting held in December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A path is due to be installed along Hollowdyke Lane from Spring Drive to Thomas Road. Hollowdyke Lane will need to be closed whilst this work is being done. To minimise disruption this work will be done on weekends (taking approximately 10 days in total). This will mean construction traffic will continue to use Hollowdyke Lane rather than come through the village. The dates have not been set for the work but residents living close by that this will affect will receive a notification. • A water main is due to be installed along the closed part of Hollowdyke Lane. Dates have not been set yet. • The developers have agree to improve the 20mph signage on Hollowdyke Lane (currently signs are just in one direction). They will also move the children crossing signs to closer to where the children are actually crossing (currently the signage is closer to the B6326 end) • Couriers/Delivery drivers are missing some of the houses on Phoenix Lane near the substation. A sign will be installed on the grass there to make the numbering clear. • Marketing Signage – a lot of signage was removed following a retrospective planning application was rejected by NSDC. There is still some signage in the village and the Planning Enforcement understand another application is to be submitted. 	20/130b
<p>Tree Survey has been done on the trees in the Village hall and Dale Crescent. No work required other than on T1 in the village hall garden – 'branches are beginning to encroach towards the light and its splay - Prune to give 1.5m clearance.' Contractor booked to do this work – will include in the price of the survey.</p>	
<p>NSDC Highways South of Newark Stakeholder Forum – Councillor Cullen and the clerk will attend this meeting on January 19th for updates on local roads and developments.</p>	

7. County Councillor and District Councillors Reports

Councillor Mison – Noted Antisocial behaviour seems to have declined. NSDC has put in a response regarding the proposals for the A46. There is a public consultation on this.

Clerk to add Road Infrastructure around Fernwood to the February agenda.

8. Finance

a. Bank reconciliations circulated to members previously – noted.

Bank Reconciliation

Period Ending 31-Dec-20

Fernwood Parish Council

Prepared by: *Marion Fox Gaddard, Clerk*

Date: 07 January 2021

Approved by:

Date:

Balance per bank statement as at 31-December-2020

	£	Total £
TSB Current Account - Parish Council	£8,440.45	
TSB Reserve Account - Parish Council	£60,288.33	
Unity Trust - Parish Council	£54,468.74	
TSB Current Account - Village Hall	£5,419.70	
TSB Reserve Account - Village Hall	£7,154.66	
Unity Trust - Village Hall	£8,295.89	
Nationwide	£83,263.36	
Petty Cash	None held	
		227,331.13
Less: any unpresented cheques/BACS payments at 31-December-2020		£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash / cleared cheques at 31-December-2020		£0.00
Net bank balances as at 31-December-2020		£227,331.13

The net balances reconcile to the Cash book (receipts and payments)

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance	£116,643.37
Add: Receipts in the year	£175,193.82
Less: Payments in the year	£64,506.06
Closing balance per cash book as at 31-December-2020	£227,331.13

Ringfenced Amounts in the Parish Council Reserve Account/Nationwide

CIL	£80,073.36
General Reserve	£60,288.33
	£140,361.69

b. Income 2020/21 Total	£
Regular Hire	6,559.40
Other Hall Hire	141.00
Commission	363.84
CIL	83,263.36
Covid/ Business Support Grant	10,467.00
Feed in tariff	1,368.18
Precept	70,008
VAT Rebate	2,572.00
Interest	381.04
Advertising income	70.00
Total	£175,193.82

c. Expenditure since last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure					
Payee	Budget Area	Net £	VAT £	Total £	Payment Method
	Salaries (December and January)			9,261.92	BACS
Parish Council					
Zoom	Online meeting platform	28.78		28.78	BACS
BNP Paribas	Copiers and Copies (6 months)	582.74	116.54	699.28	BACS
Apogee	Copiers and Copies	8.65	1.73	10.38	BACS
Unity Bank Charges	Bank Charges	18.00		18.00	BACS
Wilkos	Stationery	2.50	0.50	3.00	CARD
NSDC	Annual Play equipment safety check	95.00	19.00	114.00	BACS
Marion Fox Goddard	Parish Council Staff Expenses	22.73		22.73	BACS
Amazon EU S.a.r.l. UK branch	Individual Items - Parish Council – extension lead	9.35	1.87	11.22	CARD
Amazon EU S.a.r.l. UK branch	Stationery	14.53	2.91	17.44	CARD
Amazon EU S.a.r.l. UK branch	Stationery	17.49	3.50	20.99	CARD
London general insurance	Stationery	2.59		2.59	CARD
Forest Farm Tree Services	Tree Survey Dale Crescent/Village Hall	330.00	66.00	396.00	BACS
Village Hall					
1&1	Email provider & domain	15.96	3.20	19.16	BACS
SSE	Electricity	456.13	22.80	478.93	BACS
Guardian Legionella & Hygiene	Legionella Control	174.50	34.90	209.40	BACS
PHS Group	Waste Service	214.53	42.91	257.44	BACS
Unity Bank Charges	Bank Charges	18.00		18.00	BACS
Brighter Bills	Mobile Phones	55.96	11.20	67.16	BACS
Homebase	Individual Items- Village Hall - Shrubs	77.10		77.10	CARD
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire	Individual Items – Village Hall – Model Hire Agreement	35.00		35.00	CARD
MediKit Ltd	Individual Items – Village Hall – First Aid Kit	31.90	6.38	38.28	CARD

PPL PRS	PRS PPL Licence	20.57	4.11	24.68	BACS
JP Fire	Fire risk assessment and extinguisher check	239.00	47.80	286.80	BACS
Waterplus	Water	70.65		70.65	BACS
RB Wholesale	Cleaning Supplies	58.50	11.70	70.20	BACS

d. Items of Expenditure considered

Expenditure	Budget Area	Total £	
Online Training	Training	120.00	Unanimously agreed. Prop.: J. Weale, Sec.: D. Harrison

Consideration of costs related to the woodland purchase were deferred until item 11.

Clerk to arrange training.

e. **Precept request–Budgets for 2021/22 and precept required** - The Council agreed to accept the proposed budget and request a precept of £71,619. (Representing no change in charges to council tax payers - £75.05 per band D property). Proposer: R. Cullen, Seconder: M. Weale, RESOLVED unanimously.

Clerk to send the precept request to NSDC and publish budget report on the Council website.

f. Interim Audit report - The Council noted the report. *Clerk to publish report on the Council website.*

9. Planning and Licensing

a. Planning applications considered:

20/02432/FUL	21 Phoenix Lane Fernwood NG24 3UA	Erection of a summerhouse for use as a hairdressing salon (retrospective)	The Council unanimously agreed to Support this application. Prop.: J. Newton, Sec.: R. Cullen
21/00028/HOUSE	27 Hunters Road Fernwood NG24 3WB	Proposed single storey side extension and detached single storey garden room	The Council unanimously agreed to Support this application. Prop.: D. Harrison, Sec.: J. Weale

b. The Council noted the following decisions made by NSDC since the last meeting

20/01800/LDC	21 Phoenix Lane Fernwood	Application for a lawful development certificate for proposed use of summerhouse as a Hairdressing Salon	Refusal to issue a certificate
20/02017/FUL	Spectrum Wellness, Spectrum Physiotherapy, Cross Lane, Fernwood	Erection of Detached Extension to form Multi-Activity Room	Grant Full Planning Permission
20/02206/HOUSE	4 Thomas Road Fernwood	Single Storey Rear Extension	Grant Householder Application
20/01306/RMAM	Land North & East Of Fernwood West & East Of	Reserved matters application for 228 units, partial re-plan of	Grant Reserved Matters Major

	Spring Lane/Hollowdyke Lane South Of A1 And West Of Railway Line Fernwood	market dwellings of Greater Fernwood Phase 3.	
20/01177/FULM	Field At Great North Road Fernwood	Proposed single petrol filling station forecourt building with associated drive thru, drive thru kiosk, 6no car pump islands, canopy, HGV fuelling, dedicated parking and landscaping.	Grant Full Planning Permission Major

10. Policy Review

- a. New policies that were considered
 - i. **Communications Policy** - The Councillors unanimously agreed to this policy. Prop.: R. Cullen, Sec.: M. Weale.
- b. Documents reviewed
 - i. **Health and Safety Policy** - The Councillors unanimously agreed that no changes were required to this policy. . Prop.: H. Micah, Sec.: D. Harrison.

Risk Register - The Councillors unanimously agreed that no changes were required to this document. Prop.: R. Cullen, Sec.: D. Harrison.

Clerk to publish

11. Woodland behind Fernwood Day Nursery – Consideration of the consultation results and Decision on whether to purchase the land

Since the consultation, the land owner has sold the area behind Marron Court. The Parish Council decided not to proceed with the purchase of the remainder of the land at this time as the withdrawal of this open space from the proposed purchase significantly reduces the range of options for making the area a viable community asset.

Clerk to publish a press release, consultation results and responses to questions raised in the consultation. Clerk to request a plan of the area the landowner is now offering so the purchase can be considered in future.

12. New Play Items on Dale Green – Consideration of the consultation results and Decision on how to proceed with this.

The Council unanimously agreed not to proceed with placing play equipment on Dale Crescent. Four residents of Dale Crescent explained their reasoning for not wanting play equipment on the green. The Council asked residents of Dale Crescent to approach the Council should they think of an idea for the green in future.

Clerk to feedback consultation results and the Council's decision to respondents to the questionnaire.

13. Discussion on Car Park owned by LCP (Between the village hall and nursery)

The owner of the car park had suggested the Parish Council make an offer for the car park. The Councillors were not in favour of this. The lights have been fixed.

14. Section137 Award Review

The Council noted awards made between April 2019 and December 2020.

15. Discussion regarding the Residents Association and complaints regarding the problems having a management company can have when moving/remortgaging

Following increasing number of concerns regarding the management company and lack of clarity on whether the Residents Association were having open meetings to address such issues, the Parish Council wrote to the Residents Association after the last meeting. Resident Association Committee members were unable to attend this Parish Council meeting so the Clerk read out a statement from the Chairman of Fernwood Residents Association – Appendix 2.

Clerk to publish the letter, response and Parish Council feedback as appendices to these meeting minutes.

16. Discussion and agreement on how to proceed regarding sales of fireworks

Cllr Smith explained his concern regarding the distress fireworks cause and suggested writing to the licensing authority. There wasn't a consensus on this issue so no action was agreed.

17. Correspondence

- a. Responses from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding concerns over the safety of pedestrians/cyclists crossing the B6326 - noted. *Clerk to respond with details of where the Council suggests an interactive speed sign would be best placed on the B6326.*
- b. Email from the Headmaster of Suthers School regarding road safety – noted.
- c. Response from NSDC Planning Enforcement regarding Developer Signage – noted.
- d. Introduction from Conservative party candidate for Balderton division for the county council elections – noted.
- e. Email from Via East Midlands – proposed date for B6326 resurfacing w/c 8.3.21- noted.
- f. Request for football goals. *Clerk to write back to suggest this is raised with the Residents Association. The Parish Council would consider partially funding these but consultation would be needed on whether residents are in favour of the idea.*
- g. Message regarding poor bus services for Fernwood, asking what can be done. *Clerk to write to NCC to see if the dial-a-ride idea is being progressed. Clerk to respond to resident.*
- h. Message regarding slippery path within the village green – Noted that grit bins are for the public to use on public paths. If a grit bin was installed, the grit would need to be put on the path by residents. *Clerk to obtain a quote from NCC so the Parish Council can consider purchasing an additional grit bin at the February meeting.*
- i. Request for assistance from the Parish Council in moving forward with plans for a new play area – *Clerk to add this to the agenda for the February Parish Council meeting.*
- j. Request for Dog Bin at the Deeke road at the enclosed area – *Clerk to get quote for this so this can be discussed during the February meeting.*

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Next Meeting: Monday 15th February 2021, 7pm

Appendix 1: Letter to Fernwood Residents Association following the November 2020 Parish Council meeting



Fernwood Parish Council
 Fernwood Village Hall
 Rubys Avenue
 Fernwood

NG24 3RS
 01636 613024
clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk

Dave Mack and Andrew Armstrong
Fernwood Residents Association

November 19th 2020

Dear Dave and Andrew,

I hope that you are both well.

At Monday night's Parish Council meeting, the Councillors discussed residents' concerns over the increase in the FirstPort service charges that are on the latest bill. I understand there is no explanation as to the reason for the increase.

This led to discussion on the need for clarification on what is happening with Fernwood Residents Association as this is the organisation responsible for liaising with FirstPort regarding such issues. From the MyFernwood website, it would appear that there hasn't been any official meetings of the organisation since April 2019 (unless the minutes have just not been added). There was concern that, without meetings which residents can attend/join to raise concerns, the association cannot represent residents appropriately.

I know you were thinking of arranging a meeting but I understand nothing has gone out to residents yet. Please can you clarify what is happening? Is Fernwood Residents Association running, who is in the committee posts and will there will be a public meeting soon and regular open meetings going forward?

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. The Parish Council invite you both and any other committee members, to discuss what is happening with the Residents Association. Details of how to register for the meeting can be found below:

You are invited to a Zoom meeting: Jan 18, 2021 07:00 PM London. Register in advance:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMsceyqpijEtQd0aPuXed9NqK0J32luhXL>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

In the meantime, if you could let the Parish Council know what is happening, it would be much appreciated. As elected representatives, the Councillors need to know what is happening.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Fox Goddard

Marion Fox Goddard

Parish Clerk

Appendix 2: Response from Fernwood Residents Association following the letter dated 19/11/20

Dear Marion and the Fernwood Parish Council

Thank you for your letter regarding your meeting on January 18th 2021.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, I will not be able to attend the meeting. Drew Armstrong will try to attend, but this depends upon the DfE releasing new Covid-19 instructions at short notice. With this in mind I have prepared the following statement, which I hope you can read out at the meeting and enter into the minutes.

FRA Committee Statement:

The question of the increase in FirstPort Service charge had been raised on the MyFernwood FaceBook page along with other questions and statements regarding FirstPort. I have put these questions to Chris Attwater who pointed out that any account holder can see documentation regarding the service charge on their own account page. The reasons for the increase are actually explained in the section dated June 2020. Perhaps if residents come to you and ask questions about their FirstPort account you should ask them to access their account on line first. I am regularly in conversation with Chris Attwater, Fernwood's FirstPort manager and Liam Metcalfe, head of FirstPort's property transfer team. Liam and I are about to open discussions about how we can improve the service they provide in the property transfer department. Residents can offer their questions via my email address, chair@myfernwood.org.

As you know FaceBook comments can sometimes be misunderstood but residents should also be aware that if these comments offend or libel a person or a business then they might face legal consequences.

The MyFernwood Residents Association is still active and regularly responds to questions via our email. The majority of these questions are handled on a case-by-case basis, as due to the nature of the request sometimes we are unable to offer a response due to GDPR

Concerns should at first be raised via our email, letter or in person at either our Secretaries address or our Chair's address in the same way that concerns are raised at the Parish Council. These details are on our website. Unfortunately we do not have the facilities of an office or clerk.

The MyFernwood website is also an extremely successful communication medium. It has information regarding everything from Bus Timetables, Dentists and information on councils. Including a full description of FirstPort with contact details of the site manager and information on payments etc. Our quarterly magazine has now had to be stopped until funding can be found since our funding request to FPC was refused.

I'm sure you are aware that MyFernwood hold a neutral point of view regarding the management of Central Fernwood. We have been asked about a referendum. In fact one resident did join the committee for a short while in order to facilitate this late last year. We asked that, inline with our policy they get legal advice, and funding if necessary, and remain impartial, as any referendum should be fair and honest. They decided after a short while that they wouldn't be able to continue for personal reasons. If any resident wants to look into the possibility then please put them in touch.

With everyone's work commitment it has sometimes been difficult to get the amount of committee available at one time to form a committee meeting but we constantly have operational meetings. Our drive for new members has been affected by the COVID outbreak but please be assured MyFernwood is an ongoing and vibrant concern. Our meetings will continue when necessary and when COVID restrictions make them possible. We hope to have our first virtual public meeting on Sunday 21st February at 7:30pm. It may appear to some, that the FRA are not active, but we would like to assure you that, as a small dedicated team, we are. Our events team in 2019 organised a Christmas Market, Christmas Fireworks and a New Years Eve Party, which were extremely successful. Unfortunately events had to be cancelled in 2020.

MyFernwood is an independant organisation and residents of Fernwood are automatically members. Our role is to respond to residents not to organisations whether elected or otherwise.

As of 11th January 2021 our committee consists of the following:

Chair: David Mack, chair@myfernwood.org

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Andrew Armstrong, secretary@myfernwood.org

Treasurer: Sharon Jordan, treasurer@myfernwood.org

Maintenance Lead (FirstPort Liaison): Vacant, Currently managed by David Mack

Events Lead: Sophie Ward, events@myfernwood.org

Conservation Lead: Jeff Hobson, jeff.hobson.jh@gmail.com

Committee Member: Cheryle Mack

Committee Member: Mandy Knowlton Rayner

We thank you for your interest in MyFernwood.

Appendix 3: Letter to Fernwood Residents Association following the January 2021 Parish Council meeting in response to the FRA committee statement



Fernwood Parish Council
 Fernwood Village Hall
 Rubys Avenue
 Fernwood
 NG24 3RS
 01636 613024
clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk

Dave Mack and Andrew Armstrong
Fernwood Residents Association

January 19th 2021

Dear Dave and Andrew,

Thank you for your statement regarding Fernwood Residents Association. I read out your statement at last night's meeting, as requested, and this will be included in the minutes as an appendix, along with a copy of the Council's letter dated 19th November and this letter for clarity.

The Parish Council is concerned that the Residents Association has not followed it's own constitution in many areas, the main ones being:

- No public meetings since April 2019
- No election of Committee members
- Accounts not published

Without the actions above, the approach of the Residents Association has become very closed and it is difficult to see how it can be representing residents. The Parish Council is concerned that some residents are facing problems with FirstPort such as delays with the sale of their houses etc. and without an open approach and these being dealt with on a one by one case, the problems are being hidden. The Parish Council wrote to you in November 2020 to clarify what was happening in light of there being no meetings for 19 months and an increasing number of complaints.

Regarding funding for the Fanfare, in May 2018, the Residents Association did request £700 from the Parish Council for the Fanfare for 2 issues per year, stating the remaining 2 issues would be funded by FRA. To blame the Parish Council for the Fanfare not being published at all is unfair.

The Parish Council welcome that you are having an open meeting in February and advise that you conduct an Annual General Meeting to ensure you are able to demonstrate you are following your constitution so committee members can be elected.

The Parish Council has invested in a Zoom licence and would be happy for me to set up online meetings for the Residents Association if this would help you get regular public meetings up and running again. The next Parish Council magazine is due to be written in March should you wish to promote the Residents Association in an advert.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Fox Goddard

Parish Clerk