



MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 21st November 2022 at 7pm
at Fernwood Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors:	R. Cullen, D. Harrison, H. Micah, J. Newton, B. Smith (Chairman), J. Weale, M. Weale
Clerk:	Marion Fox Goddard
County Councillor	J. Lee (left during item 162)
District Councillors	N. Mison (left during item 159), I. Walker (left after item 162), K. Walker (left after item 162)
Residents/Public	11 people joined the meeting. 6 left after item 159. 1 left during item 163 and 4 left after item 170.

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

155. Declaration of intentions to record the meeting

The Clerk and Cllr Lee recorded the meeting.

156. Apologies for absence

None.

157. Declarations of Interest

None.

158. Public Forum

1 resident disputed page 9 of the Coat of Arms report¹ regarding why the Council did not provide a play park 4 years ago and work with Barratt David Wilson Homes and FirstPort.

1 resident commented about how people are informed on the estate if they do not have access to the internet, noting that the notice board next to the glass bins is not up to date. The Clerk clarified that this is a Residents Association noticeboard; Parish Council notice boards are on the side of the village hall and on Goldstraw Lane. All agendas and minutes are published as per the law set out for holding Parish Council meetings.

Clerk to ensure that each gazette covers where the parish council notice boards are.

¹ [Coat of Arms report including the Council's position on renewing the play park in Fernwood Central](#)

159. Discussion on the Council's previous decision to purchase a Coat of Arms and responses to queries regarding this (including public participation)

Neill Mison handed in a petition to request that the Parish Council stop spending money on the coat of arms/items related to this, also requesting consultation with residents regarding the coat of arms/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) usage. Disagreeing with the Council's policy that they do not spend money on land that they do not own.² Also, insisting that third party advice is sought on use of CIL and a full consultation process with Fernwood residents.

Cllr Smith accepted the petition and confirmed the Council will provide a response.

Residents raised the following issues/suggestions/comments:

- It is an extreme amount of money; a village sign would have been a better idea. Using the College of Arms was short sighted; a cheaper alternative would have sufficed.
- Residents should have been consulted on options.
- Residents would like lighting on the tennis courts, seats at bus stops, something to be done with the water tower (lottery grants could be investigated), improvements on the playground.
- Concern was raised regarding finances. Are there financial plans for maintenance of the new development? It is not a good idea for the Parish Council to take on maintenance.
- Why has the Council not tried to do something about the 999 year contract with the management company.
- The management company fee would have been cheaper for Fernwood central residents if the management company had been used in the new development.
- Where will the signs go? Was the purchase of arms a good investment/will the Council recoup the money? It is a vanity project.
- Concern regarding what comes next and wanting an opinion where the rest of the money is spent.
- Turn over of residents leads to not enough interest in decisions.
- A warm hub in the village hall.
- Is there co-ordination between the developers on what is provided?
- How often does the gazette go out?
- How much did the Water Tower sell for? Would the Council consider buying it for the community if it were on the market again?
- Will it just be 2 signs?
- Suggestion of a permanent stage if the village hall is extended.

Feedback given by the Parish Council:

- Fernwood Parish Council do not own the water tower. When the tower was for sale, the Parish Council did not have CIL and it was sold at auction. Last time it was auctioned it sold for £145,000. The owner has said he will be submitting a planning application the same as the lapsed one (apartments).

² The Council does not have a policy not to spend money on land they do not own. The Council has commitment that the open spaces in Fernwood are being transferred to the Parish Council and have opted to wait for this to save having to have legal agreements in place with the current landowner.

- Floodlights, seats at the bus stop are all possible.
- The Parish Council does not have sight of the 999 year lease at the moment as this is a private document between the Barratt David Wilson Homes and FirstPort. The Parish Council has asked for sight of it.
- The Council:
 - was not involved in the original maintenance arrangements made for Fernwood central
 - believes taking ownership of the open spaces will make it easier/cheaper improving the park in Fernwood central
 - did not want residents in new developments to have the same issues as residents who have to pay the management charge in central Fernwood, such as fees when changing their mortgages, fees when selling their homes
 - believe they are doing the right thing for the people moving into the new parts of Fernwood.
- Signs will go on the edge of the Parish (either end of the Great North Road) to:
 - mark its boundaries which are not just the housing estates
 - bring cohesion when the parish has 4 housing developments
 - mark/recognise the history of the site and to celebrate the area.
 - (At present, the current administration are planning for 2 but a future administration may choose to have more.)
- The Council is working on a CIL Policy and will have a strategic plan for CIL considering new developments in Fernwood. This will be consulted on with residents. A draft report is planned for January.
- Developer contributions that are planned: Sports pavilion x2, football pitches, allotments(x2 sites), shops, playing fields, a school. There will be a huge number of facilities which will not come from CIL³.
- N&SDC and NCC have their vision of what they would like to see in the area, and requirements are laid out in planning agreements.⁴ Fernwood Parish Council are a consultee on applications.
- The gazette goes out twice year; the Council could consider doing more issues of the newsletter. A resident (without internet access) was asked to let the Council what people who do not have electronic access would like to see to keep informed. The Clerk also invited residents to come to the Parish Council office if they would like a copy of the meeting agendas.
- The village hall could accommodate a warm hub.
- Regular users of the hall have been consulted about a stage and did not want one. The Council will consult with residents on any plans⁵ for the village hall extension so they have an opportunity to feedback on what they want.
- The Council is hopeful that despite being a divisive issue that the debate on the Coat of Arms will promote an interest in the parish council and its work and encourage people to contribute. The Council relies on volunteers. People who want to come to meetings and contribute are always welcome.

³ The developers will deliver and pay for these as part of there development.

⁴ Section 106 agreements and planning conditions

⁵ At present the Council is working out whether an extension is feasible based on pre-application advice that has been received from N&SDC.

Clerk to:

- *investigate provision of warm hub sessions at the village hall*
- *work with councillors to provide a response to the petition*
- *contact the owner of the water tower to see if he still plans to convert it to apartments*

Note: The discussion degenerated at one point following the Councillors being called liars and one councillor being told to shut up by a person in the public forum.

160. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17th October 2022

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and Councillor Smith signed them.
Proposer: R. Cullen, Seconder: J. Newton, RESOLVED unanimously.

161. Councillors' and Clerk's Report

Cllr J. Weale – Ask for clarification on double yellow lines on Rubys Avenue as he was unsure of what had been agreed previously. Cllr Smith confirmed that the Parish Council had investigated this in the past and been told by Via East Midlands (NCC) that an unobstructed road with no parking may result in vehicle speeds increasing along that length of road, so the Parish Council had not pursued it.

Cllr Cullen - Had attended the Remembrance Day service at Balderton on behalf of the parish council.

Cllr Newton – Asked for an update on the lamp in the woodland that has still not been upgraded to LED (although is working). The Clerk detailed this has been delayed due to illness and that this has not been paid for. *Clerk to check when this will be installed.*

Cllr Harrison – Had attended the RAF Balderton History Group and Air Museum Remembrance Day services on behalf of the parish council.

Cllr Smith - Reported he had spoken to the RAF Balderton History Group members regarding the monument which is at the old RAF main gate and detailed he would prefer it to stay in situ. The group would like to put some information out and Cllr Smith has suggested an article in the Fernwood Gazette; they would also like to put up a display board regarding the history.

Expressed concern regarding comments on Facebook directed at specific parish councillors which he had found upsetting and believed was out of order. Requested that if people have concerns about the Parish Council to come to the meeting which is on the same Monday every month⁶ and raise concerns in a friendly way.

⁶ Third Monday of each month. No meetings held in August or December

Double yellow lines on Rubys Avenue – concerned about the potential increase in speed with no cars on the road. (Cllr Lee said that he had requested this because the Parish Council had requested it and he had spoken to the Clerk about this. The Clerk detailed that an email had been sent to Councillor Lee stating that the safety of the B6326 was the key area of concern when Cllr Lee had enquired with the Parish Council regarding the priorities he was due to take back to NCC).

Clerk to check if the monument is registered as a historical monument and whether it is likely to be able to be moved by the developers.

November Clerk's report	Agenda Item
Barratt David Wilson Homes (BDWH) transfer of the open spaces in central Fernwood as per the section 106 agreement to NSDC and then Fernwood Parish Council – N&SDC has again assured me that the lawyers are working on this.	21/46c
Replacement tree and shrubbery for Dale Crescent – see item 163dix	22/116c 22/92
Complaint regarding the grass/dyke maintenance at Hollowdyke Lane/Phoenix Lane - awaiting land transfer plans from BDWH.	21/87e
Youth Initiative – see items 163d and 167. the Youth Services staff and I were due to interview for the youth support worker position on 11 November. Unfortunately, the candidate did not arrive for interview so we will look to review this in the new year.	
Antisocial Behaviour/CCTV – N&SDC has responded to the Council's request to have 2 cameras managed through the partnership that N&SDC are members of. They are currently reviewing their charging structure which has delayed a response, but they should be able to give feedback in the next couple of weeks.	21/149
Coat of Arms – See item 159	21/154
Barratt David Wilson Homes Development: Construction traffic improved directional signage was installed on the last week in October.	22/87
Water Tower, Goldstraw Lane – The owner has fixed the fences. N&SDC's environmental health officer is ensuring the building is being made safe by boarding up the windows.	22/6
Hollowdyke Lane – Councillor Cullen and I will be visiting NCC in December to discuss this and other highways plans in the area. The online survey to confirm if there is support for the lane to be reopened is still live.	22/24
Responsibility for ditches Hollowdyke Lane – a note was sent to NSDC regarding this, and they have asked their solicitor to investigate this. No further feedback at this stage.	22/16
Request for an Interactive Speed Sign on Dale Way – a renewed request was sent to NCC which has led to a quote being sent for the design of this – see item 163d	22/114
Woodland – see item 166	
Two year reinvestment has been arranged with Virgin Money. The interest rate for reinvestments is 2.2% AER. The 3.1% rate detailed in last month's agenda is only open to new customers.	
Request for speeding tubes on Hollowdyke Lane to assess speed of traffic using the lane (sent 28/9/22) – NCC officer has been in touch to confirm receipt of the request but at this stage we do not have a date fixed on when they will go down.	22/139c 22/153

162. County Councillor and District Councillors Reports

Councillor Lee – Reported that he had met with Lincolnshire County Council regarding road closures; they have open objection for Claypole being used for a diversion route. The previously planned 3 week closure of B6326 (Dale Way to Shire Lane) has been changed

to night-time/some weekend closures. Double yellow lines on Rubys Avenue have been approved for delivery next year. Speeding tubes have been requested for next summer at Phoenix Lane, Hunters Road, Cross Lane, Great North Road, Dale Way, Goldstraw Lane and Hollowdyke Lane. Has met with both schools in Fernwood. Looking into safety mechanisms for Restfil Way and extending double yellow lines on Hunters Road. Suthers School want more parking but it is unlikely NCC will be able to help with this. On the crossing improvement scheme at the Tawny Owl, thinks we are going to have to have a look at it again. Southern Link Road archaeological works have started; completion expected September 2024. There has been flooding on Staple Lane and fly tipping on Grange Lane. Cllr Lee also detailed figures for Via/NCC work over the last 4 months for Balderton/Fernwood division. (Cllr Smith expressed concern regarding the way children are crossing the road at A1 slip road/Tawny Owl and suggested barriers along the roads to ensure crossing at the correct points).

Clerk/Cllr Cullen to take a diagram to meeting with NCC next month so this can be discussed.

Councillor K. Walker – Thanked the Parish Councillors for their work over the years. Has spoken to Matt Lamb regarding the land transfer and will be in touch as soon as they can be. Clarified that he and Cllr I. Walker were not part of the petition and thought that Cllr Mison was wrong to start a petition having not attended parish council meetings for many months.

Councillor I. Walker – Gave information on N&SDC website hits over a week. Thanked Fernwood Parish Council for attending the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Council Annual General Meeting.

163. 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 with unanimous decisions:

Expenditure	Budget Area	Total £	Decision
i. Legionella Training Course	Training	90.00	Prop. D. Harrison; Sec.; J. Weale
ii. Grit bin for woodland	Individual Items – Parish Council	-	Decision deferred.
iii. Tree carving	Individual Items – Parish Council	720.00	Prop. J. Newton; Sec.; J. Weale
iv. Design fee – interactive sign for Dale Way	Individual Items – Parish Council	2192.58	Prop.; R. Cullen, Sec.; J. Newton
v. Parking Survey	Individual Items – Parish Council	£5725.00	Prop.; H. Micah, Sec.; D. Harrison
vi. Youth Club July 2023 - March 2025	Youth Club	9216.50	*Prop. J. Newton; Sec. R. Cullen

Expenditure	Budget Area	Total £	Decision
vii. Decommissioning of the showers in the shower block	Village Hall – individual Items	1183.99	Prop. D. Harrison; Sec.; H. Micah
viii. Service of the blow heaters in the main hall	Village Hall - maintenance	345.46	Prop.; R. Cullen, Sec.; J. Newton
ix. Shrubbery on Dale Green	Parish Council – individual items	1980.00	Prop. D. Harrison; Sec.; J. Newton

* Regarding the Youth Club – the Council agreed to commit to funding for up to 31st March 2024 at this point with a commitment to extend a further year should there continue to be demand for the club)

e. Discussion on the interim audit report and its recommendations

The Council noted the report and the Council agreed to the recommendations made by the auditor.

f. Decision on how to proceed regarding consolidation of bank accounts

The Council agreed to consolidate the Unity bank accounts. Also, to give notice on the 95 day term accounts with Nationwide Building Society and Redwood Bank with the funds to be invested in the CCLA investment. No changes to be made to the TSB accounts at this stage. Prop.; H. Micah, Sec.; J. Newton, RESOLVED unanimously.

164. Planning and Licensing

The Council noted the following decision made by Newark and Sherwood District Council:

22/01380/TPO	Land to the east of Balderton Hall off Rubys Avenue Fernwood (Costall Woods – behind Fernwood Day Nursery)	Undertake works to trees protected by TPO N302 identified as part of Group 7, Group 9, Group 11, T72, T73, T74 and T75 as detailed in the attached Tree Survey	Grant Works to Tree/s Protected by TPO
22/01545/RMAM	Land North & East of Fernwood West & East of Spring Lane/Hollowdyke Lane South of A1 And West of Railway Line Fernwood	Reserved Matters Submission (Replan) For Footprint Amendments and House Type Amendments (Phase 3) For Plots 597- 598, 600-612 And Plot 527 Following Outline Planning Approval Ref: 14/00465/OUTM and in lieu of reserved matters approval 18/00526/RMAM	Grant Reserved Matters Major
22/01598/S73M	Welcome Break Newark Services Great North Road Fernwood	Application for variation of conditions 5 (Site Access) to allow occupation prior to highway works and to approve details pursuant to condition 20 (Highway Signage) attached to planning permission 20/01177/FULM.	Refuse Section 73 Major Applications
22/01534/LDC	21 Rubys Avenue, Fernwood	Single storey rear extension	Certificate Of Lawful Use or Development Issued

165. Discussion on Community Infrastructure Levy

The Clerk detailed that she has begun drafting a CIL policy for consideration at the January meeting. The Council agreed to including a CIL grant awarding policy to enable

community applications. Councillor Newton said he would do some research on this, and we can tie it in to the Council's strategy.

166. Report on the work in the Woodland behind Fernwood Day Nursery

The Council noted the Clerk's report. The Clerk had met with the designer after the agenda pack was published and there had been the suggestion to have a pond in the area; the Councillors did not think this would be a good idea. The figure of £25,000 for the library gardens had been mentioned when meeting the designer; the Council agreed an indicative figure for the designer have in mind for the work is £10,000.

Clerk to inform the designer.

167. Youth Club Update

The Council noted the minutes of the Youth Club review meeting. Cllr Smith asked that staff at the club be made aware that there are still some concerns regarding antisocial behaviour.

The Council noted that the meeting had ran for 3 hours which is the maximum length of meeting according to the Council's standing orders. The Council unanimously resolved to extend the meeting to conduct the remainder of the business.

168. Allison Homes' offer of a defibrillator

The Council agreed to accept the defibrillator.

The Clerk reported that the headteacher of Chuter Ede Fernwood had been in touch to clarify ownership/responsibility for the defibrillator on the school fence. The Clerk will work with the school to clarify this.

169. Policy

New Policy : Banner Policy

The Council agreed to this policy. Prop.; R. Cullen, Sec.; M. Weale, RESOLVED unanimously. (With unkempt added to clause 6)

170. The Civility and Respect Pledge

The Council agreed to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge. Prop.; J. Newton, Sec.; J. Weale, RESOLVED unanimously.

Clerk to sign up to the pledge on behalf of the Council.

171. Correspondence

a. Email regarding becoming a member of Fernwood Parish Council – noted.

- b. N&SDC offer of training on planning – noted. *Clerk to send a reminder closer to the time.*
- c. Two complaints regarding the coat of arms (in report discussed in item 159) – complaint and the Clerk's responses noted.
- d. Boundaries Commission consultation – noted.

EXEMPT ITEM

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.

172. The national salary award and its implications on the Council's budget

The Council noted the increase to the NJC pay scale the implication this will have on the salary budget.

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 16th January 2023, 7pm, Fernwood Village Hall