

MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at 7.45pm on 24th May 2023
at the Fernwood Village Hall, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood

Present:	Parish Councillors:	Neill Mison (Chair), Kim Shepherd (Vice Chair), Ian McGregor, Leigh Rixon, Jim Weale, Mollie Weale
	District Councillors	Neil Allen, Simon Haynes
	Fernwood Community Church	Carl Meacham
	Nottinghamshire Police	PC Bryn Hope
	Nottinghamshire Youth Services	Julianne Tring
	Parish Council staff	Claire Blackman, Marion Fox Goddard
	Fernwood Youth Club	1 young person and Rachel Atchinson (Worker in Charge)
	Residents	10 individuals joined the meeting

Thanks go to Fernwood Youth Club and Claire for arranging refreshments.

1. Welcome

Cllr Mison welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He went on to introduce the Parish Councillors.

2. Apologies for Absence

Parish Councillor Dave Mack. District Councillor Jack Kellas, Vanessa Crane (Property manager, FirstPort).

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 11th, 2022

Cllr Mison asked if anyone had any comments on the minutes from this meeting; none were received, and they were signed by Cllr Mison.

4. Annual Reports

a. Nottinghamshire Police

PC Hope introduced himself as a local officer that covers Fernwood, Balderton and Middlebeck. He detailed that the Parish Clerk can always share contact details¹ for him and his colleagues if residents want to get in touch. He confirmed reports of antisocial behaviour (ASB), and crime are low in Fernwood and encouraged attendees to call 101/999 whenever they witness ASB/crime as this helps the police build up a picture and allocate resources. A resident raised concern that you can't get through on 101: Bryn detailed the average response time is 2 minutes and asked for residents to persevere with it but if there is a threat to a person, property or a crime is happening, call 999.

b. Fernwood Youth Club

¹ Email: newarknpt@Notts.Police.uk

Julianne Tring gave the following report:

- Lots of stakeholders got the Youth club up and running for Fernwood.
- The club has been running for year for year groups 6 to 11. The majority of attendees are 12-14 years old. Will be targeting the local primary school to recruit more members.
- Majority come from Fernwood.
- Initially there were ASB issues but staff worked with colleagues from the police, N&SDC and the interventions team to tackle this.
- Liaise with staff at the OneStop shop to ensure that any issues are addressed.
- Group has developed their own program. Young people to take ownership and become part of the community.
- Last week the members of the youth club took part in a countywide Shadow Lite event, and it is planned to take some member to an overnight Shadow event at Sherwood Forest later this year.
- The club is a safe place. Not structured activities so the young people learn how to socialise. Learning skills for when they are adults, to help build confidence.
- The young people will be baking cookies for Friday's coffee morning and joining in the community bat box making next month.
- Initial recruitment challenges have been overcome – full staffing kit in place.

A question was raised about numbers of young people attending. Julianne explained it was initially too many (70+) but has reduced to 20-35. A membership system which was put in place after the first few weeks to ensure we have correct details for each young person. Julianne explained when there can be fluctuations and that there is no cap. She doesn't believe capacity is an issue and work is being done to try to build the club numbers up. Julianne explained that other agencies are brought in to work with the young people and they are given opportunities as offered in other youth clubs provided by Nottinghamshire Youth Service.

c. Fernwood Community Church (FCC)

Carl Meacham (Part time Pastor – FCC) gave the following report:

- The church has been running at Fernwood for just over 5 years.
- FCC aims to have a full-time pastor for September who will hopefully live in Fernwood.
- They have close links with Newark Evangelical Church but plan to become a separate CIO.
- The church is growing and have recently requested extra chairs. They are looking forward to when the hall is extended.
- A new Sunday evening service will commence on May 28th (last Sunday each month).
- A Toddlers Group runs on Thursday mornings.
- A 'Still Smiling' Support Group is also ran by members of the church.

- There are young people's 11+ and 16+ groups.
- Over the last year the church has organised litter picks, Easter, and Christmas events.
- Wide range demographic spectrum coming from Fernwood.
- FCC are grateful for the facility and thank staff at Fernwood Village Hall.

d. Fernwood Residents Association (FRA – Fernwood Central)

Barry Smith (Chair of FRA) gave the following report:

- Small group, which reduced during covid – 7 committee members, looking to increase membership to the committee.
- They meet last Wednesday each month at 7.15pm in Fernwood Village Hall
- Can be contacted via email: info@myfernwood.org
- Website offers community groups free webspace.
- Main reason for FRA is because central Fernwood is a managed estate. Freeholders pay a service charge to FirstPort. Land is owned by Barratt David Wilson Homes. The Residents Association liaises with FirstPort rather than the Parish Council.
- FRA liaises with FirstPort regarding service charges and try to address concerns of residents. Currently querying the reserves.
- Queries/concerns can be raised at any of the FRA meetings or via email.
- Next meeting: next Wednesday 31st May.
- Fobs for tennis courts can be obtained from John Jeys in the FirstPort office (Fernwood Central residents only).

e. Newark and Sherwood District Council (N&SDC)

Cllr Mison introduced 2 of the new Newark and Sherwood District Councillors, Neil Allen, and Simon Haynes. They gave the following update:

- Council at a very early stage
- First full Council held on 23/5/23. Cabinet appointed.
- Could give no detailed updates but offered to take questions.
- Will try to get to Parish Council meetings to address queries.
- Looking forward to representing Fernwood.
- Contact through district council website or via the Parish Clerk.
- Glass recycling funded and agreed. Date to be confirmed.
- District – recycling, bins, planning, Antisocial behaviour (ASB). County: roads
- ASB – please report and let the district councillors know.

f. Fernwood Petanque Group

Two members of the group outlined that their piste needs to be resurfaced and requested help with this. Vanessa Crane (FirstPort) has put something forward. Neill suggested talking to Marion to help with a grant application. A resident has sourced

some stone and offered to do the work free of charge if the stone can be paid for. There has been some damage to the area as public use it. FRA can also help with funding if the Petanque committee attend a FRR committee meeting.

g. Fernwood Parish Council (FPC)

Cllr Mison thanked Barry Smith for his service as Chair for the past seven years and Dee Harrison, John Newton, Ryan Cullen, and Henry Micah for their service to Fernwood over the years.

Fernwood Parish Council is a new council and have had our first meeting plus our annual parish council meeting. We have begun productive conversations on all our ideas and have strategy workshops planned imminently. During the summer we will bring forward our ideas and decide, as a Council, our priorities. During the election period we outlined our plan for Fernwood and intend to bring this forward. We will provide updates in due course and consult with the residents of Fernwood as much as possible over the next four years. Our hope is to shape our community to suit all.

5. Open Forum for parishioners' comments and questions

A resident asked: *In the paperwork for the election, FirstPort was mentioned and that the Council will be trying to help the residents. What ideas does the Parish Council has?*

Cllr Mison said the ideas could not be shared as the Council has not met to discuss them.

A further question was asked: *Isn't it the Residents Association that deals with FirstPort?*

Cllr Mison: Agreed FirstPort deal with Residents Associations because their core business is managing property. The current council is looking at continuing the work of the previous council in taking on the land in Fernwood central and Fernwood north (new builds).

When Fernwood Parish Council owns the land in Fernwood central, FirstPort will continue to be the managing agents.

Another resident asked : *So what about the new phases then? We are moving to Fernwood North. We've heard rumours that the parish council are trying to get FirstPort as a managing agent in there.*

Cllr Shepherd said that she lives in Fernwood and it's not any conversation that the Council has had to move FirstPort into the new part.

Resident: *concerned that FirstPort fees are over £1000 just to sell my house and my worry is they are getting into Fernwood North.*

Cllr Mison explained his understanding is that the provision for a Manco is not on the deeds for the houses sold so far. This cannot be changed. Plans are for the land to go for the district council and then the parish council.

Resident asked: *Could the Parish Council then take on a managing agent?*

Clerk: It would be possible for FirstPort could tender for the work.

Resident: *Concerned that FirstPort would get on our deeds.*

Clerk and Cllr Mison: They can't retrospectively be added to the deeds.

Clerk: Recommended to the resident to get their solicitor to check the if there is any provision for a management company to be put in place. The agreement is that the land will come to Fernwood Parish Council and the Council will manage the open spaces.

Resident: *Would the Parish Council have the right to employ FirstPort on that estate?*

Cllr Mison: We would have to put this out to tender.

Resident: *Would the residents get to vote on that?*

Cllr Mison: Councillors elected to make those decisions. The Council would review tenders submitted and assess which provider would be the most appropriate.

Cllr Shepherd: It is not a decision that the Council would make without consultation.

Resident: *Expressed concerns on the effect FirstPort has had on some residents and wouldn't want to go down that road again. Original contract gives FirstPort a right on your deeds. Concerns they will get on the new contract.*

Another resident: *Don't want to end up in the same position as we are in Fernwood Central for Fernwood North. Some residents paying a management fee and some not. Rumours that costs to Fernwood Central could come down if FirstPort maintained the North developments. Against any more management company arrangements coming into Fernwood. The staff on the ground do a fabulous job. The company itself is a different matter. The idea of having a management company arrangement is madness.*

Cllr Mison: Clarified the Council is not pushing forward using management companies.

Cllr Shepherd: A huge assumption is being made. No decisions have been made.

Resident: *Rumours are going around.*

Cllr Mison: No decision has been made because not met as a council to decide.

Cllr Shepherd: We've only been in post for 2 weeks. There is a huge amount of information to absorb. No decision has been made. The Council will have a strategy meeting and then any decisions to be made will be at a public meeting. Lives in Fernwood North and knows so far no management provision on deeds so far.

Resident: *Were you told there will be no management company when you bought?*

Cllr Shepherd: Yes.

Resident: *Concerning that the rumour flying around is that the Parish Council are trying to confer with FirstPort.*

Cllr Mison: Good to know the rumours are out there. Thanked resident for pointing it out.

Clerk: Every agenda must published at least 3 clear working days before the actual meeting. Parish Council Meetings are on a Monday evening and will be published on the Tuesday before. Agendas are on the notice board, the Parish Council website and published out to

Facebook so it is recommended that everyone looks out for them. The decisions are there for the Council to make but with something as significant as this, it would be a big change of strategy so it would have to go out to consultation.

Resident: *Don't want management company anywhere near our house.*

Cllr Mison: When the Parish Council is a landowner, we could contract out or take on staff to maintain the land.

Another resident: *Like phase one, houses already occupied in new development wouldn't have management company charges if a Manco was opted for by the new council.*

Resident: *Speed on Goldstraw Lane also an issue – some drivers don't reduce speed from the roundabout. Concerns someone will get hurt. Suggested get a speed gun for community to use*

Another resident: *This was done in the past but there weren't enough volunteers.*

Resident: *Car parking along Goldstraw also an issue.*

Another resident: *Parked cars do slow traffic down.*

Cllr Mison: Traffic management will be considered by the Parish Council. Speed and parking have always been an issue. Estate designed to 1990 standards.

Resident: *Suggested a 20mph speed limit.*

Another resident: *The amount of traffic makes it worse.*

Another resident asked: *On current estimations how many houses will be on Fernwood after the developments?*

Clerk: The number of households will quadruple to over 4000 homes.

Resident: *More and more traffic, more and more houses. No new facilities.*

Cllr Mison: Funding to improve A1 over bridge (from 2 to three lanes), new roundabout will link the Southern Relief Road to the B6326.

Cllr J. Weale: We need another road out of Fernwood.

Resident: *Where will the SLR join at Fernwood?*

Clerk: There will be a roundabout just after the services before you go off the A1 overbridge.

Clerk: Fernwood Parish Council is a consultee. The strategy of where housing is going to go is not made by Fernwood Parish Council. The Parish Council cannot change the housing strategy for the area.

Cllr Mison: 9000 homes planned between Middlebeck and Fernwood. The district council has to plan to build 30000 homes for the whole of the district.

Resident: *Can't see how the roads will work.*

Cllr Mison: Some infrastructure gets built upfront, some during the build out. New roundabout at Allison Homes will lead through into Fernwood and meet up the Hollowdyke Lane.

Resident: *that doesn't go anywhere as the County Councillor doesn't want the north end of Hollowdyke Lane open.*

Cllr Mison: Can't talk about things that were agreed years ago. The Parish Council is a consultee as any resident is.. The Parish Council put the Neighbourhood plan which help shape the planning strategy.

Resident: *Has consideration been given to 4000 houses and the service station? – we're going to be an island. If there is a problem with bridge, we can't get out*

Cllr Mison: Service station wasn't in the strategy. There will be a new roundabout with the SLR. That will make the exit from the services easier.

Resident - *will the bridge cope?*

Cllr McGregor – couldn't agree with you more, but these decisions are in the hands of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Bryn Hope : New officer project, Antisocial behaviour survey. Left surveys for attendees to complete.

Cllr Mison thanked everyone to coming to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm



NEIL MISON

14/05/2024