



**MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 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

Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

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

**19. Public Forum**

5 people joined the meeting. Melody Armstrong told the Parish Council she is keen to work on getting a new play park for Fernwood and seeks the Parish Council's help with this (see item 29). She also offered to work on pulling together information on what is on/available in Fernwood. Councillor Smith gave an overview of the issues around the land being privately owned (see item 29).

Pete Murray asked what the Parish Council is doing about the majority of central Fernwood paying a management company which is named on their deeds and new builds not; concerned that this may cause negative equity. Questions asked: Is the Parish Council trying to get the land? Will NSDC take on the management scheme? Do we need a referendum? Councillor Smith detailed the Parish Council has been asking for the land to be handed over for years and is working with NSDC to achieve this. Transfer documents outline at 999 year lease and indicate if there was a referendum to change the management company, this would mean a change in management company, not an end to the scheme. The Parish Council is lobbying to get rights for freeholders. The referendum would have to be organised by the Resident's Association. The Residents Association liaise with FirstPort so they are the body to contact if there are concerns although the Parish Council is happy to receive feedback on the management company.

Another attendee said some residents feel it an injustice that some people are paying and others not in Fernwood Central and had not heard much about the work of the Residents Association. The Clerk detailed the Parish Council asked the Residents Association for an update at the end of 2020 and they had said they were hoping to have their first public meeting on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February (full details of the Residents Association response were including as an appendix on the January minutes).

Sally Ward detailed she would be happy to help the Parish Council and believes Citizens Rights, The Localism Act 2011 and engagement with residents are the key to the issues Fernwood has. Sally is studying for a PHD and is trying to understand the issues in 3 different neighbourhoods including Fernwood and would be interested to hear from residents who would like to be part of this and asked if residents can contact the Parish Clerk so their details can be passed on to her.

*Clerk to liaise with Melody regarding a what's on guide.*

Clerk to contact the Residents Association to see if the meeting is going ahead.

Residents to contact the Clerk ([office@fernwood-pc.co.uk](mailto:office@fernwood-pc.co.uk)) if they are interested in the study

Clerk to arrange a meeting with Sally to discuss her suggestions for how to proceed.

## 20. Apologies for absence

County/District Councillor Keith Walker called just before the meeting to say he was having difficulty joining the virtual meeting.

## 21. Declarations of Interest

None.

## 22. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Parish Council minutes were approved as accurate record. Proposer: H. Micah, Seconder: D. Harrison, RESOLVED unanimously. *Councillor B. Smith to sign the minutes and send to the Clerk.*

## 23. Councillors & Clerk Reports

*Councillor J. Weale* – Agrees with Pete Murray. The management company/developer maintaining/owning the open spaces in the village is affecting the natural growth of the village. Is interested in what advice Sally Ward can give the Parish Council.

*Councillor R. Cullen* – Attended the Highways stakeholder meeting (see Clerk's report). The Middlebeck development has 230 properties built so far. The trigger point for the roundabout at the end of the southern relief road is 598 houses so some way off and there is still a funding gap to be resolved. Had been to the village hall today to set up the WiFi boosters.

<b>FEBRUARY Clerk's report</b>	Agenda Item
Following the Parish Council's meeting with NSDC in December , examples of issues Fernwood residents have had with selling/remortgaging their homes and paying debt to the management company have been shared with NSDC.	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.	20/18
Great North Road (B6326) repairs – Latest feedback (21/12/20) – 'The work at Fernwood is programmed in for the week commencing 8 <sup>th</sup> 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 30.	20/35e 20/125 21/11
Covid 19 Update – The village hall is still closed again due to National lockdown.	20/33
Signage regarding dogs – new sign on order for the village hall fence.	20/69
LCP properties have repaired the 2 street lights which were not working in the car park between the village hall and nursery. Councillor Newton suggests that the Council maintain the flower beds. See item 25d and 29.	20/107

Streetlight that is out on the path between Dale Way and Rubys Avenue – This has been raised with the owner of these lights.	20/114g
B6326 Road Safety – NCC have released a <a href="#">press release</a> which confirms the following: Nottinghamshire County Council has put together a package of measures to lower traffic speeds and advise motorists of the presence of children crossing on the approaches to the school. These include the installation of a new vehicle activated speed sign which will be placed on the approach to the Tawny Owl roundabout over the A1 and additional 40 mph repeater speed signs. Warning signs will also be placed in each direction near the crossing and on the approaches to Tawny Owl crossing point, alerting drivers to the presence of school pupils crossing the road. Further work is also underway to review the layout of the current crossing facilities at the Tawny Owl roundabout to see what additional or modified measures could be put in place. When this review is complete, work will be scheduled as appropriate	20/120
Antisocial Behaviour – Awaiting date from NSDC/Police.	
Since the January meeting, I've discovered the <a href="#">CallConnect Area Guide - Kesteven &amp; Newark (Notts)</a> covers Fernwood and will take you to Morrisons, the market place, hospitals and railway stations. Bus passes (for those eligible) can be used. Otherwise the fare is as it would be on a normal service bus. CallConnect is your on demand bookable bus service operating throughout Lincolnshire. The CallConnect fleet of minibuses have been serving hamlets, villages and market towns throughout Lincolnshire and neighbouring counties.	21/17g
Update following Highways stakeholder meeting with NSDC/NCC/Local developers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larkfleet – Preparatory work being done. Hoping to start work on the roundabout and construction in June 2021</li> <li>• Persimmon – Finalising s106 agreement. Estimated start date end 2021/beginning 2022.</li> <li>• NCC reported on Barratt David Wilson Homes' changes on the B6326 (Goldstraw/Tawny Owl) – hoping work will start March/April.</li> <li>• NSDC working with Persimmon and Larkfleet to ensure a management company will not be used for the open spaces in these developments.</li> <li>• Newark Town Fund outcome of bid due second week in February</li> <li>• Highways England consulting on options for dualling of the A46</li> <li>• Urban and Civic – Christchurch School (Middlebeck) in construction – due to open September 2021</li> <li>• Still a funding gap for the Southern Relief Road.</li> </ul>	
The following street names have been accepted by Larkfleet for their development: Anderby, Belton, Blyton Brumpton, Buckminster, Couzin-Wood, Dakota, Goxhill, Harlaxton, Hemswell, Lorimer, McConnell, Meteor, Millington, Peck, Sandtoft, Timmerman, Wigsley. NSDC will chose 14 of these when they are ready to name the streets.	20/126
Council's action plan has been updated with ideas which could use CIL. See item 27b.	21/6
Precept request has been sent to NSDC and 2021/2 budget calculations have been published on the <a href="#">Fernwood Parish Council website</a> as well as the <a href="#">interim audit report</a> .	21/8
The Land Registry Title document for Dale Green does not have the current address for the Parish Council on it so this needs to be updated.	

#### 24. County Councillor and District Councillors Reports

*Councillor Walker* – Prior to the meeting the following update had be given:

The road outside Sainsbury's in Balderton will be repaired on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The County Council will be doing an inspection on the road humps on Dale Way.

## 25. Finance

- a. Bank reconciliations circulated to members previously – noted.

### Bank Reconciliation Fernwood Parish Council

Period Ending 31-Jan-21

Prepared by: *Marion Fox Goddard, Clerk*

Date: 01 February 2021

Approved by:

Date:

#### Balance per bank statement as at 31-January-2021

	£	Total £
TSB Current Account - Parish Council	£28,782.30	
TSB Reserve Account - Parish Council	£60,313.83	
Unity Trust - Parish Council	£53,717.06	
TSB Current Account - Village Hall	£4,297.49	
TSB Reserve Account - Village Hall	£7,157.69	
Unity Trust - Village Hall	£15,058.45	
Nationwide	£83,263.36	
Clydesdale and Yorkshire	£85,000.00	
Petty Cash	None held	
		<b>337,590.18</b>
<b>Less: any unrepresented cheques/BACS payments at 31-January-2021</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Add: any unbanked cash / cleared cheques at 31-January-2021</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Net bank balances as at 31-January-2021</b>		<b><u><u>£337,590.18</u></u></b>

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

#### CASH BOOK

Opening Balance	£116,643.37
Add: Receipts in the year	£291,979.96
Less: Payments in the year	£71,033.15
<b>Closing balance per cash book as at 31-January-2021</b>	<b><u><u>£337,590.18</u></u></b>

#### Ringfenced Amounts in the Parish Council Reserve Account/Nationwide

CIL	£80,073.36
General Reserve	£60,313.83
	<b><u><u>£140,387.19</u></u></b>

b. Income 2020/21 Total	£
Regular Hire	6,589.40
Other Hall Hire	105.00
Commission	363.84
CIL	192,320.76
Covid/ Business Support Grant	18,173.21
Feed in tariff	1,368.18
Precept	70,008
VAT Rebate	2,572.00
Interest	409.57
Advertising income	70.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 291,979.96</b>

c. Expenditure since last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure					
Payee	Budget Area	Net £	VAT £	Total £	Payment Method
	Salaries (February)			4630.96	BACS
<b>Parish Council</b>					
Zoom	Online meeting platform	14.39		14.39	CARD
Microsoft	Licence	66.66	13.33	79.99	CARD
Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils	Subscription	435.81		435.81	BACS
<b>Village Hall</b>					
1&1	Email provider & domain	7.98	1.60	9.58	BACS
BT	Phone and Broadband	324.25	64.84	389.09	BACS
Waterplus	Water	70.65		70.65	BACS
Brighter Bills	Mobile Phones	27.98	5.60	33.58	BACS
Amazon EU S.a.r.l. UK branch	Lap top bag	21.66	4.33	25.99	CARD
Houseware Ltd	Decorating accessories	12.46	2.49	14.95	CARD
Ian xi mai ke si man gong ju you xian gong si	Decorating accessories	11.41	2.28	13.69	CARD
A&S Lighting Ltd	Decorating accessories	31.50	6.30	37.80	CARD
T J Legal	Decorating accessories	12.49	2.50	14.99	CARD
Amazon EU S.a.r.l. UK branch	Decorating accessories	4.17	0.83	5.00	CARD

## d. Items of Expenditure considered

Expenditure	Budget Area	Total £	Decision
Dog Poo Bin installation	Dog poo bin	250.00	Unanimously agreed to allocate up to £250 for the installation. Prop.: M. Weale, Sec.: R. Cullen
Dog Poo bin collection weekly collection fee £2 per visit (2020/21 price, may increase (2021/22)	Trade Waste Dog Poo bins	124.80	Unanimously agreed. Prop.: J. Weale, Sec.: J. Newton
NCC	Grit bin	186.00	Deferred until next year when NCC write to the Parish about grit bin provision.

Plants for the car park flower beds	Grounds maintenance	200.00	Prop.: M. Weale, Sec.: R. Cullen
Derry Woodland	CIL	5000.00	Unanimously agreed. Prop.: J. Newton, Sec.: D. Harrison
Legal work for Derry Woodland	CIL (estimate)	4920.00	Unanimously agreed. Prop.: J. Weale, Sec.: H. Micah
Mapping work for Derry Woodland	CIL (estimate)	420.00	Unanimously agreed. Prop.: J. Newton, Sec.: R. Cullen

*Clerk to arrange bin installation and the complete the work required to purchase the Woodland from Mr. Derry. Councillors to consider where on the path between the village hall and the B6326 to put a new grit bin.*

**e. Consideration of the interim Internal Audit Review Report and appointment of an internal auditor for 2021/22**

The Council accepted the recommendations in the report and agreed to appoint Belina Boyer. Proposer: R. Cullen, Seconder: H. Micah, RESOLVED unanimously.

*Clerk to send a letter of engagement.*

**26. Planning and Licensing**

a. Planning applications considered:

21/00028/HOUSE (amended)	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.: J. Weale, Sec.: R. Cullen
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b. [Proposed southern extension to Bantycok Quarry](#), extension to the time limit for mineral operations until 31st December 2044 and amendments to the restoration scheme – The Council agreed no feedback was required.

c. Proposal to divert the footpath adjacent to Hunters Road/Chuter Ede Fernwood School - The Council gave no objections to the proposal.

**27. Policy Review**

a. New policies that were considered

i. [Training and Development Policy](#) - The Councillors unanimously agreed to this policy. Prop.: H. Micah, Sec.: J. Newton.

b. Documents reviewed

i. [Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2021/2](#) - The Councillors unanimously agreed to the suggested updates for the Strategic plan the action plan for the next financial year. Prop.: J. Newton, Sec.: R. Cullen.

ii. [Safeguarding Policy](#) - The Councillors unanimously agreed to the suggested revision of this policy Prop.: H. Micah, Sec.: M. Weale.

iii. [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) - The Councillors unanimously agreed that no changes were required to this document. Prop.: H. Micah, Sec.: J. Newton

- iv. **Complaints Procedure** - The Councillors unanimously agreed that no changes were required to this document. Prop.: J. Weale, Sec.: M. Weale

*Clerk to publish all of the documents on the Parish Council website.*

**28. Section 137 application : Citizens' Advice Sherwood and Newark request for £500** The Council unanimously agreed to give £500 to this cause under LGA 1972, S 142 (2) (a).

**29. Discussion on how to proceed regarding provision of a new play park in Fernwood**

The Council agreed to write to David Wilson Homes to request that they hand over the freehold of the open spaces in Fernwood.

**30. Discussion whether to offer to tend the flowerbeds in the car park**

(Discussed in item 25 d iii) Councillor Newton offered improve the flower beds in the car park between the village hall and nursery as they are unkempt. As they belong to LCP properties, it was agreed the Clerk should seek their agreement prior to any work being done.

*Clerk to write to LCP properties.*

**31. Discussion on the Purchase of Private woodland behind the nursery**

(Discussed in item 25 d v) Since the last meeting, the owner of the woodland has erected large 'Private Land, Keep Out' signage to 3 of the trees in the woodland leading to complaints from residents who use this area. The Parish Council contacted the owner to see if he would sell the woodland at a reduced price due to all the work required to make it safe and a price was agreed subject to a decision being made as per the Council's standing orders at this meeting.

**32. Discussion on the road infrastructure around Fernwood**

Councillor J. Weale expressed his concerns that there is only one road in and out of Fernwood. As the Council could not agree on a solution to suggest to Nottinghamshire County Council no action was agreed. However, when NCC consult on the permanent closure of Hollowdyke Lane in the future, the Parish Council will consider objecting to this.

**33. Discussion regarding FirstPort, issues residents are facing and how to proceed**

Councillor Smith suggested writing to relevant stakeholders following a recent local newspaper report on residents currently in the process of selling their homes, concerned that this would impact on buyers intending to purchase a property in Fernwood Central.

*Cllr Smith and the Clerk to draft a letter for consideration at the March Parish Council meeting.*

**34. Correspondence**

- a. Notification from NSDC on CIL for 2020/21 and 2021/22 - noted
- b. Email requesting clarification on what the Council is doing regarding central Fernwood maintenance – see public forum.
- c. NSDC's Public Consultation on the Draft Residential Cycle and Car Parking Standards & Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document ('SPD') 2020 – agreed no feedback necessary.
- d. Email from Larkfleet with phasing details of their development – noted.

- e. NALC Consultation on Right to Regenerate - reform of the right to contest - agreed no feedback necessary.
- f. Email from Fernwood Residents Association asking the Council to speak to Robert Jenrick about changes to the Housing Bill – to request the bill enables Property Management companies to offer easy payment terms, such as Direct Debit - *Clerk to ask for clarification on where it says management companies cannot offer direct debits and for a copy FirstPort's policy on how they deal with customers in arrears.*
- g. Fernwood Church's idea of an Easter Trail in Fernwood – *Clerk to feedback that the Parish Council would support this idea and this could be covered in the Fernwood Gazette.*
- h. Marches Energy Agency notification regarding a specific Parish councils section on the website now : <http://www.everybodys-talking.org/parishresources> with lots of links and resources tailored to councillors – noted. *Clerk to include any relevant ideas to the Council's environmental policy.*
- i. Update from NCC about their work to improve bus services - noted.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

**Next Meeting: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7pm**