



**MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at 7pm on 3 April 2019
at the Fernwood Village Hall, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood**

Present: Councillors: N. Branston, D. Harrison, H. Micah, B. Smith (Chair), J. Weale, M. Weale
District Councillor N. Mison, I. Walker, K. Walker

Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

In Attendance: Dave Mack – Chair -My Fernwood
Ken Forbes – Maintenance Panel – MyFernwood
Carl Meacham – Newark Evangelical Church
Barry McCreton – Fernwood Petanque Club
Andrew Pettit, Amelia and Cody – Suthers School
20 + members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Local PCSO Joseph Krawiecki had planned on coming to the meeting but was on a call and had to attend an incident. He had hoped to get to the meeting for the questions and answers session but was unable to do so.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 14th 2018

The Parish Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes from last year's meeting.

3. Chair's Report on Parish Events - See Appendix 1.

4. Governance Statement & Financial Report for the year 2018/19

- a) The Parish Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Chairman duly signed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, 2018/19 Part 3, Section 1.
- b) The Parish Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the Accounting Statements and the Chairman duly signed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 Part 3, Section 2.

5. Annual Report of Fernwood Residents Association – MyFernwood

Dave Mack outlined the work of MyFernwood over the last year which included a pulling together a new committee, developing a new website: <https://www.myfernwood.org/> which has details on all the organisations that serve Fernwood, organising events (Christmas market, Christmas fireworks, New Year's Eve Party), representing residents on a panel with FirstPort which oversees their work. There are 8 committee members but MyFernwood does need more volunteers to help with their work.



6. Annual Report from Suthers School (This item of the agenda was conducted after item 2)

Headmaster, Andrew Pettit, introduced Amelia and Cody, the head girl and boy of Suthers School who told the audience why they like being a Suthers School and the about the school's ethos. The school will open in Fernwood (currently at Bingham in temporary accommodation) in Spring 2020 with approximately 170 students; this number is likely to rise to 300 students next September and the maximum number of students planned is 830 (11-18 year olds). The school currently has a broad catchment but this will contract to Balderton, Fernwood and Middlebeck. The school has an extended school day (8.30am-4pm) for enrichment activities.

7. Fernwood Community Groups

Petanque – Barry McCretton reported that a new committee was formed in January. The group continue to play boccia and petanque, occasioning playing in friendly competitions. They are looking for new members and enjoy social events as well as the game. Their nominated charity is Newark and District First Response Team

Fernwood Amateur Dramatic Society (FADS) – Report from Mollie Weale – The group does a pantomime most years. They also do a murder mystery to raise money for charity. They also hold social events.

Fernwood Community Church – Report from Pastor Carl Meachem (Newark Evangelical Church) - The family service every Sunday morning at Fernwood Village Hall has been running for a year now. They also hold a service at Lancaster Grange once a month. There is an Easter afternoon planned on April 18th and a Good Friday Service on April 19th at 3pm. The church would like to do more in the community, possibly a regular family club. If there are any needs in the Fernwood community, Carl asked residents to get in touch so the church can try to help.

Coffee Mornings/Community Nights – The Village Hall Management Group hold a coffee morning on the third Thursday of each month from 10am to 11.30am which is open to everyone living in Fernwood. The next Village Hall Community Night is on Friday 26th April at 6.45pm. We stopped these during the winter months due to low numbers. Please see the village hall Facebook page and screens in the village hall window/foyer for details of upcoming community nights.

8. Public Transport Report - See Appendix 2 for a report presented by Julia Smith.

9. Open Forum for parishioners' comments and questions

- I. Question: Is there a plan for the maintenance and ownership for Fernwood Central Land to be taken over and would this be cheaper? – The Parish Council do not have a full plan for doing this but are working with the district council to see what can be done. This won't happen quickly with many decisions being required. We know approximately 60% of the fees paid to FirstPort are for management and administration so we believe money could be saved if we managed to achieve this.
- II. Comments: Three residents of Spring Drive outlined their concerns and dissatisfaction about the work being done to Hollowdyke Lane and the effect this is having on their homes. The Parish Council agreed to try and help tackle these issues with the residents and Bridgebank/Barratt David Wilson Homes.

Meeting closed at 20:30pm

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

This is my third Annual Parish Meeting as Chairman and I am pleased to report on the highlights of the activities of Fernwood Parish Council during the past year. I am privileged to have a hardworking, committed team of Parish Councillors and to report on the work the council has carried out.

Council Members

- At the time of being elected Chairman, the Parish Council had seven councillors. It was with regret that Cllr Mike Hartley decided to stand down this year. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the Parish Council, his knowledge and experience will be missed.
- It is also with regret that Cllr Nigel Branston has decided not to stand for re-election this year. I would like to express my appreciation for his unstinting contribution to the Parish Council, his knowledge, hard work, skills and experience will be sorely missed not only for his active participation within PC meetings but also his involvement in various PC committees.
- Councillors have represented Fernwood residents at several meetings throughout the year including meetings with Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils.

Council Staff

- At the time of writing, the Council employs three staff, including the Clerk to the Council Marion Fox Goddard, Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council Emma Oldham and the Village Hall Caretaker Malcolm Dickinson.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the council staff for all their hard work this year.

Review of 2018 - 2019

Fernwood Central

Discussions between N&SDC and BDWH, with regard to land ownership, are ongoing. Currently the vast majority of the public land, that makes up Fernwood Central, is privately owned by BDWH and managed and maintained, on their behalf, by Firstport.

As part of the Parish Council's five-year strategic plan, the council has continued to promote their desire to take ownership of the land. If ownership was transferred to the parish, it would enable us to have much more input into the way the land is managed and maintained. This can only be done if BDWH hands over or sells the freehold of the open spaces to N&DC who would subsequently, devolve responsibility to the Parish Council.

Currently neither the Parish Council or District Council have much control over the management of the land although Nottinghamshire County Council have adopted the highways in Fernwood and N&SDC are the planning authority in the area.

Parish Council Committees

- Over the last year the Parish Council has set up several sub-committees, to deal with the various aspects of life in Fernwood.
- The Planning and Strategy committee which meet on the second Wednesday of every month, consider planning applications, developments and related issues in and around Fernwood as it begins to grow. Although the Parish Council opposed the planning permission and closure of Hollowdyke Lane for the North Build, we were only a consultee in the planning process. We are now trying our best we can to liaise with BDWH, to keep residents informed and resolve any issues as quickly as possible. We are also in the process of initiating communication with Larkfleet and Persimmon Homes to ensure continued information flow on their developments.
- The committee is also in the process of developing a "Strategy Paper" to help the Parish Council plan for the next few years of change and development. Improving working relationships with adjacent PCs - especially Balderton - to coordinate on planning and development issues as they might affect our parishes. Improving liaison and coordination with NSDC, especially on planning.
- The personnel committee that meets every three months, deals with personnel, employment contracts, Terms and Conditions and recruitment.
- The Village Hall management group meets monthly and discusses the ongoing management and maintenance of the Village Hall. The group is made up of Parish Councillors, the Village Hall team and a representative from the Residents Association.
- Reports from each of the committees are communicated to the Council at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

Village Hall "Going Green"

The Village Hall has had some modifications made to it, over the last year, which includes the installation of the solar panels and registration for the Feed-In-Tariffs to enable us to recoup the cost and eventually make some income. A boiler and heating upgrade, which will also reduce our costs and energy consumption.

Upgrading the ceiling in the small hall; removing the screen in the large hall and installing free Wi-Fi for customers, have also been completed to enhance the features and functionality of the hall.

For the future we are looking at a possible upgrade to the sound systems, the future of the little-used changing rooms, and also looking at the possible construction of an extension to the Hall, to enable us to offer more facilities.

Appendix 2 – Public Transport Report

Campaign for Fernwood Villagers to benefit from better bus services

Annual Parish Meeting 3rd April transport report to residents

<https://www.myfernwood.org/local-amenities/bus-time-tables/>

<https://bustimes.org/localities/fernwood>

Achievements to date: We've come a long way in a year - we have:

Secured a 341 - round the village Saturday bus – seems quite popular! Sadly, we lost the 2 x 9.30 Tuesday & Thursday services in the process which was the nearest thing to a commuter service.

Sunday bus - six services to Nottingham have been reduced to three as of end of March but hey - we have access to Newark & Nottingham. Please support or we will be marooned on Sundays again!

Monday to Friday, there are 06.50 & 07.20 services to Newark & Nottingham- returning 17.38 & 18.20. I often catch the 17.38 home. I think the timetable might have changed a tad.

We also have our new bus shelter! Now folks can stay dry, sit & wait safely for the ever-late 24 from Grantham! Thanks, Notts CC!

Back in March, FPC and Cllr Keith Walker organised the opportunity for me to meet with Mr Chris Ward who heads up transport for Notts CC and leads on budget. It was a very positive meeting, he asked lots of questions about what we specifically need and was very interested in residents' FB feedback on useful services. We addressed the key issues:

- ✘ Getting to work by bus - how does the average Fernwood resident get to the 9-5 job in say Newark or beyond?
- ✘ The Fernwood business park is expanding & staff recruitment is an issue
- ✘ How can we socialise at the weekend without paying for late-night taxis home?

Key facts are:

- 1100 houses paying council tax
- Estimated revenue (by me) £1.5m
- Probably 1500 HMRC tax payers

Thoughts on updating services:

- Travel Wright 341 service Monday to Friday & Saturday
- Commuter services to Newark
- Late night Friday & Saturday bus

Chris has gone away to talk to operators, and we expect his feedback soon. We know a fully streamlined service isn't going to happen anytime soon – but with a few additions/tweaks here and there, we would have something serviceable for our 2500 residents.

NB: YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE SERVICES IS MUCH NEEDED!

Fernwood Neighbourhood Watch


- Fernwood is a registered Neighbourhood Watch area.
- There has been sporadic instances of anti-social behaviour and thefts within Fernwood over the last year and the representatives of Fernwood Neighbourhood Watch continue to monitor the situation and communicate with our local PCSO's and N&SDC antisocial behaviour officers.
- New members are always welcome, residents can join the Neighbourhood Watch by visiting the national Neighbourhood Watch or the local Notts Watch websites. If any residents would like to get actively involve and coordinate the watch, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Concluding Remarks

- I would like to finish by thanking my fellow councillors, staff and residents that have made my third year as chairman so memorable. The support I have received continues to be first class.
- I would also like to thank Cllr Keith Walker (NCC and NSDC), Cllr Ivor Walker (NSDC) and Cllr Neil Mison (NSDC) for all their advice and guidance to the Parish Council over the last 12 months.

Barry Smith

Chairman Fernwood Parish Council



13/5/2021