



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on February 17th 2025, at 7 pm
at The Hub, Balderton Hall, Fernwood

Present: Parish Councillors:	Neill Mison, Kimberley Shepherd, Lee Rixon, David Mack. and Oliver Phillips
Clerk:	Darryl Flinders
Residents/Public	4
NSDC Councilors	0
County Councilors'	1

RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Under the Openness of Local Govt. Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public may now film, photograph and make audio recordings of the proceedings of the formal Council meeting. In the interests of protecting privacy, it is asked that filming of the public seating area is not undertaken. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting, and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted.

- 413 Declaration of intent to record, film or photograph the meeting by members, members of the public or the press** - The Clerk/RFO recorded the meeting.
- 414 Apologies for absence** – Cllr M. Weale
- 415 Declarations of Interest** - None
- 416 Public Open Forum**
- 417 Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on January 20th 2025**
The minutes were approved as presented and signed by the Chair.
- 418 Councillors & Clerk's reports**
The reports were presented and discussed by councillors.
- 419 District Councillor's Reports**
No District Councillors were present at the meeting
- 420 County Councillor's Reports**
Received as presented
- 421 National Highways Route Manager – Impact on Fernwood**
Phil Shaw was invited by Resolution to speak to the council at the January meeting and is in attendance to update the council on National Highways matters that will or are likely to affect residents.

Phil provided insight into NH's plans to close a number of central reservation junctions between South Yorkshire and Stamford. Claypole junction modifications/improvements (Southbound) may be considered to facilitate a slip road from A1

Standing Orders suspended to allow Cllr Lee to engage with Phil Shaw Standing Orders reinstated

422 Finance

- a. Bank reconciliations up to January 31st 2025 - Noted
- b. Items of income to be noted – CIL £3274 - Noted
- c. Ex-Councillors McGregor and J. Weale will be removed from all Bank and Investment mandates by Resolution. – It was **Resolved** to remove Cllrs as presented
- d. Expenditure since the last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure to be noted - Noted
- e. Approval of invoices due for payment - Approved
- f. Approval of expenses - Approved
- g. Items of expenditure for consideration - Noted
- h. To agree on the council's precept requirements for the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the council **Resolved** to set their Precept requirement at £107,410

423 Planning

None.

- 424** Cllr Rixon is asking the council to consider paying for the two new goalposts for the Fernwood Central football pitch. The current posts are beyond repair, and Firstport have agreed to install the new posts. – It was **Resolved** to cover the material cost of replacement posts up to a maximum budget of £1200.

- 425** Cllr Rixon has proposed to seek agreement that time is allocated to the Clerk to fact-check a stream of potential misinformation and speculation regarding several issues affecting Fernwood. It is believed that this may be having an adverse impact on the duties of the Parish Council and, at the same time, misrepresenting the position of the Parish Council to the public and other interested parties. It is also proposed that the council seek to obtain copies of public authority reviews, commissioned surveys and documented analyses related to these issues. If the request is declined by the appointed public authority, the individual responsible councillor or officer, it is proposed that this be pursued by means of a Freedom of Information Request. The proposer believes that by obtaining this information, the Parish Council will be able to examine, consider and potentially implement recommendations to improve the environment of Fernwood. – It was **Resolved** to allow The Clerk to spend additional time, over and above regular working hours, to fact-check as proposed.

- 426** Cllr Mison is asking the Council to agree on their position on the next steps as regards the management of the open space land, water courses and associated assets and liabilities sited within Fernwood North. The current options are to either (option1) actively pursue taking ownership of the land and associated watercourses, assets and liabilities, therefore meeting the cost of managing it, either within the next few months or at some point in the future. Or (option 2) agree not to pursue taking ownership of the land and associated assets and liabilities.

Standing Orders suspended to allow a member of the public to ask a question

Standing Orders reinstated

(Minute Item 426 continued) Based upon the information currently available and after careful consideration, the Parish Council has **resolved** that it is unable to (not to) pursue taking ownership of the land in Fernwood North (Option 2).

- 427** Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to agree on a budget (Maximum £2500) for fitting out The Hub with wall furnishings, TV brackets, soft furnishings, plants and other outstanding fixtures and fittings.

Resolved a maximum budget of £2500 as proposed above.

428 Correspondence

A member of the public is asking the council to consider providing one or two dog waste bins located in the proximity of Anwick Close/Green space as dog waste is becoming an issue.

The meeting closed at 9.15 PM.

Approved at the meeting dated 17/03/2025

Approved by :