



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th February 2026, held at The Village Hall, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood.

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr Mack, Cllr Philips, Cllr Wood, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Mison and Cllr Armstrong

District: 3

County:0

Public: 1

MINUTES

- 552. Declaration of any intentions to record the meeting** – None
- 553.** Apologies for absence. – Cllr Rixon
- 554.** Declarations of interest. - None
- 555. Public Open Forum (15 minute session)** - *Fernwood Parish Council is committed to community engagement and, therefore, warmly invites members of the public to contribute during this part of the meeting. It should be noted that in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, the maximum time permitted for contributions is 5 minutes per item. Unless permitted to do so by the Chair, only matters on the agenda can be discussed during this forum.*
- 556. Approval of the minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on January 17th 2026 – The minutes were accepted by all councillors as presented. **Resolved**
- 557. Councillors' & Clerk's reports**
Councillors provided updates on their activities. The Clerk reported that the PlayPark & MUGA has now been officially handed over to FirstPort.
- 558. County & District Councillors' reports** – County Cllr sent apologies. District Councillors provided their reports
- 559. Finance**
- a. Bank reconciliations up to January 31st 2025. **Noted**
 - b. Items of income to be noted – **Noted**
 - c. Expenditure since last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure to be noted – **Noted**
 - d. Approval of invoices due for payment - **Approved**
 - e. Approval of expenses - **None**
 - f. Items of expenditure for consideration – **None**
 - g. To agree the council's precept requirements for 2026/27 – The parish council **Resolved** to set this at £117,410 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 560. Planning**
To consider the following applications: **None**

- 561. Correspondence** – Grant application received from Chuter Ede Primary School in support of DAaRT programme for 30 year 5 pupils. Requested amount £324. The council **Resolved** to fully support the grant request of £324.
- 562.** Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to agree to review gas & electricity suppliers for the village hall, review quotes received and resolve to contract a supplier. The council **Resolved** to select a supplier and fix the energy contracts for 36 months.
- 563.** Cllr Rixon is asking the council to discuss and vote on the setting up of a working group to collate, review and propose a FPC strategic policy to the full council for the existing and future development of Fernwood Parish. **Resolved** to defer.
- 564. Exclusion of the press and public – Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960.**
To consider if any of the following items should be considered in a confidential session and, if required, to pass a resolution stating the reasons for exclusion in the following terms: The Parish Council should consider Resolving that under the Public Bodies (Admissions To Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the specified agenda item **565** as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. **Resolved**
- 565. Staffing Matter**
To agree and resolve to recruit a replacement for one of the two part-time caretakers after a staff member's resignation. **Resolved** to advertise the position and interview applicants where appropriate.

The meeting closed at 8PM

Approved at the meeting dated: 16/03/2026

Approved by:

Cllr N. Mison (Chair)