



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at 7 pm**  
**at The Hub, Balderton Hall, Fernwood**

Present: Parish Councillors: Neill Mison, Kimberley Shepherd, Lee Rixon, Mollie Weale and Oliver Phillips

Clerk: Not present

Residents/Public 4

NSDC Councillors 0

County Councillors' 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.

**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.

**421. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Mack, Darryl Flinders

**422. Declarations of Interest** - None

**423. Public Open Forum**

A member of the public raised questions regarding the playpark development and whether there was scope to change the design following public consultation? Cllr Shepherd explained how the tender process had worked and that there is flexibility to make alterations if it was felt necessary and the feedback would be presented to the council during agenda item 435. Once a final decision has been made, details on the selection process will be made public.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the trees on Kenny Close and whether they are included in the current tree works being carried out. It isn't clear whether these belonged to the Parish Council.

The council were asked whether the Coat of Arms had been installed anywhere. Cllr Mison confirmed that this is currently with the framers and should be available to view in the Village Hall.

**424. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The minutes were approved as presented and signed by the Chair.

**425. Councillors & Clerk's reports**

The Clerk wasn't present at the meeting.

Cllr Shepherd reminded councillors that the VE Day coffee morning is taking place in the Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> May over lunchtime. The Easter Egg hunt has been successful again this year but Cllr Shepherd will look in to increasing the number of prizes for next year.

**426. District Councillor's Reports**

No report given

**County Councillor's Reports**

The County Councillor presented the report.

**427. Finance**

a. Bank reconciliations up to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - **Noted**

b. Items of income to be noted – **NONE**

c. Virement of 2024/25 budgeted items

**Proposed Cllr Mison**

**Seconded Cllr Rixon**

**Resolved**

d. Expenditure since the last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure to be noted - **None**

e. Approval of invoices due for payment – **Approved**

f. Approval of expenses – **None**

g. Items of expenditure for consideration – **see agenda items 429 & 430**

h. Staff annual pay award (Contractual). To be noted - **Noted**

**428.** Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to agree to the proposed event schedule change and name for the Summer Event. Date and location change due to potential work on the Play Park.

Cllr Shepherd suggested that the event is moved to 7<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with the planned Craft market.

**Proposed Cllr Shepherd**

**Seconded Cllr Mison**

**Approved**

**429.** Cllr Mack is asking the council to consider and resolve to purchase and install a dog waste bin for installation on Hunters Road on the Fernwood North development.

**Proposed Cllr Mison**

**Seconded Cllr Phillips**

**Resolved**

- 430.** Cllr Mack is asking the Council to agree on a budget for bulbs purchased for autumn planting.  
The council discussed the possibility of making the planting a community event. A budget of £200 was proposed.

**Proposed Cllr Mison  
Resolved**

**Seconded Cllr Shepherd**

- 431. Planning**  
None received.

**432. Correspondence**

A Freedom of Information request has been received for the recording of the last Parish Council meeting and the Clerk is dealing with this request.

**433. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

To consider if any of the following item(s) should be considered in a confidential session and, if required, to pass a resolution stating the reasons for exclusion in the following terms:

It is recommended that The Council consider to **RESOLVE** 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 specified item(s) **434 and 435** as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business being transacted. **RESOLVED**

- 434.** Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to agree to the wording of a public statement regarding the decision made in 2024 to not proceed with the acquisition of land in Central Fernwood.

Councillors discussed the draft statement and agreed that adaptations would be required due to the ongoing FOI request. At this time, no official statement can be released without seeking further legal advice.

**Proposed Cllr Shepherd  
Resolved**

**Seconded Cllr Mison**

- 435.** The Playpark Working Group has shortlisted two potential suppliers (in line with the tender process) and is making recommendations to the council for consideration. As part of the tender and contract award process, the council are being asked to consider public consultation, discuss tenders, vote on the play park winning tender submission and resolve the decision (contract award) accordingly.

Following discussions and review of the public feedback, it was agreed to proceed with Tender A with the following action points:

- Explore the possibility of installing CCTV
- Removal of the electronic play equipment due to Parish Council Concerns and feedback from residents
- Agreed to review planting / hedging options for noise considerations with First Port
- Write to houses overlooking the play area to share update.

**Proposed Cllr Rixon  
Resolved**

**Seconded Cllr Phillips**

Meeting closed at 8:40pm