



MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at 7pm on 13th May 2021
at the Fernwood Village Hall, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood

Present: Councillors: R. Cullen (virtually via Zoom), D. Harrison, H. Micah, J. Newton, B. Smith (Chair), J. Weale, M. Weale

Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

Carl Meacham – Fernwood Community Church (virtually via Zoom)

1. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Neill Mison, Mrs Reville - Head of Chuter Ede Fernwood, Mrs Hunter – Head of Chuter Ede, Andrew Armstrong – Secretary of Fernwood Residents Association.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 3rd, 2019

The Parish Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes from this meeting.

3. Annual Reports

- a. Fernwood Parish Council – Councillor Smith presented a report which can be found in appendix 1.
- b. Fernwood Residents Association – MyFernwood - No report given.
- c. Chuter Ede Fernwood School – The Clerk read out a report which can be found in appendix 2.
- d. Suthers School - No report given.
- e. Fernwood Community Church - The Clerk read out a report which can be found in appendix 3.
- f. There were no reports from community groups.

4. Open Forum for parishioners' comments and questions

There were no comments or questions¹.

Meeting closed at 19:16

¹ Due to Covid 19 restrictions, public participation was offered through Zoom. This appears to have significantly changed the attendance to the meeting. We hope to have a meeting in the Village Hall that parishioners can come to next year.

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

This is my fourth Annual Parish Meeting as Chairman and I am pleased to report on the highlights of the activities of Fernwood Parish Council since our last Annual Parish Meeting.

I am privileged to have a hardworking committed team of Parish Councillors and Council Staff and to provide this report to this meeting.

Council Members

At the time of being elected Chairman, the Parish Council had seven Councillors.

It was with regret that Councillor Julia Smith had to resign from the Council due to ill health. The Council were subsequently saddened to be informed that Julia sadly passed away. Our deepest condolences were communicated to her family at the time of her death.

Councillor John Newton was co-opted onto the Council in March 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Councillor Newton to the Parish Council.

Councillors have represented Fernwood residents at several meetings throughout the past two years including meetings with Newark and Sherwood District Council (N&SDC), Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils and with developers in the village.

Council Staff

At the time of writing the Council employs two members of staff, the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council Marion Fox Goddard and the Village Hall Caretaker and Maintenance Operative Malcolm Dickinson.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council staff for all their hard work over the last two years, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. This has included implementation of the various new COVID legislation and the associated safety precautions necessary, for the Parish Council and Village Hall to operate. A special thank you to Marion Fox Goddard for the support she provided, not only to the Parish Council, but to residents locally during the Pandemic and especially during the various lockdowns.

Review of 2019 - 2021

Fernwood Parish Council – Continuing Action Plan

Fernwood Parish Council's [Action Plan](#) has recently been updated for 2021/22 and has been published on our website. Any Fernwood Parish resident who wants any clarification of any of the actions listed, can contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

As reported previously, discussions between N&SDC, Barratt David Wilson Homes (BDWH) and the Parish Council regarding land ownership, are continuing and the Council looks forward to communicating updates to residents, as the situation develops over the coming months. Currently, most of the public land, that makes up Fernwood Central, is privately owned by BDWH and managed and maintained, on their behalf, by Firstport.

We were pleased to hear in March 2021, that BDWH would start to work with NS&DC and the Parish Council to finally get the land handed over into public ownership. We are in the early stages

of working on this but after years of waiting, we are glad to report the first steps have been made to finally achieve this.

As part of the Parish Council's [five-year strategic plan](#), the Council has continually promoted their desire to take ownership of the land. When ownership is transferred to the parish, it will enable us to have an 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 NS&DC who will subsequently, devolve ownership to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council continues to move forward with the purchase of the land at the end of Ruby's Avenue and will update residents on progress via the Council website, minutes of Council monthly meetings and the Fernwood Gazette. Once ownership has been transferred, the Parish Council will seek to develop the area, promoting its natural beauty and wildlife habitat.

Parish Council Committees

The Parish Council committees have continued to deal with the various aspects of Council business.

The Planning and Strategy Committee continued to meet on the second Wednesday of every month and considered planning applications, developments, and related issues in and around Fernwood up until the first lockdown in March 2020. Since then, this has been done by the Parish Council as a whole. We have continued to liaise with BDWH and resolve any issues as quickly as possible. We are also in communication with Larkfleet and Persimmon Homes to ensure continued information flow on their developments.

The Personnel Committee has continued to meet online and deal with personnel, employment contracts, terms and conditions and recruitment.

The Village Hall Management Group have met online to discuss 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 Fernwood Residents Association.

Reports from each of the committees are communicated to the Council at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

Village Hall

The Village Hall has had some modifications made to it over the last couple of years, which has included the upgrade to the sound and video systems in both halls. The future of the little-used changing rooms and the construction of an extension to the hall, to enable us to offer more facilities, is still under discussion.

Other notable achievements

The Council does a lot of work trying to get Fernwood's voice heard with service providers in the Parish. Points worthy of note include finally getting the B6326 resurfaced between the two roundabouts in the village and persuading Nottinghamshire County Council to review and improve the safety of the B6326 for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the road – particularly with the increase of children in this area with the new school.

By actively working with Newark and Sherwood District Council, we have managed to ensure that there will not be a management company arrangement in the new BDWH development and plans are in place to have no management company in the additional two planned developments. We have also reintroduced a village magazine and consulted with residents on key issues such as the woodland behind the nursery and Dale Crescent residents about ideas for the green near their homes.

Concluding Remarks

I would like to finish by thanking my fellow Councillors, staff, and residents for the support they have provided to the Parish Council.

I would also like to thank Councillor Keith Walker (NCC and NSDC), Councillor Ivor Walker (NSDC) and Councillor Neil Mison (NSDC) for all their advice and guidance to the Parish Council over the last two years.

The Parish Council is always open to residents, so you are welcome to join our meetings or contact us via the Parish Council Office.

Barry Smith
Chairman Fernwood Parish Council

Appendix 2: Report from Chuter Ede



Chuter Ede Primary School Mrs B Hunter (Head Teacher)

Wolfit Avenue
Balderton
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG24 3PQ
Telephone 01636 683550
Fax 01636 683650

Hunters Road
Fernwood
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG24 3WB
Telephone 01636 700915
Fax 01636 672334

E-mail office@chuterede.notts.sch.uk
Website www.chuterede.com

Contribution to Fernwood Parish Council, Annual Parish Meeting 7pm Thursday 13th May 2021

This year has been a year like no other, with Covid 19 impacting on the life of our school and community, just as it has the whole world. It is often said that tough times bring out the very best in people, and we certainly have never felt more proud of our school, families, staff and most of all our pupils.

Chuter Ede and Covid 19:

- : During Summer Term 2020 we were open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Many of our pupils worked from home.
- : We were open to all pupils for the whole of Autumn Term 2020.
- : The Spring Term 2021 began with a government announcement that schools would once again be closed for the majority of pupils. As before, we remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers.
- : On March 8th, 2021, we once again opened for all of our pupils. We remain open.
- : We have experienced a relatively low number of 'bubble closures' due to Covid 19.
- : We continue to follow county risk assessments and government guidance around illness, testing and isolations.
- : Throughout lockdown Free School Meals, laptops and sim cards were provided in response to need.

The local community were incredibly supportive of school, as we navigated the guidance that each new stage of the government response. The kind messages and thoughtful gifts that we received were appreciated more than people may have realised.

Looking forward:

- : We remain heavily subscribed and have a limited number of spaces at both our Fernwood and Balderton sites, spread across all year groups.
- : We have 90 Foundation places available each school year and this year we had applications in excess of this number.
- : 90 places have been allocated and accepted for September 2021. 60 places at the Balderton site and 30 places at the Fernwood site.
- : We have attended local Highways meetings and listen with interest to the growth plans for Fernwood and Newark.
- : We are exploring the potential 'phase three' development of our Fernwood site, originally planned when the building was first designed.
- : Development plans for the coming year(s) include – the school grounds, library facilities and group teaching areas.

We welcome collaboration with Fernwood Parish Council and are grateful to have been asked to contribute to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Hunter and Mrs Revill

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County Council
Education



Appendix 3: Report from Fernwood Community Church

We've missed being in the Village Hall during the lockdown, but we are now looking forward to getting back into regular use of the Hall.

We ran a Christmas & then an Easter Trail for families. At the Easter Trail we had a hundred children take part, plus their parents & carers.

Last Thursday we had a first meeting in person in the small hall and practised broadcasting out on Zoom to those at home. It worked well – thank you for the internet in the building!

We hope to run two Sunday services in-person and online and then regularly, and hopefully with restrictions lifted from 27th onwards – but we'll take it step by step!

We have enjoyed a link with Lancaster Grange who have joined some of our services online and several of us are visiting folk in the special covid secure booth.

Going forward, there's a keenness in the church family to help with a toddler group, children's and maybe youth work and recently an idea to help with community litter picking.

Thank you to the P.C. for the facilities, so well organised by Marion and maintained by Malcolm.

Yours on behalf of Fernwood Community Church, Carl Meachem [part time Pastor]