



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 16th September 2024 at 7 pm
at Fernwood Village Hall**

Present: Parish Councillors: Neill Mison, Kimberley Shepherd, Lee Rixon and David Mack.
Clerk: Darryl Flinders
Residents/Public 1
NSDC Councilors 2
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.

- 338 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.
- 339 Apologies for absence** – Councillors M & J Weale
- 340 Declarations of Interest** - None
- 341 Public Open Forum** – Nothing recorded
- 342 Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd July 2024**
The minutes were approved as presented and signed by the acting Chair.
- 343 Councillors & Clerk's reports**
The reports were presented and discussed by councillors.
- 344 District Councillor's Reports**
Noted by councillors.
- 345 Finance**
- a. Bank reconciliations up to 31st August 2024
 - b. Items of income to be noted
 - c. Expenditure since the last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure to be noted
 - d. Approval of invoices due for payment
 - e. Approval of expenses
 - f. Items of expenditure for consideration

g Update received from NSDC regarding CIL funds and required 'Spend-by' dates.

H Financial year-end

I. **To note the Internal Auditors Report**

II. **To approve the Annual Governance Statement**

III. **To approve the Financial Return for the year 2023/24**

IV. **To agree the date for the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited AGAR**

Items a to h have been considered, noted and approved as presented.

346 Planning

To consider the following applications: One Stop, Unit 4 Local Centre, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood Reference 24/01474/ADV – Decision date 15th October 2024 – Comments Deadline 30th September 2024.

- a) Fascia digital print vinyl with store opening hours and laminate size 1650mm x 235mm
- b) F/ACM NovaSlim frame finished RAL7016 with digitally printed ACM panel A size 1400mm x 1910mm
- c) ACM panel aluminium composite panels with a digitally printed image-to-face gloss lamination. A size 126mm x 2393mm
- d) Poster cases lockable poster cases x 4 size 580mm x 835mm

It was **RESOLVED** that whilst the council has no objections to the application, it has noted that all of the above works (a to d) had already been completed without permission and asked the clerk to notify NSDC planning via the planning portal accordingly.

347 Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to agree to note the Christmas event from the Event Committee.

The council noted the event, and all councillors were in favour.

348 Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to note the Travel & Transport Working Group update. Recommendations were made, and no formal request to NCC/VIA. The committee are seeking clarification on several matters.

349 Cllr Shepherd is asking the council to agree to improvements and the tidying of Costall Woods. The council considered this proposal and has combined this item with 350 below.

350 Cllr Rixon is asking the council to consider and propose the setting up of a working group to develop a wild natural trim trail within Costall Woods.

It was agreed that a working group would be set up to focus on the development of Costall Woods and ongoing maintenance. Members will include councillors Rixon, Shepherd, Mack and Mison.

351 Cllr Rixon is asking the council to consider and propose the introduction of a retirement policy. The council asked the clerk to contact NALC for advice on this matter.

352 Correspondence

A freedom of information request was received concerning Central Fernwood open space and the parish council's decision on 14th May 2014.

The council had already announced that the requested information would be published later, so the Section 22 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.

**353 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES
(ADMISSION 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:

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of specified agenda item **338** as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- 354** The Clerk is asking the council to consider the recommendations from the personnel committee meeting held on 28 August and resolve to accept them.
It was **Resolved** that all office staff hours would be increased by 5 hours per week (to be reviewed in January 2025) and the Village Hall Manager's salary would be increased by two spinal points with effect from October 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.20 PM.

Approved at the meeting dated

Approved by :