



MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 17th July 2023 at 7pm
at Fernwood Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: David Mack, Ian McGregor, Neill Mison (Chair), Kimberley Shepherd (Vice-chair), Jim Weale, and Mollie Weale

Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

Residents/Public 8 Fernwood residents (left at various points during the meeting)

Newark & Sherwood District Councillors Neil Allen, Simon Haynes, Jack Kellas (left after item 126)

Agenda, reports and accompanying information for this meeting is available on the Council's website here: [Agenda pack for this meeting](#)

120. Declaration of intent to record, film or photograph the meeting by members, members of the public or the press

The meeting was recorded by the Clerk.

121. Apologies for absence - Parish Councillor Leigh Rixon.

122. Declarations of Interest - None.

123. Public Forum (*During this item, it was resolved to extend the public forum due to the number of residents wishing to raise issues*).

- a. A resident raised concerns regarding parked cars on Goldstraw Lane/Dale Way opposite the Phoenix Road junction. The resident had been told the issue had not been raised with Via/NCC. The parish council has raised the issue with Via so it was agreed a reminder will be sent again. *Councillors to keep resident updated.*
- b. A resident raised various concerns regarding the plan to place an interactive speed sign which is planned for Dale Way – see item 131. Another resident concurred and detailed that boy racers are an issue in Fernwood (next item).
- c. A resident reported that children wrecking the trees (2) and damaging cars whilst playing football at Dale Crescent. It was recommended the antisocial behaviour team at N&SDC. The need to report issues was discussed. *Clerk to send ASB team details to resident, get the tree checked and send a letter to residents around the green about the issue.*
- d. A resident asked what the council's policy on the FirstPort maintenance charge is, his main issue is fees for changing mortgages. Grounds maintenance staff are doing a fantastic job. Councillors explained that the strategy was due to be discussed later on the agenda, but it is early days, and the council needs to investigate what can be done.

The chairman pulled forward item 131.

131. Consideration of residents' feedback on the interactive speed camera on Dale Way and how to proceed, possibly considering alternatives

The Council unanimously agreed to the following:

- not to proceed with the interactive speed sign on Dale Way.

- look at alternative measures to encourage traffic to slow down on Dale Way and Goldstraw Lane.

124. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 19th June 2023

The minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record and Councillor Mison signed them.

125. Councillors' and Clerk's Report

Cllr Mison – Detailed that he and some of his fellow councillors have completed new councillor training. He has also received a request for a donation for the Bomber County Gateway Trust. This will be added to the September agenda for consideration.

July Clerk's report	Agenda Item
Barratt David Wilson Homes (BDWH) transfer of the open spaces in central Fernwood – our solicitor has met BDWH and is awaiting paperwork	21/46c 23/37
CCTV for Rubys Walk and Over park off Rubys Avenue – Still awaiting formal quote from N&SDC – they will get this to us as soon as possible but cannot confirm when this will be.	22/113
Hollowdyke Lane – Email has been sent to Via to request that the missing signage is replaced. No feedback received to date.	22/24, 139 & 153 23/17, 31,114
Interactive Speed Sign on Dale Way – See item 131 – residents living close to the location of the proposed sign were contacted by the clerk on behalf of FPC after the last meeting. Their feedback has been shared with the council and this has been added to the July agenda for the council to discuss now that they have the feedback. A purchase order has not been sent.	22/114
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation results – See item 129a	22/163f
Woodland Update - Costall Woods – Wildlife Garden – See item 133. Cllrs Mack and Rixon and I met with N&SDC to discuss the progress with the wildlife garden and concerns regarding its current state. The councillors have agreed to brief the rest of the council during the meeting on 17/7/23 including communications on this area.	23/34
Rumble Strips Replacement – Following the last meeting, I have requested a quote for the work from Via East Midlands including a request for alternative speed reduction options detailed on NCC's website to be quoted for. I have written to residents being disturbed by the strips and advised them to contact Via East Midlands directly.	23/17a 23/24 23/44 23/115
Double Yellow Lines Ruby Avenue – (As last month) Via/NCC consultation ended on 10/3/23. A Via officer had advised 'Objections have been received for this scheme to which a report will be submitted to NCC to the Cabinet Member for the Environment for their adjudication.' The Traffic Regulation Order no longer appears on NCC's website. The officer who was dealing with the consultation has said it is still going through the objection procedure. No further updates have been received.	23/28
Village Hall: Extension Investigations – Parking survey was conducted from May 11th to 15th. We have a draft transport statement from the contractor – see item 132d. Cellar Cooler has now been installed. Canvases: Fernwood Community Church have agreed to send some photos. See item 132. Village Hall Fencing (being replaced due to poor condition of current fencing) – Lawful Development Certificate has been issued by N&SDC. To be completed in September (taking 5-6 days for completion).	23/45c
Community Event – Draft Event Management Plan has been submitted. Further planning meeting held. Plans coming along nicely. Entertainment Temporary Event Notice has been received. Scarecrow competition planned. Extra food providers found.	23/45c
Public transport to/from Fernwood – No feedback has been received following the letter that was been sent to NCC's portfolio holder for public transport (21/4/23) and a recent consultation by NCC. See strategy – item 129a.	23/51a

July Clerk's report	Agenda Item
Training and Development – Some councillors attended N&SDC planning training –Cllrs Mack, Mison, Rixon, Shepherd have attended NALC new councillor training.	23/66
Barratt David Wilson Homes Development: Liaison meeting held at the end of June. Since the meeting, our contact has reported that regarding Phoenix Park/Public open space - timber bollards to the perimeter of the POS are on order and will be installed soon. They are organising new signs for the park. An ACO drain has been installed across the path where the water was collecting. Cllr Shepherd has agreed to check whether this is working when we have a lot of rain (and to collect photos/data if not). I have checked with N&SDC's planning enforcement and they have confirmed that they are still happy for residents to continue to report any breaches of the planning condition of construction traffic coming through the village rather than using Hollowdyke Lane to the parish council office so details can be sent to the developer to tackle with any of their contractors where we have proof that they have come through Dale Way or Goldstraw Lane. A spread sheet is kept and if there is a rise in breaches this will be raised with planning enforcement so this can be tackled. Numbers of reports have been very low recently. Residents are asked to send evidence date/time/company/load details/photo if possible so BDWH can tackle this quickly.	
Dale Crescent – Pipe detailed in the last meeting has been investigated by the water company – it was a metal stake. Awaiting contractor to come to weed the flower/shrub bed as agreed. Note has been sent to residents concerned regarding ball games as agreed.	23/112
Grants/Carers' Group – Funding has been sent to the pétanque group so they can resurface their piste. Free usage of the hall for the new carers group will commence on 26/7/23.	23/115 &116
Allison Homes Legal work – Instruction has been sent to our solicitor as agreed.	23/118

126. District Councillors Reports

Cllr Haynes detailed there has been a change in the governance arrangements at N&SDC with an increase in the number of cabinet roles. Cllr Kellas detailed that he had attended the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee. Cllr Allen had attended the licensing committee. The full council is due to meet on 18 July, with motions to how councillors engage with officers going forward and the overview and scrutiny functions of the council.

Ivor Walker, the president of Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils, came to congratulate the councillors being elected and thank them for standing.

127. Finance

- a. [Bank reconciliation](#) – noted.
- b. Year to date income – noted.
- c. Expenditure since last meeting under delegated powers/previously agreed expenditure was noted.
- d. Items of Expenditure considered:

Expenditure	Budget Area	Amount	Decision
i. SLCC Annual conference Cemetery Management Memorial safety training	Training – all courses	£360 +VAT £40 £40	<i>Unanimously agreed.</i>
ii. Replacement chairs for the village hall	Village Hall (CIL)	-	Deferred until the September meeting
iii. Coat of Arms (cost for digital item agreed). Also delivery or collection costs the Coat of Arms	Parish council individual items (CIL)	£140.00 + collection costs*	Unanimously agreed.
iv. Replacement playground signed	Parish council individual items	£182 + VAT	Unanimously agreed.

Expenditure	Budget Area	Amount	Decision
v. Gazette print	Parish council newsletter	£415	Unanimously agreed.
vi. Socket	Village hall individual items	£455 + VAT	Unanimously agreed.
vii. Replacement hard drive for CCTV	Village hall CCTV	£230	Unanimously agreed.

* Clerk to collect the coat of arms – need to work out whether it is feasible to go by train or best to drive.

- e. The council noted the budget review report. A question was raised why CCTV provision was so much higher than original budget. This was due to the provision of 2 new cameras in Fernwood central falling into 2023/24 instead of 2022/23. The council agreed to add the following items to the September agenda: review CCTV plans and consider introducing a finance committee.

128. Planning

- a. Planning Authority decisions which were noted:

23/00797/TPO	2 Marron Court Fernwood	Undertake works to Ash tree protected by TPO N302 identified as T35	Grant Works to Tree/s Protected by TPO
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129. Policy

Updated documents considered:

- a. Strategy and action plan including consideration of Community Infrastructure Levy results – The council agreed (unanimously other than point iii) to the proposed changes to this document with the following changes:
- i. Strategy - Item 4 replace 'actively pursue' with 'continue with'.
 - ii. Strategy - Item 5 replace 'actively challenge' with 'investigate'.
 - iii. Strategy - Remove item 6 regarding freeholders' rights (4 councillors 4, 2 against)
 - iv. Action plan – Point 9 change explanatory note above action box to 'Ensure paths and roads within the responsibility and jurisdiction of NCC are maintained safe and suitable for purpose. That the available parking within Fernwood is improved in order to create safer driving conditions. To ensure that the correct road restrictions are used to maintain a safe driving speed entering and within Fernwood'

Documents reviewed

- b. [All General Data Protection Documentation](#) - The council unanimously agreed that no changes were required. *Clerk to note on the website that the documents were reviewed at this meeting.*

130. Updates to the personnel committee members

The Council unanimously agreed to make no changes.

132. Fernwood Village Hall

- a. Hall charge increases (from 1/9/23) suggested by the village hall management group were unanimously approved. Use of CIL for maintenance.
- b. Repainting the hall – It was agreed to obtain quotes for this work subject to being able to use CIL for this work.

- c. Free use of the foyer for a knit and natter group – the council unanimously agreed to free usage of the foyer for 2 hours once per month.
- d. A draft transport statement has been received and consider next steps for the village hall extension – the council noted this and agreed that the council need to meet to discuss how to proceed with the village hall extension.

133. Costall Woods

The council noted the Woodland Management Plan and deferred proceeding with the recommendations in the report for now. It was agreed to get a quote for a fence around the wood piles and around the front edge of the wildlife garden. The council agreed no changes are required to the current grass cutting schedule in the woodland. An article will be added to summer gazette and a post will be added to social media to update residents. It was also noted that the bat and bird boxes still need to be put up; the clerk will endeavour to get this done.

134. Coat of Arms

The content of the College of Arms email was covered in item 127d iii.

135. Consideration of a grant application from Chuter Ede School, Fernwood

The council agreed to award £310 to Chuter Ede School under LGA 1972, S 137.

136. Correspondence

- a. Email regarding D-Day – June 6th 2024 – noted. Planning to commence in the autumn.
- b. Email regarding road safety concerns at Phoenix/Goldstraw junction – noted, see item 123a.
- c. Email regarding litter picking idea – it was agreed to have litter pickers and bags for collection from the parish council office (during opening hours). A disclaimer/booking out/in form will be drafted. The council will try this for 3 months from September and then review.
- d. Email regarding circus – the council agreed that this won't be feasible due to lack of parking.
- e. Email : Nottinghamshire NALC AGM invite – including decision on who will attend, our council's appointment of voting delegate and additional nominations and forms to be considered – Cllr Mack and the clerk will attend.

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council unanimously agreed to close the meeting to the press and public.

137. Discussion on how to proceed with communications with Nottinghamshire County Council

The council agreed to send a revised communications proposal to NCC and engage paid professional advice (5 councillors for, Cllr Shepherd abstained).

Meeting closed at 10.55pm

Next Meeting: Monday 17th September 2023, 7pm, Fernwood Village Hall