

**Minutes of the
Fernwood Central Residents' Association (FCRA) Committee Meeting
Held at 19:15 hrs on Wednesday 29th October 2025
Fernwood Village Hall**

1. Attendance:

Present		Apologies	FirstPort – Not Present
John Newton (JN)	Nick Roberts (NR)	Henry Micah (HM)	Lee Farley (LF)
David Heath (DH)	Terry McSwiney (TM)		Vanessa Crane (VC)
			Richard Lowe(RL)
			AR = A Resident

2. Approval of the Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 24th September 2025 were approved.

Item 3 regarding the failures of FirstPort had been raised with Barratt David Wilson Homes and had been considered by their Group Executive Team. Feedback is awaited.

3. Chairmans Report

JN reported that the late FirstPort bills had finally arrived in early October. Many concerns had been raised by residents about the subsequent early arrival of the Bills for the December 25 to May 26 period for payment immediately. It was agreed that this would be raised with FirstPort senior management and our concerns notified to Barratt David Wilson Homes.

4. Secretarys Report

DH reported that he had attended the October Parish Council meeting. Items included:

The reduction in reports of antisocial behaviour but this had resulted in a refusal to loan the council a mobile CCTV unit. The need to report incidents was stressed; The PC is considering replacing the planters in Rubys Walk on a like for like basis. DH requested that FCRA be involved;

The “redevelopment of the existing Fernwood football pitch” turned out to be refurbishment to enable matches to take place again, possibly involving Fernwood Foxes. It was decided that a working group be formed to consider sporting facilities throughout Fernwood, to include the current football area. DH requested that a FCRA member be invited to the Group.

5 Response from Fernwood Parish Council to the FOI Request Reminder.

DH reported that he had not received a formal response from the Council to our September letter. The minutes of the Council meeting reported that “the Clerk had advised FCRA that the information would be made available, as previously advised.”

Discussion ensued as the Council had yet again failed to formally respond to a written request. It was further noted that 13 months had elapsed and the only reason for the non disclosure had been the time required to compile the information.

It was agreed that a meeting be sought with the Clerk to the Council and use be made of Facebook on this topic.

6. Fernwood Tree Work

Consideration was given to the extensive nature of the works required to the trees within Fernwood with the report extending to 48 pages. No previous mention had been made by FirstPort to the extent or cost of the work but recent informal discussions had suggested that it might be £80,000. There isn't a budget for tree work and the current state of the S1 reserves had been requested from FirstPort and was awaited. It was queried if 3 quotes had been obtained for the work in view of the total cost and it was agreed that this would also be raised at this meeting. It was agreed that Lee Farley of FirstPort be contacted to arrange a meeting regarding tree work and budgets, copied to VC and RL and Barratts.

7. Fernwood S1 Reserves

The current status of S1 reserves had been requested from FirstPort. VC had provided the figure at May 2024 but we had requested the current figure. DH had requested a review of invoices for all works costed to S1 reserves for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 to date. VC had responded that she would provide copies rather than make them available in the local office.

Concern was expressed that contributions to S1 Reserves had remained static at £19,800 per year for many years. It was suggested that this should be actively reviewed at budget time. It was agreed that the issue of reserves would be added to the proposed meeting with Lee Farley.

8. Rubys Walk Central Area

The Parish Council had raised the issue of the Planters at the Rubys Walk central area at its October meeting and was looking at potentially replacing them on a like for like basis, which was welcomed. It was agreed that the area looked a little tired with a bar from a seat being missing and general seat finish looking poor. Informal discussion with RL suggested that cat fouling had been a problem with the planters. It was agreed that as part of a proposed "Walkabout" with RL, the state of the area and the content of the planters be discussed with a view to planting cat deterrent species. All of the committee to be notified of the walkabout arrangements.

9. Date of Future Meetings

A meeting clash on the proposed meeting date of 28th January was identified and it was agreed that the meeting be brought forward to Wednesday 21st January at 7.15 pm.

Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

December – no meeting

Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

Meeting Closed 20:20 hrs