

Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA)

Minutes of the FRA Committee meeting
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7 July 2015
Fernwood, Village Hall

Present:

David Heath
Janet Tindall
Barry Smith
Jeff Hobson

Sue Taylor
James Tetlaw
Ken Forbes
Sue Hobson

Invitees:

Jim Weale, Cllr - Chairman Fernwood Parish Council
Mary Heath - Minutes

1 WELCOME

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, David Heath.

2 APOLOGIES

Reg Robinson and Jim Gould

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 2nd June 2015

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 2ND June 2015

7.1 Correction to spelling of Robert Jenrick MP.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeff advised that he was still to receive the accounts books, banking details and cheque books from the previous treasurer despite several requests. It was agreed that this matter was urgent and he undertook to pursue it.

6. LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

Members were informed that concerns over the lack of a clear infrastructure and road network for the entirety of the enlarged village were raised at a recent Development Briefing Meeting with the developers, District and County Council representatives. This will be pressed further at a meeting on 9th July with the Chief Executive of NSDC when the North Build will be discussed.

7. FERNWOOD MAINTENANCE STRATEGY GROUP

Despite numerous requests, First Port had failed to discuss the budget preparation as had been previously agreed and had also failed to arrange a briefing meeting for residents despite assurances given at the previous open meeting in May. Many financial questions were outstanding, some of which were from 2014. The response from First port was that these would not be available until the end of October. The Group had responded that this was not acceptable in relation to questions for which analysis was not required. This will be chased.

At the recent Development Briefing, it had been made clear by Barratts that whilst they may consider giving the ownership of the open spaces to the District or Parish Council, maintenance of the land could only be undertaken by First Port due to contractual commitments. A meeting will take place with the Regional Director of Barratts on 15th July at which this will be pursued.

The problems with the long term maintenance contract will also be raised at the meeting with NSDC, particularly in regard to the failure to comply with the conditions of the Planning Application in respect to maintenance arrangements.

A legal opinion has been sought on the contracts with First Port and the impact of performance requirements with a response being anticipated by early August. This view has been offered to the Association free of charge.

ACTION

Correct JG

Obtain
accounting
books. JH

Remind First Port
for response. DH

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The neighbourhood plan group, supported by a consultant had made good initial progress in preparing the plan and Barry was thanked for the web site that he had developed as part of this process. Jim W has been taking photos of Village assets and asked for photos from each group in Fernwood. Once the completed plan has been accepted, there is an expectation of significant funding that could be used to improve the Village.

Photos of Groups. All

9. VILLAGE UPKEEP

The Village Upkeep Group, known as the Walkabout Group meet approximately every 3 months and comprise Village residents plus representatives from First Port and Barratts. The Group checks the quality standard of maintenance in comparison to the service level agreements and discusses variances with First Port. More residents are needed on this Group. Ken volunteered to join the group along with Jim Weale, Jim Gould and David Fox.

10. MEDIA GROUP

Street Signs - Children of Chuter Ede School had designed street signs on the themes of Slow Down and Pickup after Dogs. The Group had selected the 5 favourite signs that were to be made into signs with the FRA and the name of the artist shown on the sign. The slow down signs would be fixed to street lamps close to the Chuter Ede School and the pickup after dogs being fastened to fences in dog walking areas. The maximum cost of the signs would be £200 although a more recent estimate was closer to £150. It was agreed that the FRA would fund the production of the signs. Arrangements will be made with the school and Councillor Sue Saddington once the signs were ready for use.

Get signs and arrange meeting. DH

Barry informed the committee that the Council would be providing high visibility signs "Watching You" signs to remind dog walkers to "pickup".

Web Site - following concerns expressed by Reg about how the FRA site was provided, BS and DH looked at a number of alternatives and concluded that one provided by Hugo Fox would be most suitable. There is no charge for hosting the site or providing the software to not for profit groups such as ours. Whilst the software limits the colours and fonts used, it offers great ease of use by drag and drop and can enable different users to have access to pre-defined parts of the site. This would enable other groups to have and edit their own presence on the site which was seen as a benefit. It was recommended that the site be built up over the following year in parallel to the existing web site until the Committee agreed that it could become the main site for the Association. The site would be more accessible if it used its own domain name rather than Hugo Fox, the cost of which for the first year would be £0.99. Barry informed the committee that he was using this site to host the one for the Neighbourhood plan and that a number of other public bodies and residents associations were also using the Hugo Fox site. It was agreed that David should continue with the draft web site in conjunction with Reg and that introductory sessions would be held with interested groups to show how the site could be used.

Build web site and buy domain. DH/RR

Fernwood Fanfare - the Group recommend that the Fanfare be produced more frequently to help the spread of news and information in a timely manner. The Parish Council would be recommended to increase production from 4 to 6 issues per year. A change to the format, retaining the coloured cover but introducing mono inside page would minimise the increase in cost.

Write to FPC. DH

Projects and Support Funding - the group that deals with the disbursement of the annual £5,000 bursary from David Wilson Homes needs to be re-formed in order to deal with the most recent requests. It was agreed that membership should comprise the Chairman of the FRA, representatives from several of the prominent Fernwood local groups, including FADs, FOFFs and sporting groups. Minutes from previous meetings of this group are being sought. Previous purchases from the fund have included 2 defibrillator machines, Stage lighting, youth shelter and pop up tents. An application has been received from the Mothers and Toddlers group for play equipment. Funds of approximately £3,000 are available and can be carried over to future years if unspent.

Arrange Group meeting. DH

11. VILLAGE HALL USERS GROUP

It was explained that this Group organised events in Fernwood using the Hall and in the grounds. There is another Group that Manages the Hall that is not directly involved in events. The Group regularly organises the annual Party on the Green as well as the Bonfire Night Firework Party. The present members of the Group are Jim and Mollie Weale, Jim Gould and Emma XX. Extra people are being sought to help with events and to also consider whether additional events are feasible. Janet and Barry agreed to join the Group. It was mentioned that, whilst the Village Hall is very well used, Friday nights are regularly available and could be used for events.

Possible additional events that were suggested were:

A family night, with bouncy castle outside and a bar in the hall;

A quiz night;

Casino Night;

Band Night;

Race Night .

Ken offered to use his contacts to find options for the Group to consider and to investigate whether the Rotary Club would organise an event with shared proceeds..

The Group agreed to consider the suggestions and report back.

Investigate entertainment options KF

12. CONSERVATION GROUP

Jeff reported on behalf of the Group that he had advertised for additional member and subsequently had two volunteers. The Group would like to add a wild flower area to the Meadow. It was pointed out that it was difficult to enhance areas on land that was owned by Barratts but it was agreed that the Group would bring a costed proposal to the Committee . It may be possible to fund enhancements with the Conservation Group running a fund raiser and receiving matched funding from the FRA or the FPC.

Meadow enhancement report to Committee JH

13. PETANQUE GROUP

It was reported that the recent enhancement to the Petanque piste had enlarged it to international size. There was to be an opening ceremony by the Mayor of NSDC on Wednesday the 29th July.

14. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Jim Weale reminded the Group of the Concerns held by the Parish Council regarding the design of the proposed North Build and the traffic access requirements. Representations would continue to be made to the District Council and the Developers.

Concern was also expressed about anti social behaviour in Fernwood in several areas including the fallen oak seat where a petition had been organised in support of moving the seat away from the residential area. The meeting was informed that there was a zero tolerance policy in Balderton and the Council would be pressing for this to be extended to Fernwood.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

A email has been received from a person who is interested in opening a pharmacy within Fernwood and was looking for support from the FRA. Following discussion, it was agreed that this would be of benefit to the community and would be supported in principle.

Write to Pharmacy. JG

16. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Barry briefed the Committee on the progress made in starting the Fernwood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (FNWS) following the arrangement of a series of public meetings and talks with the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. James Tetlaw has now taken over as the Fernwood Co-ordinator and has registered the scheme. Residents can now register on the scheme through the national web site on. www.ourwatch.org.uk and entering their post code to join the present membership of 30. It was pointed out that membership of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme had the potential to reduce home insurance costs.

Barry had also met with Nottinghamshire neighbourhood watch who can provide various resources including personal alarms, shed alarms, leaflets, signs and information on smart water and the loan of an automated camera to use in trouble spots. Official Neighbourhood Watch signs will be made available to the scheme to attach to lamp posts.

There is potential for Citizens Patrols to be formed but the people involved must first be vetted by the Police and will then be provided with official identity cards

There are plans for the phased delivery of promotional leaflets to continue until the entire Village has been covered. FNWS will have a stand at the Party on the Green with support and information from the Nottinghamshire Representative. There will be a further information session on 16th July from 7 till 9 and a representative will attend the Safer Neighbourhood Day at Kelham Hall on 22nd July.

Barry was thanked for his work on starting this initiative and James for agreeing to take over.

17. FRA MEETINGS

The format of the agenda for the meetings was discussed and it was agreed that in order to concentrate on key issues, the agenda would comprise items that had been requested through a call for items, 10 days prior to the meeting.

Concern had been expressed about the duration of the Public meetings and it was agreed that these would take place in addition to the Committee meeting, other than the AGM and that a further public meeting be added to the schedule. In future, there would therefore be 3 public meetings and the AGM.

Committee meetings: 4th Aug, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov – Village Hall - (additional September Committee meeting to be arranged)

Public Resident Meetings: 1st Sep - Village Hall

CLOSE – David Heath thanked everybody for their contributions to an interesting meeting.

Arrange amended Public and Committee meeting schedule. JG