

# Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA)

Minutes of the AGM  
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16 June 2015  
Fernwood, Chuter Ede School

## Present:

David Heath, Incoming Chairman  
Members of the FRA Committee + 35 residents

## In attendance:

Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr Paddy Tipping  
& Supt Richard Fretwell, Insp Louise Clark  
County Cllr Sue Saddington  
District Councillors – Ivor Walker & Neill Mison,  
Bob Hattersley, Head Teacher Fernwood School  
Craig Bromley & John Jeys, FirstPort

## 1 WELCOME

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

## 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from former Chairman, John Proctor & Cllrs Jim & Mollie Weale

## 3. POLICING – RURAL CRIME INITIATIVES

Mr Paddy Tipping: advised that the Police were being forced to make budget cuts in the order of £42m, and £12m within the current year. Collaboration with other Police Forces to ensure centralised administration and effective use of specialist support eg. legal services to further reduce costs..

Reductions in the number of full-time officers (via non replacement of those retiring), and cuts to the establishment of PCSOs, but with a provision that the Newark Force would be largely unaffected and with a guaranteed PCSO support for Fernwood.

He confirmed that Newark Police station would be retained.

Supt Richard Fretwell: is looking at the placement of officers to effect a more strategic approach – prioritising support in those areas which are determined as higher priority. PCSOs would continue to pick up the brunt of the routine policing. Reliance on feedback from residents as input to the strategic approach.

Insp Louise Clark: with special interest in neighbourhood policing confirmed that every crime report was reviewed as part of the process of determining where policing support should be directed. Simply not in a position to respond to every call made where incidents reported – fortunately, Fernwood features as a low crime area.

Questions (Q) raised by residents, and acknowledged (A) by the above:

Q1 – why is Newark Police station remaining open if it is not in a high crime area?

A1 – it also serves as a custody facility, and researches are being undertaken to make better use of the building. Appreciated that Newark is a busy and vibrant town and which deserves this sort of support infrastructure

Q2 – there needs to be a strategic policing plan to recognise the potential growth of Newark

A2 - the current development model used to determine resource allocation is re-visited every year

Q3 – why cannot the PCSO's also attend crime scenes in the middle of the night?

A3 – full-time officers have better equipment and a higher level of expertise and training to cater for all difficult circumstances and at all time of the day or night. PCSO's key attendance is between the hours of 6pm – 10pm

## ACTION

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### 3. POLICING – RURAL CRIME INITIATIVES (cont.)

Q4 – how to initiate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - little support from the Police to date  
A4 – promised support via Notts Watch

Q5 – look at Facebook as a means of communication, but which demands early responses to be effective

A5 – acknowledged that the Police must be more proactive in adapting to the opportunities afforded via the use of social media

Q6 – will a PCSO presence be guaranteed for Fernwood

A6 – Yes – but development of the ‘Specials’ approach being contemplated

in closing Mr Tipping was pleased to note the support for the valued presence of PCSO’s who were considered to provide an excellent link with local residents.

### 4. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

John Proctor’s report highlighted 2 big lottery bids totalling £19k which were successful and enhanced village facilities through the installation of trim Trail machines on both greens and the provision of a Youth Shelter.

Chairing the Barratts/David Wilson Homes Bursary Fund group, awards have been made to the drama group for lighting, Petanque’ for 2 benches and for the extension of their piste, the school for safety signs and additionally for the installation of a defibrillator outside the village hall.

He acknowledged the efforts of David Fox for leading the development of a “Walkabout” maintenance group, and Ray Dickinson for his work on the Conservation group – his build of a bug hotel and bird boxes.

Currently John is working with resident Janet Tindall and Notts CC in developing a play scheme or a youth club. All-in-all John has made an outstanding contribution towards the development of the village, and was warmly applauded for his endeavours on behalf of Fernwood

### 5. OUTGOING TREASURER’S REPORT

Carol Chignell’s overview covered two accounts – the FRA and the Barratts/DWH Bursary Fund:

**(i) FRA** – Opening balance at bank (7<sup>th</sup> May 2014) - £1042.10

Net receipts of £715

Less: payments for web hosting, bird feed, signage, software - £395.88

FRA - Closing bank balance (31<sup>st</sup> May 2015) - £1361.12

**(2) Bursary Fund** – Opening balance at bank (7<sup>th</sup> May 2014) - £5221.0

Receipts - Barratts/DWH annual payment - £5000

Less: Awards to Petanque & Amateur dramatics - £1811.2

Defibrillator - £2020.0

Less: provision for additional Defibrillator - £1920.0

Bursary – Closing bank balance (31<sup>st</sup> May 2015) - £4469.8

*nb. A further £1920 has been set aside for the provision of a defibrillator to be located outside of the school*

Carol was warmly applauded for her work as Treasurer over several years

### 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It was queried what is the level of commitment required, and David Heath advised that this was to attend monthly meetings of the Committee, the OPEN meetings and AGM – plus responsibilities to other Fernwood User groups to which any interested resident already belonged to.

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (cont.)**

By a show of hands the following residents were elected into the positions shown:

Chairman – David Heath

Vice-Chairman – Ken Forbes ( a new position to deal with the increasing workload of the Committee, and to provide continuity if the Chairman was absent )

Treasurer – Jeff Hobson

Secretary – Jim Gould

Committee members – Sue Hobson, Reg Robinson, Barry Smith, Sue Taylor, James Tetlaw, Janet Tindall

Parish Council representative – Cllr Jim Weale, Chairman of Fernwood Parish Council

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

7(a) – To agree the Minutes of the previous AGM – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – accepted as an accurate record. There were no matters arising not otherwise covered in the current meeting

7(b) – School Head teacher, Bob Hattersley advised that there had been recent technical hitches with the alarm and sprinkler systems and which were being addressed as a priority. No further expansion of the school programmed at the moment – this would depend on the release of funds when the next phase of the Fernwood North build was undertaken. Parking and speeding + related safety concerns – appeals were made to the Parish Council to assist, and indeed to the Highways Dept at Notts CC – parents being encouraged to use Johnsons Rd and Gardiner Ave as a one-way system.

Bob Hattersley thanked the community for the promised purchase of a defibrillator near the school.

In response residents raised real concerns about the way that placements were decided which could result in children from the same family being admitted to the two Chuter Ede schools – David Heath confirmed that a representative from Notts CC Education Dept would be invited to attend the next FRA OPEN meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> September ie. when it was anticipated that the allocations process would be re-thought.

Further, and owing to the popularity of seeking places at Fernwood, pressure should be applied on the developers to bring forward the trigger payment dates to ensure as early a development of the full school build programme as possible.

7(c) - Neighbourhood Plan – Dist. Cllr Neill Mison emphasised the importance of engaging with the proposed Plan which would allow residents a greater say on the detail of the future house build programme and attendant support infrastructures.

7(d) – Volunteers for the Maintenance & Conservation Groups – David Heath called for volunteers- those interested should contact the Secretary.

7(e) – Anti-social behaviour – a resident complained about the nuisance being caused by youths who used the bench that was carved out of the former Turkey Oak tree adjacent to the tennis courts. Should it be removed, or what other measures could be introduced to deter the growing instances of ASB –Action: referral to Parish Council to discuss and arrive at possible solutions

7(f) - Contributions from County and District Councillors attending

Sue Saddington - Policing – consultations still underway regarding eventual staffing – residents should continue to campaign for the retention of their PCSO's. Planning – problems in acknowledging proposals to deal with traffic flows through the existing village via the North build are causing outline permissions to be delayed – latest date scheduled for the Planning Committee to consider is 9<sup>th</sup> July. Allocation of places for Fernwood schoolchildren – final proposals on how decisions should be reached to be made at the next FRA OPEN meeting. Parking & speeding issues – little that can effectively be achieved until the road systems are fully adopted.

7(f) – Contributions from County and District Councillors attending (cont.)

Sue Saddington -

County boundaries are going to be re-drawn and this will result in Fernwood being aligned to Balderton – this could result in Cllr Saddington being assigned to areas other than Fernwood and which possibility was greeted with dismay amongst residents who had known her for some time and valued the efforts that she had made to the betterment of Fernwood.

Resulting enquiries (Q) from residents and acknowledgements (A):

Q1 – placement of school and speed signs near the school?

A1 – refer to the Parish Council and who engage with the Development meeting which includes most of the stakeholders to the village

Q2 – unclear to new residents how they can contact the Parish Council or FRA

A2 – contact information provided – but an issue for the Media Group to consider

Neill Mison – re-emphasised the importance in taking part in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan ie. since it fits into the whole planning structure for the area.

Ivor Walker – the next Development meeting which is open to selected representatives is to be held at the Village Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> June. The NSDC Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> July to discuss and perhaps rule on the outline North build proposals – all councillors who contributed to this agenda item serve on this committee.

Q3 – is the development of a compound along Hollowdyke Lane an attempt by the developers to anticipate a successful outcome of the outline North build proposals?

A3 – No – a temporary permission has been granted for 6 months only

Q4 – where is it possible to attain a detailed map of the North build proposals and including access points to and from the existing (central) build?

A4 – owing to the complexity and size of the illustrative plans it was recommended that a visit should be made to the NSDC Planning web pages which had a download facility

**8. FRA MEETINGS 2015**

**Committee meetings:** 7<sup>th</sup> Jul, 4<sup>th</sup> Aug, 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

**OPEN Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sep

**9. CLOSE – David Heath, Chairman thanked everybody for their contributions to a lively and interesting meeting**