

Notes of a Meeting of the Fernwood Maintenance Strategy Group held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present A. Barson, J. Gould, D. Heath, B. Smith, D. Harrison, N.Mison, P. Murray, S. Taylor, J. Weale, & M. Weale.

<p>1. Notes of the previous meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 22nd April 2015</p> <p>The notes of the meeting were agreed.</p> <p>The matters arising were dealt with within the main agenda items.</p>	
<p>2. Make Life Better in Fernwood Document.</p> <p>It was reported that the document had been agreed by the Parish Council with the exception of a change to paragraph 2 to read :</p> <p>“The 2 parties, David Wilson Homes and Newark and Sherwood District Council failed to negotiate a settlement to enable the Council to take ownership of the Village open spaces contrary to the original planning permission and instead contracted a private company that house owners are required to pay in addition to their Council Taxes.”</p> <p>It was agreed that the words “The two parties” were not helpful to the document and the Parish Council be requested to agree to their removal.</p>	<p>DH to write to PC to request wording change.</p>
<p>3. Option for Balloting Residents</p> <p>It was agreed that any balloting options need to be investigated thoroughly before being used and this will be considered under item ( 5)</p>	
<p>4. Feedback from Meeting with C.Penn of Barratts DWH</p> <p>The notes of the meeting referred to BDWH paying void charges on phase 1 properties although there was no financial evidence that this had ever occurred. It was agreed that CP be asked to clarify the void charges paid by DWH and also to ask what contributions are being made towards estate maintenance.</p>	<p>DH to request void charges and estate maintenance info from CP</p>
<p>5. Future Maintenance of Fernwood</p> <p>The possible maintenance of Fernwood by the Parish Council (PC) was discussed in detail:</p> <p>The PC has £30,000 in reserves, part of which may be able to be used towards the initial costs of maintaining the Village.</p> <p>Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been approved, it is expected that £100,000 would be gained from the Government through CIL - BUT that this may be for improvements to infrastructure rather than maintenance. A further 25% of CIL from new builds would also be gained.</p> <p>The income from the Parish Precept and the increases due to new house building need to be identified.</p> <p>When the PC takes over maintenance, any Fernwood machinery and reserve funds would also be gained.</p> <p>NSDC should be asked for a contribution toward maintenance costs.</p> <p>A group of 4 was set up to examine the maintenance issue and prepare</p>	

<p>a report for the Group and subsequently for the PC. It was suggested that the Group look at the Balderton Scheme for open space maintenance. Group members: A. Barson, D. Heath, B. Smith &amp; J. Weale.</p>	
<p>6. Progress with NSDC</p> <p>DH and ST had met with the Information Officer from NSDC in order to examine information on microfiche relating to the original Fernwood Planning Application and the requirement for maintenance arrangements to be approved by the Council as well as other issues.</p> <p>The officer revealed that he had not been able to find the information requested on either microfiche or on the Council's electronic systems. He was therefore requested to confirm that in writing. He agreed, subject to making further inquiries first.</p>	<p>DH to remind NSDC.</p>
<p>7. Update on Progress with New Solicitor</p> <p>ST has spent many hours collating and scanning documents for the solicitor who had arranged and indexed them for onward submission to a Barrister friend of his. A response is expected in 6 to 8 weeks. ST was thanked for her hard work in this respect and for finding a solicitor who had been willing to undertake this work for no fee. BS agreed to assist with a backup of the documents with a copy going to the PC.</p>	<p>BS. Backup assistance</p>
<p>8. First Port Invitation to Luton</p> <p>Following the invitation from First Port to visit their offices in Luton to examine the accounts, C Penn had offered to attend with Group members in order to better understand the accounting problems. It was agreed that members of the Group would attend the meeting in Luton BUT ONLY after the outstanding information had been supplied first in order assist in the identification of the problem areas. This information had been requested in December and been promised many weeks earlier.</p>	<p>DH to write to FirstPort to agree to meeting subject to receiving the information requested.</p>
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>Leasing of Land to First Port It was agreed that once CP had confirmed the terms of the leasing of the open spaces within the Village to First Port, the Group would write to Robert Jenrick MP to make him aware of the situation and the concerns of the Village with the aim of identifying the need for a National Body that could deal with Freeholders treated like long leaseholders.</p> <p>FRA Web Site It was agreed that the web site needed revision. Group members undertook to supply the web site manager with the information.</p> <p>Cut in numbers of PCSOs by 28% Group member were encouraged by NS to write to Police and Crime Commissioner of their concern about the effects of the reduction.</p>	<p>JG and DH to supply information to web site.</p>