

Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21 June 2016
Chuter Ede School, Fernwood Site

Present: Meeting Chairman - David Heath
Secretary - Sue Taylor
Treasurer - Barry Smith
Committee Member - Jim Gould
Residents - 22 signed in

Apologies: FRA Committee Members
Cheryle Mack
David Mack
Janet Tindall
Mandy Knowlton-Rayner

Invitees: First Port - Craig Bromley, John Jeys

1. WELCOME

David Heath welcomed the residents and introduced the agenda for the evening.

2. FERNWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Speaker Fernwood Parish Council Chairman, Barry Smith

Cllr Smith gave an overview of the Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) which the Parish Council have been putting together over the last 18 months. The 'pre-submission' version is now ready for residents to look at and comment upon during the next 6 week consultation period and residents will be asked to complete a questionnaire. The documents are available in the village hall foyer and the plan can also be viewed via the NHP website. There is a link from the FRA website. Residents will be advised that this consultation period has commenced via 'twitter', 'facebook', this meeting, the Fanfare and the FPC website.

Following this consultation period, amendments to the document will be made in accordance with residents comments and a final version submitted for approval by Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC). Once approved the plan is registered as a legal document and for the next 15 years any changes to the district of Fernwood will have to be in accordance with the registered plan. It is questionable whether the final plan will be registered in time for the North & South Fernwood builds planning applications.

Questions were then received from the floor:

Q. How will residents who don't use 'twitter' or 'facebook' know that this consultation period is happening?

A. The EU referendum voting takes place on Thursday in the Village Hall. Residents will be informed then.

David Heath thanked Cllr Smith.

3. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

David Heath explained the need for the changes to the FRA Constitution. Fernwood is growing and the current Constitution was created in 2011. A copy of the proposed revised Constitution has been available for residents to view over the last few weeks on the village hall notice board and the FRA website and the residents were advised in the Fanfare that changes would be voted upon at this meeting. The main changes are; to formalise on-line banking, changes to the website and the executive position of Vice Chair.

Voting For - 24

Against - 0

Abstention - 2

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Barry Smith gave details of the Income & Expenditure over the year for both the FRA Committee bank account and the Village Projects (Barratt David Wilson bursary fund) bank account. Please see attached.

Printouts were available for residents to keep.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David Heath began by thanking all the committee members, new and old, for their hard work and dedication this year. There have been many changes to the committee throughout the year and new residents Cheryle and David Mack and Mandy Knowlton-Rayner have been welcomed. Thanks to Cheryle and David for taking on the editorship and production of the Fanfare. The First Edition in the new format was produced recently and looks great. Thanks also to Barry Smith for taking over as Treasurer. David mentioned that some of the committee were also Parish Councillors or on the maintenance strategy group and have been working in harmony for the good of the village.

FRA now administer the annual £5,000 donated by Barratt David Wilson Homes and made an award to the Baby and Toddlers Group for equipment and the Conservation group for the Fruit Trees in the meadow. In the past these monies have been used for many things including the defibrillator units. The village hall unit recently having just been useful.

Whilst FRA always undertook some youth work, with special thanks to Janet Tindall, there was a need to engage with teenagers in Fernwood. The new youth initiative FYI will do this.

David explained that the new web site www.fernwood-ra.uk put in place this year, has been necessary to enable committee members to make changes rather than relying upon one person. It has useful information links to other Fernwood websites such as Neighbourhood Watch and the Neighbourhood Plan.

David informed the residents how FRA has been involved with progressing residents' concerns about the maintenance arrangements within Fernwood:

A formal complaint to the Newark and Sherwood District Council resulted in the Council admitting that when planning permission was granted, conditions stipulated for the maintenance arrangements were not carried out. FRA has now requested an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman.

The difficult relationship with First Port has improved greatly over the past year which has been helped hugely by Craig Bromley. Fernwood are now working towards creating a maintenance panel with representatives from FRA, FPC and First Port that will monitor the management company, scrutinise the budget and review requests for changes to the public areas, especially those that would affect our maintenance charges. Any significant changes would be put to a ballot of residents

David thanked Sue Taylor for taking on the role of Secretary and keeping the committee in line and informed the residents that she would not be standing for re-election due to other commitments.

A question was received from the floor concerning the lack of broadband speed due to the fibre optic situation at Fernwood. It transpires that residents believe that one BT cabinet is still not fitted with fibre optics. David took on board the request to make investigations.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2016/17

The existing committee were re-elected. No residents volunteered to join this year's committee.

Vice Chair - David Heath

Treasurer - Barry Smith

Committee members: Cheryle Mack, David Mack, Janet Tindall, Jim Gould, Mandy Knowlton-Rayner

Voting: For - 26

Against - 0

Abstention - 0

7. MANAGING MAINTENANCE AND CHANGES AROUND THE VILLAGE - Speaker FMSG, David Heath

As mentioned in the FRA Chairman's report, David informed the residents about the new panel of elected Fernwood representatives who would meet regularly with the managing agent to monitor all aspects of the maintenance and Fernwood Central public open spaces. The remit of the panel is currently being finalised and residents would be informed once it was agreed by the Residents' Association, Parish Council and First Port.

8. FERNWOOD INTEREST GROUPS

The different interest groups of Fernwood were invited to provide information about their groups to the residents. Unfortunately the Sports Association were unable to provide any speaker from the many sports groups formed within Fernwood.

Fernwood over Fifty Fives (FoFFs) - Speaker Mollie Weale

This group was set up many years ago as a support for those at home during the day; male and female. They meet twice a month on a Thursday afternoons. At the beginning of the month they gather in the village hall for a cuppa, chat and/or games and the second meeting towards the end of the month they have a trip out of Fernwood. They have also arranged holidays abroad as a group.

Fernwood Amateur Dramatics (FADs) - Speaker Mollie Weale

FADs is a drama group for those who just want to have a go. Nobody is turned away and welcome would be actors as well as those not too sure but would love to work behind the scenes. They perform in Fernwood and the Newark area and help to raise funds for organisations such as the Salvation Army when FADs do the acting and the rest is down to the organisation. Their next production will be at Fernwood Village Hall on 1st July. 2 x one act plays with supper.

Conservation Group - Speaker Jeff Hobson

This is a small group of retirees which has been going for some time and has so far enhanced Fernwood with a path through the woods, a bird hide, bug hotel and wild flowers & fruit trees in part of the area known as the meadow. They would like to add character and make Fernwood special and future projects in the pipeline include another path through the wooded area behind Cameron Lane and planting up the grass banking on Goldstraw. Projects involve other bodies but they are trying to bring wildlife to Fernwood and not push it out. They meet once a month in the village hall and can be contacted through the FRA website.

Residents were interested in Jeff's information and asked questions about the current wildlife in Fernwood and whether the group would get involved to fight against the removal of the hedges on Hollowdyke Lane if necessary.

FYI (Fernwood Youth Initiative) - Speaker Barry Smith

This new group is for teenagers with currently 8 adults supporting and guiding the teenagers through the set-up, financing and running of their group. 4 youngsters have formed their Fernwood youth committee and have designed a logo which will be put on t-shirts. They hope to increase their membership by wearing these t-shirts at all events and when they are fund raising. They would like to be self sustaining rather than relying on monies from the Parish Council 'Good Causes' fund or the Barratt David Wilson bursary fund. However they would like an individual place to meet which they could decorate, such as a port-a-cabin in the Village Hall grounds so it may take a long time to raise the funds. Their first activity is helping out with

organising the village fete on July 9th. They will be doing the leaflet drop advertising the fete and they will be there on the day wearing their t-shirts raising money.

Barry was advised that Caledonian Buildings on A1 make modular units and it could be worth approaching them. May be they have something suitable to donate.

David thanked all the speakers for providing the interesting information.

9. FIRST PORT

Craig Bromley gave an overview of the current status of maintenance and re-iterated that the historic issues are being progressed.

Future plans for major tree works which are likely over the next 18 months and a 10 year tree survey were in the budget and the final handover of two balancing ponds would not take place until the developer put them into good order.

Craig informed the residents that one member of staff has resigned due to ill health and so they were currently recruiting a replacement. The maintenance team have all been trained and are fully certified and qualified to complete all aspects of the grounds maintenance.

Craig advised of the recent theft of the utility vehicle. However as this is insured by First Port there will not be an expense to Fernwood residents. All the other vehicles have been fitted with trackers and are stored bolted and chained when not in use.

First Port confirmed that proposals for projects on the land within Fernwood would be agreed via the joint panel and any permission certificates for alterations to freehold properties would be completed by First Port Fernwood team.

Questions were then received from the floor:

Q. Will the tree removed from Tutt Close be replaced?

A. Yes. First Port will discuss with the local residents the type of replacement. Additionally, future disturbances of this kind will be notified in advance to residents in the immediate area.

Q. Will the grass in the meadow area be cut?

A. Yes. Flailing will happen soon.

Q. When should I get an alteration certificate and do you have to power to demolish?

A. Consent application may hold up a sale of a property so it is advised to request one before you sell. First Port do not have the powers to demolish but if it was felt to be an issue for your neighbours we would refer to the joint panel. First Port decided to adhere to the consent clause in the transfer documents as some residents wanted to keep it but we no longer charge for the certificate.

Q. Who is responsible for the boundary hedge and dyke?

A. First Port have just received a plan of Fernwood marking the areas they are to maintain. See me afterwards to discuss.

Q. The land near the car park and shops lets down the village. What are doing about it?

A. First Port do have the responsibility for this area. This land is owned by the freeholders of the shops. The Parish Council have been in contact with the owners many times but requests have been ignored.

Q. I wrote to you about 4 weeks ago and have not yet had reply.

A. See me afterwards to discuss.

Q. When are we to receive this year's bill as I haven't received anything?

A. They were sent out over a month ago and should have been paid by 1st June. I will look into your account.

DH thanked Craig for the maintenance information and everyone for attending tonight.

A resident thanked the Committee for everything they had done and were continuing to do on behalf of the community.

CLOSE The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

FERNWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

As AT:- 18/06/2016

<u>Bank Balance B/D</u>	<u>£1,361.12</u>
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Bank Balance by Group

Committee/Bank	£595.65
Conservation	£765.07
Village Projects	£0.40
Petanque	£0.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£1,361.12</u>

<u>Petty Cash B/D</u>	<u>£26.83</u>
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<u>Total B/D</u>	<u>£1,387.95</u>
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INCOME

Committee	£367.78 (incl. £0.40 from Village Projects)
Petty Cash	£274.00 (Transferred from Committee)
Community Event	60.58
FYI	£500.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£1,202.36</u>

OUTGOINGS

Committee	-£346.00
Conservation	-£614.74
Village Projects	-£0.40
Petty Cash	-£300.83
Community Event Mar 16	-£60.58
Community Heartbeat	-£28.00
FYI	-£21.60
<u>Total</u>	<u>-£1,372.15</u>

<u>Total Left</u>	<u>£1,218.16</u>
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AVAILABLE CASH PER GROUP

Committee/Bank	£589.43
Conservation	£150.33
Village Projects	-£0.00
Petanque	£0.00
Community Event Mar 16	£0.00
Petty Cash	£0.00
FYI	£478.40
<u>Total</u>	<u>£1,218.16</u>

Petty Cash B/F	£0.00
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Bank Balance B/F	£1,218.16
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<u>Total Available</u>	<u>£1,218.16</u>
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Fernwood Village Projects Fund Bank Account

Date	Receipts	Petanque	FADS	Odds	Baby & Toddler	Conservation	Balance @ Bank
5-Feb-13	5,000.00						£5,000.00
1-Oct-13 Petanque		-1,200.00					£3,800.00
1-Oct-13 Portable Lighting			-1,781.00				£2,019.00
3-Dec-13 Pop-up shelters				-1,798.00			£221.00
14-Jan-14	5,000.00						£5,221.00
5-Aug-14 Defribulator				-2,020.00			£3,201.00
4-Nov-14 Petanque Extension		-1,180.00					£2,021.00
3-Mar-15 ?????????			-631.20				£1,389.80
5-May-15	5,000.00						£6,389.80
16-Jun-15 Defribulator				-1,920.00			£4,469.80
17-Nov-15 Educational Toys					-522.00		£3,947.80
26-Feb-16 Fruit Trees						-162.00	£3,785.80