

Minutes of the
Fernwood Central Residents' Association (FCRA) Committee Meeting
Held at 19:15 hrs on Wednesday 25th October 2023
Fernwood Village Hall

1. Attendance:

Present		Not Present	Apologies
Dee Harrison (DVH)	Barry Smith (BS)		Sharon Atkins (SA)
Nick Roberts (NR)	John Newton (JN)		David Heath (DH)
Paul Janson (PJ)	Brenda Wright (BW)		Martin Bishop (MB)
			Vicky Bishop (VB)

Residents and FPC members Jim & Mollie Weale (MW) and Ian McGregor (IM) attended the meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

Proposed – DVH

- i. Seconded - JN

As a true record – Carried unanimously

- Matters arising:
 - Some discussion on the tennis court proposal and the requirement to follow up with the Parish Council. DH has provided the detailed proposal to FPC through MW. IM was asked to see if FPC needed further information from FCRA to progress the proposal.

3. Chair's Report

- i. Nothing to report.

4. Secretary's Report

- i. Nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Report

- i. No changes to account balances since the September report so current account status:
 - Main account - £1764
 - Bursary account (BDWH) - £2990
 - Total - £4755

6. Maintenance Report

- i. Nothing to report.

7. Conservation Report

- i. DVH raised the issue of ivy climbing up the trees in Costall Woods. Is there someone in FPC that can manage this, possibly as part of the tree surveys?

8. Pétanque

- i. Flyers going out across the estate to attract further members.
- ii. Party in the park did generate interest in playing, however mostly from people who were employed and looking to play at the weekend.

9. Concerns about the actions of Fernwood Parish Council

BS and PJ provided feedback on what proved to be a difficult Parish Council meeting regarding the FPC decision to disinvest a very significant sum from CCLA and hold cash. The key questions raised with the council were:

- i. Why such a substantial amount of money was disinvested against the advice of the outgoing clerk and in the absence of any firm projects requiring capital funding.
- ii. The abnormal procedure used to disinvest the funds, with no proposal on the published agenda and using Exempt Business on an unrelated subject to approve the disinvestment, when issues around finance should be in the public domain.
- iii. The implications for the year end audit of the council.

There was disappointment that FPC had decided to remove from their strategy the rights of freeholders on managed estates, which had been a long standing concern of previous Parish Councils and residents.

In response, IM on behalf of FPC stated the council position and that communication with NALC suggested that the council approach to the CCLA disinvestment was appropriate and followed procedure.

The discussion closed with BS thanking IM for his participation and input and that Parish Councillors are always welcome at FCRA meetings.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence to report

11. Dates for Future Meetings

Committee meetings:

Committee Meeting - Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

Committee Meeting - Wednesday 27th December 2023 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

Public meetings:

AGM - (TBC)

Meeting Closed 21:50 hrs