

Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA)

Notes of the FRA Committee meeting
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 8 September 2015
Fernwood, Village Hall

Present:

David Heath (Chairman)
Ken Forbes (Vice Chairman)
Jeff Hobson (Treasurer)

Sue Hobson
Janet Tindall
Sue Taylor

Invitees:

1 WELCOME

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

2 APOLOGIES

Reg Robinson

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 4th August 2015 (issued by the Chairman)

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record with the exception of Minute 2 – Apologies – Janet Tindall had advised at the July meeting that she would be unable to attend in August.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 4th August 2015

Matters were not discussed

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeff advised that the only spend since the previous meeting was £258 - part of the agreed expenditure for Conservation group to create a new bird hide.

6. SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT ASSOCIATION

Jim Gould has resigned from FRA after deciding that he could no longer continue as Secretary or remain on the committee. The available committee position was notified to residents at the Public meeting but no one has come forward as yet.

Sue Taylor has offered to take notes of the meetings until the secretarial position is filled but does not wish to take on the full role of the Secretary.

A suggestion to advertise the position on Fernwood Facebook was agreed upon.

7. VILLAGE UPKEEP AND CONSERVATION

Jeff reported on the work and ideas of the Conservation Group:

Bird hide - well underway and the final spend is expected to be about £350 which is within the previously agreed figure of £400.

Wild flowers in the meadow - The seeds would cost about £100 and the hire of a rotovator £50. In principle this spend was agreed, however Barratt David Wilson Homes (BDWH) have advised that the Farmer has been asked if he wished to recommence flailing and collecting hay on this part of Fernwood. Jeff informed that this would not be a problem for the wild flower feature as the flowers would benefit from an annual cut down. To begin with the area would need to be temporarily fenced off. It was suggested that the staves and rope used at the firework display could be used for this purpose to save on further expenses and a check with BDWH as to the Farmer's continued collection of hay and whether this feature would cause an issue with him.

Dead Trees – There are 5 dead trees planted opposite the shop units known as Browns Bistro, 2 more in the new Marron Court area of housing and 8 more which were planted along Restfil Way. Jeff had taken photographic evidence and as these are recently planted trees which have been poorly maintained by BDWH or First Port (FP), the committee felt that the responsibility lay with the BDWH and a request for replacement trees funded by them should be made.

ACTION

DH to post advert

DH to write to
BDWH

JH to email the
photographic
evidence to DH.
DH to write to
BDWH

- New Hedging* – The pathway along Restfil Way is rather bare compared with other areas of Fernwood. John Jeys of First Port has given a costing of £600 + £120 vat to provide and install a beech hedge the length of Restfil Way. The committee felt that this should be the responsibility of the developer BDWH.
- 8. MEDIA**
More volunteers are required to deliver the Fanfare to cover those on holiday or those who felt they could no longer continue with delivering the Fanfare 6 times a year.
- A comprehensive map and delivery information is required. There is a street map held in the PC office and one is also shown on the FRA website. Jeff and Sue H will create a list of roads and house numbers with details of who delivers where. Back-up volunteers for each area and additional delivery volunteers can then be noted.
- It was suggested that a request could be placed on Fernwood Facebook asking for residents to volunteer their help.
- 9. FERNWOOD MAINTENANCE STRATEGY GROUP (FMSG) UPDATE**
The extra fees and increases residents are being charged is a concern and an on-line survey is being undertaken by the group to ascertain the extent of residents' awareness on purchase of their houses about these charges.
- FMSG are still waiting advice from the solicitor and answers to questions from BDWH especially their statement regarding the freehold contracts.
- BDWH have stated that their legal advice is that before any action could be taken to remove FP there would have to be "no performance" rather poor performance.
- 10. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL**
No report received.
- 11. FERNWOOD MAINTENANCE STRATEGY GROUP - SURVEY**
After a short campaign on Fernwood Facebook, 71 people have completed the survey and 95% were previously not aware that additional fees would be payable.
- A flyer has now been prepared for every freehold house within phase 2 - 8 giving them information how to access the survey. All the FRA committee members agreed to deliver them. The area concerned was divided into 6 and each member took a pile of flyers. The original houses, houses in phase 1 and apartment blocks will not receive a flyer.
- 12. NORTH DEVELOPMENT**
The planning application meeting for the new build of 950 houses by BDWH is not expected to take place until the end of September or beginning of October.
- The committee agreed that a statement regarding the application should be sent from FRA as a representative body for the Fernwood residents even though residents and Fernwood Parish Council (FPC) have already made statements of objections. The statement should include:
- The plans for the 950 appear to have no consideration for the total growth point build
 - Objections regarding maintenance of the open spaces
 - Non-provision of additional facilities to accommodate another 950 households
 - Lack of schooling
- David will draft an objection letter and send via email to all committee members for their comments first.
- 13. CORRESPONDENCE**
None.
- 14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2015/16**
Committee meetings 7pm start – 6th Oct, 3rd Nov BOOKED
It was decided to wait nearer the time to see if a meeting is required in December.
Public meetings 7.30pm start: 1st Dec, 1st March –both at the Village Hall
Agenda Suggestions:
North Build Information if not already carried out by FPC / Presentation by Persimmon Homes
Feedback of the FMSG Survey
- 15. CLOSE** – David thanked everybody for their contributions. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

DH to write to BDWH to request this hedge is funded by them

JH & SH

DH