

**Minutes of the**  
**Fernwood Central Residents' Association (FCRA) Committee Meeting**  
**Held at 19:15 hrs on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**  
**Fernwood Village Hall**

**1. Attendance:**

| Present           |                     | Apologies        |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| John Newton (JN)  | Brenda Wright (BW)  | Henry Micah (HM) |
| Nick Roberts (NR) | Terry McSwiney (TM) |                  |
| David Heath (DH)  |                     |                  |
| Barry Smith (BS)  |                     |                  |

**2. Previous Minutes**

Proposed as a true record – NR, Seconded - BS

– Carried unanimously

- **No Matters Arising**

**3. Chair's Report**

- i. JN reported that he had sent a further email to his contact at Talents Solicitors regarding the Deed of Variation but still awaited a response. It was agreed that the request for information from residents regarding their experiences of the Deed of Variation together with examples of the Deed would be requested on Facebook. JN and BS to liaise and implement.
- ii. JN reported that he was still awaiting a response from FPC regarding the redacted documentation that was behind the decision of the Council to discontinue the transfer of the ownership of the land at Central Fernwood to the FPC. It was agreed that a Freedom of Information Request be put to Fernwood Parish Council for the all of the relevant documents and correspondence in this regard. DH to co-ordinate.
- iii. JN suggested that the metal tree protection fences to the trees on Rubys Walk were now superfluous and should be re-used to protect newly planted trees on Central Fernwood. It was agreed that JN pursue this.

**4. Secretary's Report**

- i. Terry McSwiney was thanked for her contributions to the past committee meetings and invited to take one of the vacant positions on the Committee. TM accepted and was welcomed to the Committee.
- ii. DH reported that occasional requests to play tennis were being received from Fernwood residents who lived outside of Central Fernwood. He continued to explain to them that the tennis courts were privately maintained by FirstPort as part of the maintenance paid by Central Fernwood Residents and were only available to these residents.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- i. BS confirmed that the only change our funds had been the monthly cost of the web site provision at £2.99.

**6. FirstPort**

- i. Discussion took place on the reluctance on the part of Vanessa Crane to attend a previously agreed quarterly meeting. The cancellation of enquiries on the FirstPort

Creatio system was met with concern as were the other outstanding items on the system.

In view of the many outstanding issues with FirstPort that included the lack of the list of charges requested in June 2023, it was agreed to write of letter of concern detailing the FirstPort failures addressed to David Hesson, Regional Managing Director of FirstPort Central plus, NSDC Chief Executive, Matt Lamb NSDC, and Robert Jenrick MP. DH to co-ordinate.

#### **7. Fernwood Play Park**

BW briefed the meeting on the discussion of the Play Park by FPC. It appeared that tenders had been invited for works to the Playpark and discussions had included FirstPort. Committee members were surprised that despite informal contact with FPC asking to be included as representative of Central Fernwood Residents who pay for the upkeep of the park, no contact had been received. It was agreed that further contact with FPC on this matter be sought.

#### **8. Noticeboard replacement.**

BW had found a suitable noticeboard at a lower cost than previously found. It was agreed that an anodised noticeboard with matching posts to be concreted in, size of 9 x A4 (H1050 x 750 mm) be purchased at a cost of £466.65.

#### **9. Delays in FirstPort Bills**

Members expressed concern that the bills for the period starting 1<sup>st</sup> June had still not been sent by FirstPort without explanation for the delay. Members were also worried about how this would affect residents who paid their bill monthly. The answer was not known. DH pointed out that the budget for 2024/25 had still not been posted. It was agreed that late bills would be included in the letter of complaint.

NOTE since the meeting, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Firstport posted the budget for 2024/25

#### **10. Any Other Business**

NR raised the dilapidated state of the fence around the Clock Tower. Apparently, FPC is in touch with the owner and NR offered to write to FPC on the issue which was agreed.

#### **Committee meetings:**

Committee Meeting - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

Committee Meeting - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

Committee Meeting - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7:15pm – Village Hall

**Meeting Closed 20:50 hrs**