Far Cotton Residents Association.

Minutes of AGM Meeting 3rd September 2019
Location: The Far Cotton Rec Centre

Chairman
Colin Wood

Vice Chairman
Susannah Wootton

AGM Chairman
Alan Earle

Treasurer
Jackie Botrill

Minutes Secretary

Attendees:
Jacqueline Abbott Terry Cooper Barbara Issac Paula Ploughman
Sandra Alderman Rob Cuthbertson Dorothy Kings Emma Roberts Cllr
Mary Boak Julie Davenport Cllr Tony Kings Ron Tarry
John Bright Mick Ford Frances McCoach J. Thompson
Chris Brinklow Georgina Gill Angela McNeill Neil Welch
Barbara Clarke Jill Harris R Morrison Dee Whitehouse
Liz Coleman Diane Higgs P Mumford Margaret Wright
Sandra Coles Rod Higgs J. Mussett
Josephine Cooper K. Hollowell Mark Ploughman

Apologies:
No Apologies

The Chairman opened the AGM Meeting and asked if there were any Apologies? Non recorded.

Last Month’s Minutes 6th August 2019.

The Chairman apologised for the lateness of the Meeting minutes and sought approval.

Minutes Approved and seconded.

Police Report by Chairman Colin Wood.

The burglary figures have dropped considerably, the Policing Team believe due to the arrests they have made.
Vehicle crime remains high, mostly theft from. Over half of these are insecure vehicles and the rest are van breaks.

Criminal damages have increased but are very varied.

24 x Vehicle Crimes.

8 x Burglaries Dwellings.

0 x Non-Dwellings.

13 x Criminal Damage.

The Chairman stated that according to the figures Non-Dwellings (Sheds) had remarkably dropped although reports coming into the Facebook Group page seemed to signal that there had been Shed break ins reported that may not be in these reported statistics.

Alan Earle raised recent reports of Drug dealing in the back alleys, Alan asked that anyone seeing any incidents like these to report them, if it is a crime in progress on 999 or 101 if you have any information. Alan further is led to believe that this may see an increase in teenagers involved and this is very disturbing with the use of “Giving kids drinks” to get them involved into other activities like dealing drugs. If anyone sees this type of things happening, please report it.

Outgoing Chairman’s – Annual Report.

The procedure under the current constitution is for the current outgoing committee to do the following:

- The Chairman’s Report.
- End of Year Accounts.

Chairman’s Report.

There are some items requiring further action or ongoing and if a new committee is established. These are as follows:

- Money raised from the raffles for our chosen charity – Epilepsy Northampton (Susan Bannard) to be paid from the remaining Balance of monies held by the FCRA.
- The FCRA have been accepted into the Pathfinder 2 Project and any subsequent committee would need to engage further with NBC Flood Teams to take this forward. This comes with a small amount of funding of Approx. £3,000.
- Parking Permits has not progressed has hoped and this remains an issue for any incoming committee to deal with.
• The FCRA face group pages will no longer be supported including the Website, although the Domain name https://farcottonresidentsassociation.co.uk remains the intellectual property of the FCRA.
• The Proposal for a Community Council for Far Cotton & Delapre is awaiting the NBC to run the 6 Week consultation, which has yet to begin.
• Other than the commitment to Epilepsy Northampton there are no outstanding debtors.
• The Flower Boxes on the railings need to be tended and final removal of the flowers and Pots is 20th September 2019.
• The outgoing committee will supply to any incoming committee the Minutes of all Meetings and any relevant correspondence relating to the FCRA.
• Alan Earle has kindly offered to Chair the second part of the Meeting for the election of any candidates for the following vacant positions:

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Minute Taker, Treasurer.

On behalf of the outgoing committee Suzy Vice Chairman & Jackie Treasurer & myself we would like to thank the residents for their continued support throughout the year of its instatement. Also, we would also like to say a special like to thank the following:

• To Chrissie, Jackie, Sandra, Mary & Tony for the flower display this year both at the Island & the flowers boxes along the railings a “Great Job” working tirelessly on behalf of the Community.
• To Dee for Delapre park updates and the flowers display outside the Boxing Club.
• To Steve from the CO-OP for supplying an endless supply of prizes for the raffles this year it was much appreciated.
• To Fiona from Sandra’s Flower shop and Pritesh from the Post Office for allowing us access to water for the Flowers.
• To John Bright & Jill Harris from the HMO Group & Far Cotton Litter pickers who also work tirelessly on behalf of the Residents of Far Cotton.
• To Angela McNeill Our Warden – Always delivers not just a great service to the Residents but brings humour to the Meetings always smiling and bends over backwards to help.
• To our Councillors who gave empowerment monies and attend the Meetings working for the Residents.
• To Alan Earle from NHW who are always looking to help keep the Community informed, safe an excellent free service.
• To our Neighbourhood Policing Team Chris Bates, Lucy Hopper, Becky Evans, Kerry Paris.

Without further ado I will now hand you over to Alan Earle our temporary Chairman.
AGM Temporary Chairman – Alan Earle NHW.

Alan Earle explained that he had been asked to the Chair the FCRA AGM Meeting by the outgoing Chairman Colin Wood and he was delighted to be asked. Alan gave a brief account of himself explaining his role is normally as the NHW but he was not here in that capacity tonight. He further asked that the outgoing Chairman remain as the minute taker for this part of the Meeting.

Alan reminded the Residents that the Meeting is still being recorded.

As the outgoing Committee have officially resigned there is now an immediate vacancy for the following positions.

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Minute Taker
- Also, to re-appoint the person assigned to The Delapre Park Management Committee.

Under the current constitution on which this Association is based.

The procedure is as follows:

- The Meeting shall elect or re-elect officers for the coming year.
- Nominations may be received prior to, or at the Meeting.
- Amendments to the Constitution will normally be made at the AGM, but maybe deferred to an ordinary Meeting. There are no proposals to amend the current Constitution tonight.
- All proposals made at a Meeting shall be decided by a simple Majority Vote.
- No Person shall be entitled to more than one vote, but where there is an equal vote, the person in the Chair shall have the casting vote. Alan further reminded the residents that only people who reside in Far Cotton can vote. That is in the Constitution.
- The Minutes of the Meeting shall be kept by the minute’s secretary.
- The Minutes will be circulated by email to the Officers, to all that attend regularly, and to other bodies or individuals as agreed by the FCRA.

Alan Earle set out under the current constitution how the meeting would be conducted.

- Call each position that is up for election.
- We will take any nominations seconders.
- Once we have nominations the persons nominated for those positions being voted on will be asked to leave the room.
- The vote will be taken by a show of hands.
The first position is that of Chair Alan asked if there were any nominations?

Barbara Issacs said she had asked Mick Ford and he has agreed and so she proposed him. Cllr Julie Davenport said she would second that. Alan asked if there were any other nominations for the position has Chair, as there was no other nominees Alan asked for Mick Ford to leave the room. Mick Ford asked as in lived in Delapre was he allowed to stand as it was stated earlier that only people in Far Cotton was allowed to vote. Alan said he believed this was ok has he believed it is the Ward of Far Cotton and this was backed up by Cllr Julie Davenport.

The Vote for Mick Ford as Chairman was as follows:

- 10 votes For.
- 11 votes Against.
- 4 Abstained.

Alan Earle stated that the nomination had been Voted down and further explained that we “have to have a Chair for this Committee”. Alan asked if we wanted to take “timeout to consider”. Mick Ford was invited back into the Meeting. AE explained that without the election of a Chairman it was pointless to go further with the other vacant positions.

Further AE explained that if there was no election of a Chairman the Constitution calls for the Dissolution process will be passed, and it is requirement of this process to give 28 days' notice of this intention to “Wind up” the FCRA. AE in response to being asked if he would stand, he replied No, he explained he was to heavily committed to his role in NHW and would not have the time.

Barbara Issacs said the those who voted Against have any idea of anyone else or we are finished. Jackie Bottrill replied and stated that it was “Chaos” last year.

The outgoing Chairman Colin Wood stated that we are bound by the Constitution and that if no one is elected the next stage was the Dissolution process but within that process during the 28 days period someone could still be elected.

Many concerns regarding the constitution were raised and that the demands of monthly Meetings could be reduced to say quarterly Meetings. However, the outgoing Chairman CW explained we are “Tied” under the current constitution has it currently stands.

In the debate that followed it was suggested

- By AE was picking up the point raised by Barbara Issacs was there anyone for those 11 against willing to stand?
- Barbara Issacs said that the reason Mick Ford would be right for the role is that he MF knew a lot of people in Council stating, “It not what you know it is who you know” and he knows a lot of people on the council he can call in. Further stating he (MF) does love the area and lived in the area.

AE said that there were two options at this point one is we could re-run the vote; this was met with and emphatic No from the residents and this idea was dismissed.
Jacqueline Abbott said that for those who did not know MF could we be told some more about him, this prompted other residents to say they knew MF, with some of those who abstained stating they did not know enough about him.

AE then concluded the following:

- We would not re-run the Vote.
- We are now giving 28 days’ notice of the Dissolution process.
- Within the time there can be another Vote to try and fill the vacant positions.
- These are options left under the current constitution.

After further debate the outgoing Chairman offered anyone who wanted to look at the constitution but read out the following:

**Dissolution.**

The FCRA may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a simple majority vote, at the AGM or at any other special meeting called for that purpose. At least 28 Day’s clear Notice shall be given to Members and the Terms of the Dissolution shall be circulated to all regular attendee’s and displayed in an area of benefit.

Any other body to which the FCRA is affiliated shall be informed.

In the event of the FCRA being dissolved all the records shall be deposited at the County Records Office.

After all debts and liabilities have been met, any remaining monies and assets shall be donated to a Northampton Charitable Organisation with the approval of the final Meeting of the FCRA.

The Meeting was adjourned whilst AE decided the next steps forward.

After the meeting was reconvened the Acting Chairman AE delivered the following:

- The start of the Dissolution process of 28 Days.
- A special Meeting set for the 1st October 2019 within that time all nominations for all the vacant positions should be sent to CW. In writing or by email.
- As AE cannot Chair the special Meeting AE asked for someone to Chair this Meeting?

Cllr Julie Davenport agreed to Chair this meeting. Then Cllr JD asked if she would be allowed to vote and changed her mind in the end it was agreed that Julie Going would Chair this Meeting. It was further agreed that any nominees should include details about them relevant to the role applied for. It was also agreed that there was no email list of residents to allow circulation or the use of Social Media to do so.

In Conclusion AE stated that we had to follow the constitution and any other meeting conventions. Was everyone happy with that?
Meeting moved on to AOB

Barbara Issacs wanted to raise a Childs bike that she was holding that was found outside her property. It was suggested by John Bright to email the FCRA for them to put it on social Media. Barbara also asked if anyone remembered Paddy Bell she was a teacher sadly she passed away last week. The funeral is planned for the 20th September.

Josephine Cooper raised the plans by Association of Far Cotton Enterprises AFCE. JC also delivered her uptake on the court cases regarding cigarette litter with 92 incidences with people being fined £375 each on average JC said that she did the calculations, and this ended up a nice little earner of £34,500 for the council. It was pointed out that this was money not going to the council but to private contractors. JC also raised concerns regarding a newspaper article (not from this area) but she believes it could relate anywhere about Call Out Phone Crooks. Residents are urged to be careful these people are very slick at committing this kind of Cyber Crime.

Dee Whitehouse – Delapre Park Management updates

The Delapre Park Management meeting was quite positive as they had some officers there and all the concerns about the trees, walls etc. are all in hand and being looked at and friends of the park are looking at where the Water Garden is to get that tidied up which hopefully will deter the vandals Dee wanted to thank everyone involved for the help.

DW also got an invite up to The Queen Eleanor Cross she stated that she was pleasantly surprised as it was an explanation of the processes involved in the restoration. She said it was absolutely fascinating and that are well ahead of schedule. Further the amount of detail from acquiring the right stones and quality to having to repair the bad work conducted in the 80’s. DW states she will continue to do her bit in ensuring that after the current funding what will happen beyond this for future generations to enjoy.

HMO Updates – John Bright

128 Euston Road – submitted an application at the beginning of this year for 3 x occupiers they wanted to put a bedroom downstairs was objected to by Highways due to flood risk the application was withdrawn. Apparently, this is going back to a family house.

144 Southampton Road – previously passed for 3 x occupiers although there had been a previous application for 4 x occupiers which was refused on the grounds of parking has been appealed and is awaiting a decision by the planning inspectorate.

73 Delapre Street – for 4 x occupiers this is being determined a planning meeting tonight.

56 St Leonards Road – currently 3 x occupiers looking to increase to 4 x occupiers but that was dismissed by the planning inspectorate this will remain only for 3 x occupiers.
Jacqueline Abbott asked JB if there was any news on the additional licencing.

**Far Cotton Litter Pickers – John Bright & Jill Harris**

The next litter pick is on the 14th September 13:00 p.m. outside of The Golden Horse.

Josephine Cooper delivered reported the sighting of a Fallow Deer just off Ransome Road.

Mick Ford said he would send his CV to Colin Wood but wanted to say how passionate he was about the FCRA and what it meant to him (at this point John Bright suggested Mick went to the front of the room as some people were struggling to hear him) MF continued he stated he actually sits on the board of The Cobblers Trust & The Disabled Cobblers Trust and also a life member of the Trust & a season ticket holder. MF stated tonight we are playing Peterborough and he had given that up to come down here as he thought this was more important than a football match, going on to say he was passionate about both but more passionate about his place.

Cllr Emma Roberts – in response for “Weeding” they are currently doing a run now with an additional run being done in October. John Bright asked that the Cllrs asked the question that are they going to actually clear the mess that make its way into Drains & Gutters. Cllr Emma Roberts she would ask the question.

Jacqueline Abbott raised again the issue of sewerage smell in Southampton Road John Bright believes it has been cleared twice this year. AE believes it should be reported to Anglia Water to run a Test.

AE finally stated that as an observation in the future if a new committee is appointed that they will look at how appointing a new FCRA Committee is conducted and that there is a cut off point for nominations say 5 to 7 Days which will in turn make it easier to Chair the AGM Meeting. AE also suggested that any nominations this time around are given in 21 days’ time prior the 1st October Meeting.

AE would like to thank Colin, Suzy & Jackie for all their hard work and particularly for the fact they were called in at a very difficult time to take on the FCRA positions over the last 12 months.

**Raffle**

**Meeting closed 21:00 p.m.**