

## Parish Councillors

Cllr Sue Kingdom Chairman 01271 326914	Cllr Miss Louise Goodger 07562 791139
Cllr F Biederman Vice-Chairman 07595 988704	Cllr Kelvin Groves 01271 327557
Cllr Des Brailey MBE 01271 329796	Cllr Mrs. Carol McCormack-Hole 01271 343176
Cllr Rodney Cann 01271 372998	Cllr Alan Rennles 01271 376335
Cllr David Chalmers 07909 497487	Cllr Ms Myka Scott 01271 859003
Cllr Mrs Jayne Dyson 01271 860665	Cllr Bill Sherborne 01271 344816
Cllr Mrs Jacqueline Flynn 01271 370546	Cllr Graham Turner 01271 314851
	Cllr Tony Wood 01271 321424



**Fremington Parish Council**  
12 Higher Road, Fremington,  
EX31 3BG

Phone: 01271 321063

E-mail: [clerk@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Officers

Mrs. Victoria Woodhouse  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Mrs. Eileen Badcock  
Services Officer

Mrs. Liz Steer  
Deputy Services Officer

## Christmas Tree Festival

The Parish Council has once again taken part in the Christmas Tree Festival, the Festival is held every year at St Peter's Church with many organisations in the community submitting a tree for display. This year's Parish Council tree is called "Fremington Parish Council" and we hope this helps people to understand the separate areas that all come together to create the parish.



We would like to say a special thank you to the Services Officer, Mrs Eileen Badcock and Deputy Services Officer, Mrs Liz Steer, for erecting and decorating the tree.

## Community Landing Sites

The Parish Council is in discussions with the Devon Air Ambulance to develop the Beechfield Playing Field into a Community Landing Site for use as a landing site for night time flying. The site will be surveyed in the near future for suitability.



# Winter Newsletter 2017 - 2018



## Message from the Chairman

Dear Parishioner,

We have reached that time of year in council life when we have to set our budgets and precept



for the coming financial year of 2018/2019. It gets increasingly more difficult each year as more and more is put on the Parish Council by both Devon County Council and North Devon District Council at the same time as funding to the Parish Council is reduced. This puts burden on us. As Parish Councillors we are volunteers and also residents so any decision we make regarding the precept affects us in the same way that it affects all residents who live within the Parish.

We have therefore had to increase our precept by approximately 11 pence per week based on a Band D property. With all the new properties being built in our parish this has one benefit in that whilst the tax base increases it reduces the amount to be paid by each individual property.

I hope that you will support our decision as otherwise we could be faced with cutting services such as grass cutting.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Cllr Sue Kingdom, Chairman**

## Update on the Replacement of the Beechfield Centre & Loan Application

The portacabin, which currently forms the Beechfield Centre, was closed to the public in June 2017 having long expired its shelf life and due to the state of repair. The replacement of this community facility, the Beechfield Centre, is a priority for the Parish Council with a provisional date of spring 2018 being set for demolition and replacement. The purpose built replacement building will provide a community building with changing facilities for a number of sporting and/or leisure activities, Parish Council Offices and a hall which will have dual occupancy as a Parish Council Meeting Chamber and a community room for hire.

The recent community facilities audit carried out through the Neighbourhood Plan process has shown that the parish does not have enough community buildings and those that are in situ are at capacity with no plans to expand.

The demolition and disposal of the building will cost in the region of £10,000, the construction of the new building as per the planning permission will cost around £270,000 and the surfacing and lining of the car parking area will cost around £20,000, naturally there will be other costs associated with the project such as professional fees. The Parish Council has around £140,000 in Ear Marked Reserves towards the project, which includes Section 106 funding of £22,800 from the Sampsons Plantation Development.

## Update on the Replacement of the Beechfield Centre & Loan Application

.....Continued

However, there is still a significant deficit in the funding. The Parish Council has investigated possible grant funding but has now taken the decision, due to the low interest rates and lack of secured funding, to apply for a Public Works Loan of £150,000 over a period of 9 1/2 but not over 10 years from the Public Works Loan Board to help complete the project and the outstanding balance will be met from the sale of the current Parish Council Offices. The Parish Council hopes the community will be supportive of this decision and the Parish Council's aspiration to develop a much needed community facility. In order to meet the loan re-payments, along with the reduction in grants the Parish Council receives and an increase in services and general running costs, the Parish Council has taken the decision to increase the precept for 2018-2019 to £152,969.15. The Parish Council is aware that the increase appears a high percentage, however, due to the increasing tax base, it is actually approximately an increase of £5.73 a year or 11pence a week based on a Band D Property. The tax base is continuing to increase and it is likely that the actual impact will be less.

## Appointment of Handyperson

Mr John Wattam has joined the team here at Fremington Parish Council as Handyperson. Mr Wattam's primary role is ensuring our play areas and open spaces are safe for your use. If you see him out and about please do say hello.