

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council's Tews Lane Committee
held on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 12pm
at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Higher Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs R Cann (Chairman), Mrs J Dyson, Mrs J Flynn, Mrs S Kingdom, B Sherborne and G Turner
Cllr Chalmers as substitute
Mrs Victoria Woodhouse, Parish Clerk
Mr Richard Sharples, Barnstaple Football Club
Mr Aaron Heighton, Barnstaple Youth Football Club
Mr Chris French, FA

1802/74 **Apologies for Absence**

None.

1802/75 **Declarations of interests**

None.

1802/76 **To agree the agenda as published**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the agenda as published.

1802/77 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported concerns about the surface water that has been created from the development south of the site, it was noted that there was a significant amount running across the area and it was agreed to make representations to the North Devon Council.

The Chairman was concerned about Devon County Council's aspirations to create a bypass and widening the road to the east of the site and whether or not this would require land from the sports complex. It was agreed to contact DCC and ask for clarification.

1802/78 **To approve and sign the minutes of meeting held on 23rd November 2017 as a correct record**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2018 as a correct record. Cllr Cann duly signed the minutes.

1802/79 **To receive update on drainage works and condition of the pitches**

Members were informed that the first phase of the drainage work to repair the broken drains had commenced but had been halted due to the ground and weather conditions.

Mr French was asked for his opinion on the condition of the pitches and how this could be improved. Mr French explained that in many places throughout the country the maintenance has not been adequate for the drainage and the main problem is the water not getting down to the drains. Recreation use of the site causes damage and really the only way to improve the situation is to reduce recreation use on the pitches by removing goal posts after matches and training and providing smaller five aside goals elsewhere and to increase the maintenance. Mr French suggested that the Football Club looks to carry out maintenance on the pitches to enhance the maintain package that the Parish Council undertakes.

Concerns were raised about the vandalism to the dugouts on site and the cost implications to the Football Club.

Mr French confirmed that he would investigate funding options for some equipment for the Football Club to be able to undertake some further maintenance on the pitches and purchase removable goals and dugouts. It was agreed for the Football Club to compile a programme for consideration for the 2018/2019 TAP fund.

Mr French confirmed that we have had the worse winter for the last two years. The football club raised concerns about having to hire other facilities due to conditions.

Cllr Turner raised concerns about the condition of the site and asked that the Football Club takes some responsibility for keeping the area nice. The Football Club confirmed that it tries where it can to repair items, however, they do experience a lot of vandalism and it does cost the Football Club a lot of money.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to await information from Mr French on funding and the Football Club to submit a programme for consideration by the Fremington Rural TAP fund Group.

1802/80 **To consider request to hire Tews Lane during the summer months on a Thursday evening to play Rounders**

Members considered the request, it was noted that this request could conflict with the Football Clubs' schedule and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the hire in principle and subject to appropriate Public Liability Insurance and a Risk Assessment and the hire not conflicting with other existing uses of the site.

1802/81 **To review and consider information relating to a request for a Gas Governor Site at the Tews Lane sports facility**

Members were informed that WWU has submitted a request to acquire an area of ground from the Playing Fields at Tews Lane. They would prefer to acquire the area freehold, however, NDC has indicated it would be a lease. In order to grant the request NDC would need to take a surrender of lease to the Parish Council and regrant a new lease, each party would need to instruct legal advisors separately and any variation in the terms of the lease would need to be renegotiated and redrafted. The Parish as the leaseholders, is in occupation of the subject property and any consent to any of the above has to be with its support and agreement. It was noted that the Chairman of the Committee along with the Clerk and a representative of the NDC Estates Department had met on site and WWU had confirmed that this was not the only option or site for the Gas Governor but was the preferred option. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, not to support the request as the Committee felt that there would be an unnecessary risk in surrendering the lease especially when alternative sites could be sought and did not wish to lose land from the site.

1802/82 **Close**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.34pm.

Signed.....

Dated