

# *Fremington Parish Council*



## *Annual Report 2017-2018*

## **Chairman's Annual Report - Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom**

Before I start my report by looking back over the last year, which has again been a busy year, I must first pay tribute to Councillor Tony Wood who passed away suddenly. As the Chairman of Fremington Parish Council and on behalf of Tony's fellow Councillors I would like to express our shock and sadness at the suddenness of Tony's passing. He has been an invaluable part of the Parish Council with his insight and knowledge and has been on several of the committees over the years. It is indeed sad that only recently our loan for the refurbishment of the Beechfield Centre has been approved. When the new building is complete we will indeed remember Tony's enthusiasm for this building. Our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time.

We started the year off by welcoming a new Councillor Miss Louise Goodger who represents the Fremington/Yelland Ward and was co-opted onto the council in March 2017 and is a valued asset to the council.

The council has continued the work on the Neighbourhood Plan with a survey sent out to all homes in the Parish back in September. This was a delay to the original timetable and was caused by the General Election. However this has now been completed and has been published if you would like a copy please do get in touch.

The Parish Council having achieved the Foundation level of the Local Council's Award Scheme in 2016 has now achieved the Quality level of the scheme. This shows that the Parish Council is ensuring good practice in governance and community engagement. Fremington Parish Council goes above and beyond our legal obligations and we continuously seek opportunities to improve and develop. I must extend my thanks to the Parish Clerk and her staff in seeing us through all of this.

We are progressing on the replacement of the Beechfield Centre. We closed the Centre in June 2017 because of health and safety issues. The building will be demolished in the coming months. The replacement building will hopefully be started before the end of the summer. The new building will provide a community building and changing facilities as well as a Parish Council Offices. This will enable easy access for all residents. We have been given the approval for a Public Works Loan to enable this work to go ahead.

We were pleased to learn that after setting our budgets and precept that the North Devon Council had decided not to cut the Parish Grant by 50%, however, we were also notified by Devon County Council that they were reducing the amount they send through to us for highway grass cutting, luckily due to the U-turn we have been able to keep the grass cutting at the same level for another year.

We are still waiting for the community facilities on the old Army Camp to be handed over. The delay has been caused by a number of issues. We are hopeful that they will all be under our control by the end of the summer.

I am pleased to say that the plans for the completion of the pavilion at Tews Lane have been agreed by the Committee and I look forward to seeing this project progress.

I am pleased to see that our new look website has been successful and is averaging over three and a half thousand visits a month. You can also contact the Parish Council and keep up-to-date with information on our Facebook Page just like and share.

We end the year with three further vacancies due to Councillor resignations for personal reasons and we wish them the best of luck for the future and look forward to welcoming our new Councillors as and when the positions are filled by co-option or election (check out our website, Facebook and noticeboards for information on up coming co-options and elections)

In the coming year we have to take on board the changes in the Data Protection Act which comes into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This will mean a lot of work for the Parish Clerk and all the Councillors and a change in the way that we contact you and share information, if you do have any concerns please get in contact with the Parish Clerk.

To finish I would once again like to thank my fellow Councillors and all the staff at Fremington Parish Council for the support they have shown me as Chairman over the last twelve months.

**Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom  
Chairman**

**This Annual Report is available on the Council's website at [www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and in a Large Print version.**

**If you would like a Large Print copy please contact the Parish Council Offices on 01271 321063, or email [clerk@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

## **Finance and Personnel Committee - Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom**

Every year has its own challenges for local government finances and this year has not been any different. As I reported in my Chairman's report there have been factors outside of the Parish Council's control that have affected our budget and precept setting for the forthcoming year, along with some exciting projects which we are hoping to complete within the next twelve months.

The Parish Council has gained approval to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board for £150,000 towards the replacement of the Beechfield Centre. Through the householders' survey it was identified that the replacement of this building is a priority for the local community and we do hope that you will support the Council's decision to apply for this loan at a time when interest rates are low.

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to continue to support local groups and organisations and has this year awarded grants totalling £2,196 which have been distributed to local groups serving the community. The Parish Council has also committed a further £500 towards the running of the North Devon Record Office which we hope you will agree is an important asset to keep within the area. The Council regrets that it cannot financially support all organisations but has a limited budget and priority has to be given to those groups not in a position to generate enough income.

I would again like to take the opportunity to thank the Clerk and staff for their support.

**Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom  
Chairman Finance & Personnel Committee**

## **Fremington Quay Committee - Cllr Frank Biederman**

Fremington Quay continues to be an amazing destination for parishioners and visitors from far and wide to visit.

As you may have noticed the works to the Fremington Viaduct were finally completed towards the end of last year and the compound removed from Fremington Quay. As part of the compensation for these works Devon County Council has carried out improvements to the Fisherman's Amenity Area and the Parish Council would like to say thank you to Devon County Council and its contractors for these works. Through the Town and Parish Fund the Parish Council has managed to create refuge areas for those walking along the BOAT Road leading to Fremington Quay and we hope this will provide safe areas for pedestrians to move into out of the way of vehicles travelling along the road and reducing the conflict. The Coastal Communities Team in conjunction with the Gaia Trust has installed an Osprey camera and a screen which has been erected in the Heritage Centre.

The Committee are about to start looking at a Car Parking Strategy for the Quay, to look at vehicle movements and if this can be improved. We in principle supported a small pottery at the quay, this could be by utilising the old tower.

We are also looking at the possibility of increasing the size of the Kitchen in the Café, the café continues to be a huge success and won the North Devon Café of the year, at the North Devon Journal Business awards.

I thank the staff and fellow councillors for all their help over the last 12 months.

**Cllr Frank Biederman  
Chairman Fremington Quay Committee**

## **Tews Lane Committee - Cllr Rodney Cann**

The sports field continues to enjoy success as a facility for users and the general public.

We understand that the football pitches are some of the most heavily used in North Devon.

A combination of exceptional rain, heavy use and clay subsoil plus the partial failure of the drainage system has led to cancellation of a significant number of football matches. Funding has now been identified to undertake works to improve the situation and is ongoing.

Commencement of development on an adjoining site resulted in a significant increase in surface water draining on the field at one stage resulting in this being reported to North Devon Council Planning Enforcement for action.

The increasing number of dog walkers using the facility is still a matter of concern to the football clubs and many local residents.

Design work on the proposed changes to the Community Centre plans are now well advanced and will be submitted to the Parish Council for agreement before submission to North Devon Council's Planning Department.

Restricted car parking availability has been an ongoing problem. Funding has now been identified to increase the parking capacity but this will require the relocation of the children's play area to an alternative site.

I would like to thank the Vice Chairman and Committee for their support in what has been a mixed year but with the real prospect of a bright future if all our plans come to a successful fruition

**Cllr Rodney Cann**  
**Chairman Tews Lane Committee**

## **Footpaths Committee**

Once again, the general clearance and maintenance of footpaths/bridleways and byway in the Parish has been carried out this year by local contractors, the vast majority of works involving vegetation clearance.

The Season's First Cut of footpaths/bridleways was carried out in accordance with the specifications. This first cut ensures the maintenance and upkeep of our footpaths/bridleways and byway is easier to control and, as always, has improved access for parishioners and visitors to the parish, together with organised groups with environmental interests.

Our footpaths/bridleways/byway network surveys for 2017-2018 have again been carried out by Mrs Liz Steer. We are pleased to report that all have passed and our thanks must go to Mrs Steer, who has agreed to carry out the surveys for 2018-19. The Footpaths Committee agreed to pay Mrs Steer the sum of £80.00 to carry out all surveys in her own time due to Parish Council work commitments.

Housing development planning applications are ongoing in the Parish, with works currently taking place at Tews Lane, Yelland and Mead Park and a recently approved development to be undertaken at Oakland Park South. The majority of these developments impact on the footpaths/bridleways network and we have therefore again this year not submitted Specific Bids for works for the coming year.

A P3 Grant in the sum of £450.00 has been awarded for 2018-2019 and will again be spent on clearance and maintenance work required on the Parish's extensive footpaths/bridleway/byway network.

Finally, thanks must go to members of staff, local contractors and our Public Rights of Way Warden for their support and assistance in maintaining our footpaths/bridleways/byway network.

**Cllr Frank Biederman**  
**Chairman**

**Mrs Eileen Badcock**  
**Joint P3 Co-ordinator**

## **Parks and Playing Fields Committee - Cllr Tony Wood**



Unfortunately this is more of a tribute than a report. The Parish Council is saddened by the news at the sudden loss of Councillor Tony Wood. Councillor Wood had been a Fremington Parish Councillor for a number of years. During his time on the Parish Council he had been elected as Chairman of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee and was a strong supporter of progressing the replacement of the Beechfield Centre, a project that he had been pushing forward for a number of years. The project is nearing its final stages of planning and we hope to see work commence on site in August 2018. It is poignant that Councillor Wood did not see the hard work come to fruition but we will proceed with the project in his memory.

There are several other projects that Cllr Wood was steering on behalf of the Committee that are due to be completed through the summer months. The roundabout in the Beechfield Play Area has been broken for some time and this is due to be replaced in June 2018. The Parish Council would like to say thank you to the Fremington & District Community Group which has contributed towards the replacement along with the Parish Council and funds from the TAP Fund. We hope to be in a position later in the year to undertake some works to the pathways and BMX track in Griggs Field.

The Autumn of 2017 saw us remove some trees from the Beechfield Playing Field which were enabling anti-social behaviour and causing distress to nearby residents. Cllr Wood was also the Parish Council's Tree Warden and a strong protector of trees, luckily most of the trees we removed were dead or not in the best of health, we are pleased that this does appear to have helped the situation.

In November 2017 we welcomed our new Handyperson to the team Mr John Wattam who inspects and maintains the play areas and is settling in well.



The Parish Council leases two allotment sites, unfortunately this year we have seen a decline in the interest for plots at the Babbages site in Bickington and have a number of vacant plots. If you are interested in a plot please do contact the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has, once again, safeguarded the cutting of the highway verges and in fact has put funds in the budget to provide an extra cut earlier in the year due to the mild conditions we have been experiencing through recent winters.

I am sure that if Cllr Wood was writing this report he would like to say thank you to the staff and Councillors for their support over the last year and he would be ever hopeful that the current portacabin known as the Beechfield Centre will be demolished very soon (as are we).

**Victoria Woodhouse**  
**Parish Clerk**

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## **Neighbourhood Plan - Cllr Alan Rennles**

Last year the Steering Group spent time undertaking consultations and gaining your views on our community. We used the information received from parishioners at the initial consultation meetings to put together questions relating to what you as the parishioners would like to see for the future of our parish. This was produced and with support of your parish councillors they were delivered to every household.

After some weeks, from doorstep collections and online data capture, which we found to be very effective, prior to Christmas we started analysing the statistics which I feel proved to be a good steer in producing aims and objectives of writing up to enable us to complete the neighbourhood plan document for the future.

May I thank those councillors and parishioners for their time and their effort so far.

**Cllr Alan Rennles**  
**Chairman Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

**Fremington Parish Council**  
**Income & Expenditure Account (Unaudited)**  
**1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018**

(Current) Year  
 Ended  
 31st. March 2018

	<u>Income</u>	
	Administration	852.01
1,508.17	Parks & Playing Fields	10,107.68
10,700.33	106 Funding from NDC	11,099
24,873.25	Cemetery	11,099
8,730.00	Fremington Quay	23,306.36
26,944.65	Salaries & Inland Revenue	0.00
0.00	Insurance	0.00
0.00	Parish Paths	450.00
400.00	TAP Fund	3,530
1,425.61	Precept	136,056.29
134,945.42	Dog Bins	107.60
193.74	Grants	56,422.90
35,264.73	Restated	0.00
0.00	Earmarked Reserves	4,295.00
4,295.00		
<b>249,280.90</b>		<b>241,391.84</b>

	<u>Expenditure</u>	
	Administration	16,679.34
18,021.07	Parks & Playing Fields	40,129
32,035.87	106 Funding NDC	765.00
765.00	Cemetery	5,169.94
6,004.25	Fremington Quay	15,343.02
11,665.39	Salaries	93,307.60
81,334.05	TAP Fund	989.12
3,530.00	Parish Paths	344.00
371.72	Loans	4,282.62
4,282.62	Insurance	6,358.77
10,327.33	Parish Enhancements	20.00
20.00	Dog Bins	5,374.11
5,069.88	Grants	26,160
8,358.17	Election Costs	0.00
0.00	Earmarked Reserves	17,862.41
11,176.13		
<b>192,961.48</b>		<b>231,999.99</b>

	<u>General Fund</u>	
<b>136,120.77</b>	Balance at 1st April 2017	<b>148,997.19</b>
249,280.90	ADD Total Income	241,931.84
385,401.67		390,929.03
192,961.48	Deduct Total Expenditure	231,999.99
192,440.19		158,929.04
43,443.00	Transfer to/from reserves	66,393
<b>148,997.19</b>	Balance at 31st March 2018	<b>92,536.04</b>

## Parish Councillors

Cllr Mr Frank Biederman  
8 Broadway, Fremington  
07595 988704

Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom  
37 Park Avenue, Sticklepath  
01271 326914

Cllr Mr Des Brailey MBE  
31 Maple Grove, Roundswell  
01271 329796

Cllr Mrs Carol McCormack-Hole  
The Plough Inn, 7 The Hill,  
Bickington, 01271 343176

Cllr Mr Rodney Cann  
Kimberley, Bickington Road,  
Bickington 01271 372998

Cllr Mr Alan Rennles  
4 Linden Gardens, Sticklepath  
01271 376335

Cllr Mr David Chalmers  
6 Gibbs Lane, Appledore  
07909 497487

Cllr Ms Myka Scott  
3 Byeways Close, Fremington  
01271 859003

Cllr Miss Louise Goodger  
31 Fairacre Avenue, Barnstaple  
07562 791139

Cllr Mr. Bill Sherborne  
5 Woodville Close, Sticklepath  
01271 344816

Cllr Mr Kelvin Groves  
49 Lyddicleave, Bickington  
01271 327557

## Parish Council Officers

Mrs Victoria Woodhouse  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Mrs Eileen Badcock  
Services Officer

Mrs Liz Steer  
Deputy Services Officer



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