

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over this last year we have welcomed four new councillors - they are Sam Adams and Peter Thorn who now represent Fremington/Yelland, Joy Cann who now represents Fremington/Bickington and Ian Crawford who represents Roundswell.

The councillors they have replaced are Jayne Dyson (who moved to Spain) Jackie Flynn, Graham Turner and Tony Wood.

Our thanks go out to the retired councillors for all their time and efforts in the Parish. At Parish level all councillors are volunteers and do not get paid.



We have started work on the Beechfield Centre. The contractor has been appointed and hopefully work will progress quickly and is expected to take approximately 6 months. The new centre will provide a new Parish Office with disability access. There will be a meeting room and showers/changing rooms available for hire. The

existing office will be sold to provide the last of the funding needed to pay for the new centre.

The community facilities on the Army Camp site are just waiting for the solicitors to do their bit before they become Parish assets. Again this should have happened over this last year but due to issues the developers had this is now only coming to fruition. The transfer should happen in the next couple of months. The Scouts will move into the community building and Fremington Football Club will take over the football pitch, changing rooms and storage unit. The MUGA (multi use games area) is included in the asset transfer and people will be able to book to use it whether it will be for the free period or a paid period.

We have more development proposed in the Parish including a new school. We are not opposed to the school but feel that it will be in the wrong place and will only add to the existing traffic issues we all experience every day. We have contacted Devon County Council in regard to this, as there are other sites more appropriate. We also have proposed development at the Yelland Power Station site. Unfortunately this site has been recognized within the Local Plan, which was agreed in October 2018. This means that the most we can do is to make sure that the development has conditions and controls attached to the application. Hopefully this will reduce the impact on the local community. This site is very emotive for a lot of residents and we understand that so we will do our best to represent their views.

In March 2019, we had to act quickly as we were told that the Parish Council's contractor had ceased trading citing that he has been given only one month's notice from North Devon Council that he could no longer dispose of the waste under NDC's umbrella. The Parish has 35 dog bins in its ownership, the Parish Council did not wish to see them removed but had little choice given the situation. However, we managed to arrange with the grass contractor to take over the collection and disposal of dog fouling waste for a trial period. This will be reconsidered at the next Full Council meeting.



Our Parish Clerk, Victoria Woodhouse, is currently on maternity leave. We are delighted to hear that baby Arthur was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> April and mother and baby are doing well. We have appointed Kate Graddock, former Deputy Town Clerk at Barnstaple Town Council to provide cover for her until Victoria returns early in 2020.

We wish both Victoria and Kate the very best in their new roles over this coming year.

**Cllr Mrs Sue 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 & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Managing the finances of any Parish Council at this time has its challenges and this year was no exception for Fremington, but with prudent and careful oversight we have ensured that the Council has been able to maintain its ongoing commitments, whilst investing in projects for the future.

The precept for this financial year was set at £191,211 – an increase of £9.57 or 18p per week for a Band Property, ensuring that the Council is fully able to undertake its functions, such as the regular cutting of grass, and provide the finance required to meet the Council's employment obligations and expenditure.

We have continued to finance the Neighbourhood Plan, which despite being delayed, when ratified by residents later this year, should prove a reliable asset to the Parish and ensure that its future development matches the needs and wishes of the people who live here.

I am delighted to announce that we secured the funding from several sources for the Beechfield Project to go ahead - £349,714 in total. Building work is proceeding on the new accessible Parish Offices and adjoining sport facilities, which when completed later this summer, will enable the current offices to be put up for sale.

In March we were informed that the company emptying the 35 dog fouling bins situated throughout the Parish would no longer be able to continue providing the service. I am pleased to announce that we have found an alternative service provider at a slight increase in cost, which was deemed worth paying, to ensure the smooth continuation of this service and avoid the distress that removing all our dog bins would have caused to local residents and visitors alike.

The Parish is pleased to be able to continue to support local groups and organisations and has this year awarded grants totalling £2,760 which have been distributed to local groups serving the community and particular £200 which was given each to Age Concern and Citizens Advice, who provide much needed guidance and support in these difficult times. The Parish has also committed a further £600 on an annual basis towards the running of the North Devon Records Office to ensure that this valuable asset is retained in our area. The Council regrets that it cannot financially support all organisations but with its limited budget gives priority to those groups not in a position to generate sufficient income themselves.

Given the growth in the Parish, the additional services and facilities that the Parish Council is acquiring it was decided to employ the services of LGRC to help carry out a strategic plan in conjunction with a staffing review to fully understand the Council's aspirations and resources needed to provide the additional services. We have received both reports and next year will look to implement their recommendations.

I am delighted that we have Mrs Kate Graddock, acting as Parish Clerk for the next 11 months, whilst Victoria Woodhouse is on maternity leave. I would just like to add that these past four years, it has been a pleasure working with my fellow Councilors on the Finance and Personnel Committee and an honour to serve the residents of our Parish. I wish you all well in the future.

**Cllr David Chalmers, Chairman**

# FREMINGTON QUAY COMMITTEE



Fremington Quay continues to be a fantastic destination for parishioners and visitors to our community .

The Committee has worked hard to ensure that there is now a long-term lease for the Café, this ensures that we have this successful and thriving part of our community for everyone to enjoy.

We are still continuing to look at a Car Parking Strategy for the Quay in the hope that we can secure additional parking for residents and visitors who visit.

I would like to thank staff and fellow councillors for their help and support over the last 12 months. I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing this committee for the past 4 years, as I believe this Quay is one of the gems of North Devon.

**Cllr Frank Biederman, Chairman**

# FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE



As in previous years, the general clearance and maintenance of footpaths/bridleways/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/byway network 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 2018-2019 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 2019-2020. 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. Some of these developments impact on the footpaths/bridleways network and we have therefore not submitted Specific Bids for works for the coming year.

A P3 Grant in the sum of £450.00 has been awarded for 2019-2020 and will 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 Samuel Adams**  
**Chairman**

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

# PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

There have been a number of projects the committee has focused on, the primary, being the replacement of the Beechfield Centre. CDL, a local contractor was appointed and we are pleased to have started the work in March 2019, with the hope that it will finish by September 2019.

There have been a number of discussions at the committee including hire charges for Beechfield Playing Field and The Village Green.

A number of requests have been approved from community groups and organisations to hold events on the Village Green, these included:

- *The Fremington & District Community Group—Opening of the Lychgate on 11th November*
- *The Fremington & District Community Group—Christmas event and lights switch on 7th December*
- *The Fremington & District Community Group – Erection of Poppies on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November and for two weeks to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1*
- *The Fremington & District Community Group—Fremington's Got Talent on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2019*

The committee supported an application from The Muddlebridge Allotment Association to the Police and Crime Commissioner Small Grant Scheme towards the purchase of motion activated shed alarms for the allotment plots on the site. In addition to this, the committee will be starting negotiations with the landowners of the allotment site for a renewal of the lease.

The committee approved the renewal of the sub-lease for the piece of land at Ellerslie which is occupied by the 50<sup>th</sup> North Devon Scouts.

Grass cutting and verge maintenance will still be undertaken by Fremington Parish Council on behalf of Devon County Council.

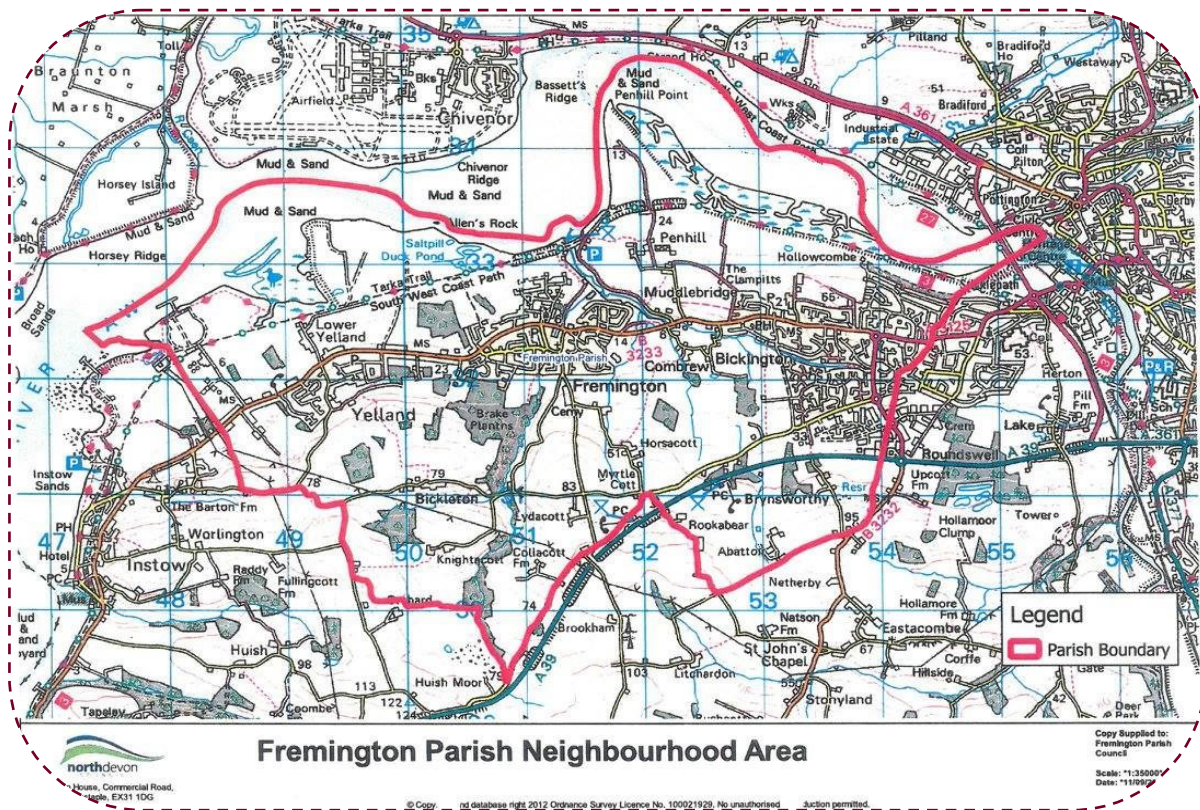
A 3 month trial is in the process of being undertaken to allow dogs on leads on the Village Green. We ask for comments on this trial.

The Committee have had requests for additional benches to be placed in Griggs Field in memory of relatives. A Bench Policy has now been adopted and any requests will be looked at by the committee.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and parish council staff for their hardwork and support over the past 12 months.

**Cllr Lou Goodger, Chairman**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP



The Neighbourhood Plan is being worked on by a small, dedicated and positive team consisting of the general public and parish councillors, whom I would like to thank publicly for their efforts over the last year.

I would like to remind parishioners that the plan is to assist future design and development and changes in our local community. These may be based on the understanding of the traditional design inherent in the villages features, and are sympathetic to the local environment and will contribute to the protection and improvement of the overall character of our parish.

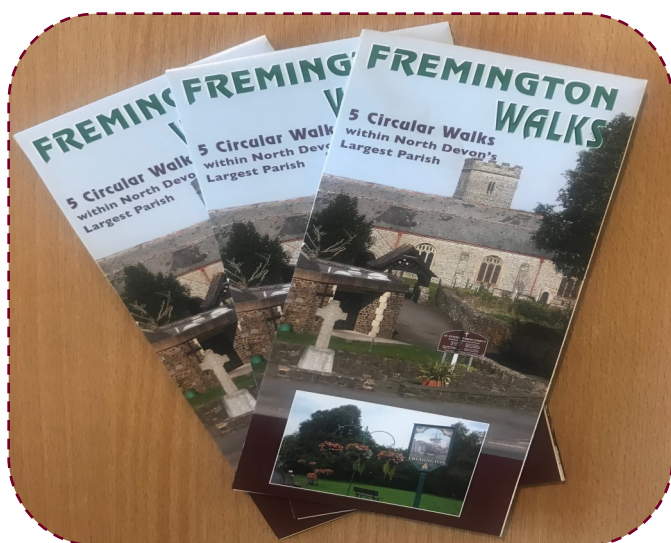
It is hoped over the next few months that, with outside agencies assistance, we can fulfil our objectives and have a draft copy ready to discuss with all prior to forwarding to a higher authority for approval.

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





**Do you want to keep up to date with news from Fremington Parish Council, then like us on Facebook.**



**A leaflet produced by Fremington Parish Council of 3 circular walks to enjoy. Leaflets are available from the office.**

### **GRANTS AWARDED IN 2018/19**

Age Concern Barnstaple	£100.00
Barnstaple Disabled Fellowship Club	£100.00
Bickington Brownies	£100.00
Torrige, North, Mid & West Devon Citizens Advice B	£200.00
1st Fremington Air Scout, Beaver, Cub & Scout Troup	£300.00
1st Fremington Brownies	£100.00
1st Fremington District Rainbows	£100.00
1st Fremington Guides	£100.00
Fremington Garden Club	£100.00
Fremington Parish Hall Management Committee	£200.00
Instow & District Social Fellowship Club	£100.00
Instow, Westleigh & West Yelland Parish News	£60.00
50th North Devon Scouts	£100.00
Tomlin Hall	£200.00
Elmfield Boat Project	£136.00
Fremington Senior Citizens	£100.00
Lady Linscott Club	£100.00

**TOTAL £2,196**

(Last) Year Ended 31st. March 2018	<b>Fremington Parish Council</b> <b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account (Unaudited)</b> <b>1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019</b>	(Current) Year Ended 31st. March 2019
---------------------------------------	---	---

**Income**

852.01	Administration	498.86
10,107.68	Parks & Playing Fields	11,881.64
0.00	106 Funding from NDC	5,723.00
11,099	Cemetery	12,094.00
23,306.36	Fremington Quay	19,455.98
0.00	Salaries & Inland Revenue	0.00
0.00	Insurance	0.00
450.00	Parish Paths	450.00
3,530	TAP Fund	989.12
136,056.29	Precept	156,602.20
107.60	Dog Bins	108.11
56,422.90	Grants	36,330.84
0.00	Loans	149,947.50
	Earmarked Reserves	513.00
<b>241,931.84</b>		<b>396,331.15</b>

**Expenditure**

16,679.34	Administration	25,960.27
40,129	Parks & Playing Fields	44,233.49
0.00	106 Funding NDC	5,723.00
5,169.94	Cemetery	5,511.67
15,343.02	Fremington Quay	9,225.65
93,307.60	Salaries	100,508.31
0.00	TAP Fund	150.00
344.00	Parish Paths	514.35
4,282.62	Loans	10,495.48
0.00	Insurance	5,564.35
20.00	Parish Enhancements	25.00
5,374.11	Dog Bins	5,914.87
36,168.60	Grants	10,753.50
0.00	Election Costs	2,513.52
7,888.58	Earmarked Reserves	18,113.64
<b>232,039.09</b>		<b>245,207.10</b>

**General Fund**

<b>148,997.19</b>	Balance at 1st April 2018	<b>92,496.94</b>
241,931.84	ADD Total Income	396,331.15
390,929.03		488,828.09
232,039.09	Deduct Total Expenditure	245,207.10
158,889.94		243,620.99
66,393.00	Transfer to/from reserves	0.00
<b>92,496.94</b>	Balance at 31st March 2019	<b>243,620.99</b>

## Parish Councillors

Cllr Susan Kingdom  
37 Park Avenue, Sticklepath  
01271 326914

Cllr Louise Goodger  
53 Siilverwood Heights, Barnstaple  
07562 791139

Cllr Frank Biederman  
8 Broadway, Fremington  
07595 988704

Cllr Kelvin Groves  
49 Lyddicleave, Bickington  
01271 327557

Cllr Samuel Adams  
Glad Tidings, Fremington  
07930 280489

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

Cllr Des Brailey MBE  
31 Maple Grove, Roundswell  
01271 329796

Cllr Alan Rennles  
4 Linden Gardens, Sticklepath  
01271 376335

Cllr Rodney Cann  
Kimberley, Bickington Road,  
Bickington 01271 372998

Cllr Myka Scott  
3 Byeways Close, Fremington  
01271 859003

Cllr Joy Cann  
Glanmor, 10 Elmfield Road,  
Bickington  
01271 859565

Cllr Bill Sherborne  
5 Woodville Close, Sticklepath  
01271 344816

Cllr David Chalmers  
6 Gibbs Lane, Appledore  
07909 497487

Cllr Peter Thorn  
84 Lagoon View, Yelland  
01271 860069

Cllr Ian Crawford  
15 Bramble Walk, Roundswell  
07917 123435

### Parish Council Officers

**Mrs Victoria Woodhouse BA (Hons)**  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

**Mrs Kate Graddock BA (Hons)**  
Acting Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (Maternity cover)

**Mrs Eileen Badcock**, Services Officer  
**Mrs Liz Steer**, Deputy Services Officer  
**Mr John Wattam**, Handyperson

**Fremington Parish Council**  
**12 Higher Road, Fremington,**  
**Barnstaple, 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)**