

# *Fremington Parish Council*



## *Annual Report 2014-2015*

## **Chairman's Annual Report - Cllr Brian Clifton**

Looking back over the past year's work of Fremington Parish Council, there is one topic that has generated more debate than most others that is the number of additional housing applications submitted for the area covered by the parish.

It is often the case that when I mention to people in other parts of our country, that I live in Devon, the response is: "How lucky you are, we often visit Devon on holiday".

Tourism is an important source of revenue for the county and employs many people. We do live in a beautiful area with access to superb scenery, beaches and the moors. Protecting this environment for future generations will continue to be a challenge for us.

Your council will also continue to work to have our voice heard on other important topics, these include, bus transport, health facilities, roads and schools.

The Parish Council responsibilities for maintaining and improving our playing fields and sports facilities engage much of our time. The facilities at Fremington Quay are well used by local people and visitors alike, and the Heritage Centre provides an interesting glimpse into the history of the Quay.

Two highlights of the past year have been the Parish Grants presentation to local groups in July 2014, the Remembrance Service held at St. Peters Church, Fremington, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014, also commemorating the centenary of World War 1, and the raising of the Commonwealth flag in Fremington on Monday 9th March 2015.

I would like to pay tribute to our staff whose helpfulness and dedication make our work much easier to undertake and also to my fellow Councillors, who give of their time freely.

**Cllr Brian Clifton**  
**Chairman, of the Parish Council**

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

It has been a very changeable and challenging year.

Firstly we changed banks from the Co-operative Bank to Lloyds Bank. This was mainly due to the uncertainty surrounding the Co-operative Bank. At the same time we introduced direct payments (bacs). We have systems in place to ensure the security of this. This has reduced the number of cheques needed each month and allows us to make faster payments, which has benefitted our suppliers and contractors.

Secondly we had a change of staff with the Maintenance Manager leaving. We interviewed and recruited a new Handyman who has successfully completed his probationary period. We have confirmed his appointment in the last few months. We were impressed with the quality of applicants we received for this position.

Thirdly we were notified that Microsoft were withdrawing support for Microsoft XP with immediate effect. This put us in a very vulnerable position and meant we had to immediately obtain quotes for a new system upgrade and equipment. We did consider a number of options including having Apple computers. However after viewing all options we went with Microsoft 7/8. We now have the new software and machines in place.

We are trialing a Microsoft Tablet for use by the staff. The Handyman is using the tablet at the moment. This will enable him to send photos and reports direct to the Clerk. This will save considerable time both for the Clerk and the Handyman.

Finally we received news just before Christmas that the roof of the Parish Council office needed urgent repairs. We found some very reasonable quotes and were able to get the repairs done very quickly.

My thanks go out to the staff for their hard work and commitment, which has enabled the Council to meet its responsibilities.

The year ahead looks equally as challenging.

**Cllr Susan Kingdom**  
**Chairman, Finance and Personnel Committee**

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

The last 12 months have seen significant improvements at the site with the successful relocation of the outdoor fitness equipment which is now enjoying an increased usage.

A basketball area and hoop has been installed using section 106 and funding from the North Devon Council's Community Councillor budget and is well used, however, getting to the lovely new tarmacked area can sometimes be somewhat problematic with the amount of mud and we are now proposing to put a simple access path from the perimeter path direct to the basketball area which will ease access.

Further upgrades have taken place within the play area, again using Section 106 money, the fence has been extended and a double swing for juniors and toddlers has been installed which also seems to be well used.

An agreement has been reached with the adjoining landowner to provide an access point onto the public footpath running parallel to the site and Devon County Council has kindly offered to undertake the work through the Parish Paths scheme. The site has suffered from a significant amount of dog fouling over the last year and it is hoped that this will encourage dog walkers onto the footpath and reduce the dog fouling on the site and especially the football pitches.

Negotiations are ongoing to acquire additional Section 106 funds for the extension to the pavilion and additional community provision.

Discussions have been ongoing on how to reduce the ongoing costs of running the complex for the Parish Council and consideration is being given to the football club taking on responsibility for pitch maintenance which if achieved would see significant savings for the Parish Council. The committee is currently reviewing the security of the site and is considering how best to enhance the CCTV system.

By and large it has been another very successful year with many football clubs having prospered at the site, the future looks very bright.

I would like to thank the Committee and staff for their wonderful support.

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

## **Parks and Playing Fields Committee - Cllr David Harris**

The last year has seen continued improvements to the play areas and facilities within the parish. The first of which is the replacement of the old and broken hanging carousel in the Beechfield Play Area, this had been broken for sometime and has now been replaced with a new Rock Spinner which is proving very popular with all age groups. Two pieces of new play equipment have been installed at the Ellerslie Play Area with funds from North Devon Council's Community Councillor Grant and Devon County Council's Locality Budget, and we have approved plans and gained funding from Section 106 money, Devon County Council's Investing in Devon and the Town and Parishes Fund to upgrade and refurbish the Swallowfield Play Area. The Swallowfield Play Area has not seen any improvements or additions since its inception and this is an exciting project that will see all the flooring replaced with wet pour, the replacement of broken equipment and the refurbishment of other pieces. I am hopeful that the project will be completed in time for the summer holidays.

The replacement of the Beechfield Centre has progressed and we have some firm plans to obtain funding for and submit to the Planning Authority in due course.

Griggs Field is as popular as ever, the Parish Council has recently given permission to Taw Velo Bike Club to use the field for coaching clubs which we hope will be able to make good use of the facility. The Parish Council has also placed an order to reinstate the pathways around the field which we hope will take place in the summer.

I hope the next 12 months will be as productive as the last and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and the office staff for supporting me over the last year.

**Cllr David Harris**  
**Chairman Parks and Playing Fields Committee**

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

The Fremington Quay Management Committee is a new Committee which was formed in late 2014 to deal with any issues relating to the management of Fremington Quay. I am honoured to have been Chairman of the Committee and as such understand the importance of working together with residents, users and other agencies to ensure the area works in the best possible way for everybody. The Quay is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike and I would urge people to be considerate when visiting the area.

I am pleased to announce that with thanks to funding from the Fullabrook Community Interest Group, Devon County Council's Investing in Devon Fund and the Town and Parish Fund we have been able to provide an additional parking area for those visiting the Quay, hopefully this will relieve some of the parking pressures on the area. The Parish Council is also investigating the possibility of double yellow lines and signage which will I also hope will help towards the enjoyment of the area for all users and residents.

I would urge anyone to get in touch with the Parish Council if they have any issues of concern relating to Fremington Quay and would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members and staff for their help and support during my time as Chairman to the Committee.

**Cllr Frank Biederman  
Chairman Fremington Quay Management Committee**

**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)**

## **Footpaths Committee - Cllr Tony Wood**

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

Thanks must go to Mrs Liz Steer, who again walked every mile of our footpaths network, and we are pleased to report that all footpaths passed. However, due to Devon County Council's continuing financial constraints, we were again unable to pay her for this service and many of the surveys were carried out in her own time; however, with the agreement of the Parish Clerk, she has been able to carry out the remainder in work time, with a mileage claim only from the P3 budget. However, this arrangement may prove difficult to implement in the future.

The seasons first cut of footpaths/bridleways was carried out in accordance with the specifications. This had the effect of making the maintenance and upkeep of our footpaths, bridleways and byways easier to control and, as always, has improved access for members of the Parish and general public, together with organised groups with environmental interests.

No specific bids for works to the footpaths network were submitted for the coming year, as several housing development planning applications have been submitted over the last few months which may possibly have an affect on some of our footpaths.

A P3 Grant in the sum of £400.00 has been awarded for 2015/2016 and will again be spent on maintenance work on the Parish's extensive footpath, bridleway and byway network as required.

Finally, thanks must go to members of staff for their support and assistance in maintaining our footpaths network.

**Cllr Tony Wood**  
**Chairman Footpaths Committee**

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

(Last) Year Ended  
31st. March 2014

**Fremington Parish Council  
Income & Expenditure Account  
1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015**

(Current) Year  
Ended  
31st. March 2015

**Income**

|                   |                           |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 838.95            | Administration            | 548.43            |
| 13,551.85         | Parks & Playing Fields    | 17,157.01         |
| 0.00              | 106 Funding from NDC      | 9,204.60          |
| 8,341.00          | Cemetery                  | 5,783.00          |
| 26,025.23         | Fremington Quay           | 18,024.89         |
| 757.78            | Salaries & Inland Revenue | 0.00              |
| 0.00              | Insurance                 | 2,875.00          |
| 390.00            | Parish Paths              | 400.00            |
| 6,627.40          | TAP Fund                  | 13,213.00         |
| 116,958.62        | Precept                   | 118,106.73        |
| 233.36            | Dog Bins                  | 170.68            |
| 28,168.97         | Grants                    | 41,847.61         |
| 0.00              | Restated                  | 0.00              |
| <b>201,893.19</b> |                           | <b>226,573.17</b> |

**Expenditure**

|                   |                        |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 18,308.59         | Administration         | 21,485.23         |
| 46,610.39         | Parks & Playing Fields | 31,877.51         |
| 0.00              | 106 Funding NDC        | 8,140.00          |
| 4,422.17          | Cemetery               | 3,397.17          |
| 12,609.14         | Fremington Quay        | 7,870.85          |
| 70,869.14         | Salaries               | 72,184.15         |
| 7,314.90          | TAP Fund               | 5,977.60          |
| 346.00            | Parish Paths           | 290.09            |
| 4,282.62          | Loans                  | 4,282.62          |
| 5,303.34          | Insurance              | 8,507.93          |
| 104.75            | Parish Enhancements    | 26.40             |
| 4,723.40          | Dog Bins               | 5,628.05          |
| 2,558.34          | Grants                 | 28,197.10         |
| 0.00              | Election Costs         | 0.00              |
| 0.00              | Earmarked Reserves     | 19,383.91         |
| <b>177,453.35</b> |                        | <b>217,248.61</b> |

**General Fund**

|                   |                            |                   |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>81,882.47</b>  | Balance at 1st April 2014  | <b>102,122.31</b> |
| 201,893.19        | ADD Total Income           | 226,573.17        |
| 283,775.66        |                            | 328,695.48        |
| 177,453.35        | Deduct Total Expenditure   | 217,248.61        |
| 106,322.31        |                            | 111,446.87        |
| 4,200.00          | Transfer to/from reserves  | 12,500            |
| <b>102,122.31</b> | Balance at 31st March 2015 | <b>98,946.87</b>  |



## Parish Councillors

Cllr Mr Cliff Bell  
Harepie, Tawstock  
07813 622275

Cllr Mr David Harris  
30 Beechfield, Road, Fremington  
07866 110810

Cllr Mr James Bell  
The Conifers, 38 West Yelland  
01271 860989

Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom  
37 Park Avenue, Sticklepath  
01271 326914

Cllr Mr Frank Biederman  
8 Broadway, Fremington  
07595 988704

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

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

Cllr Ms Myka Scott  
3 Byeways Close, Fremington  
01271 859003

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

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

Cllr Mr Brian Clifton  
133 Meadowbrook, Roundswell  
01271 314922

Cllr Mr Chris Turner  
2 Church Hill, Fremington  
01271 372497

Cllr Mrs Jacqueline Flynn  
7 Elmfield Road, Bickington  
01271 370546

Cllr Mr Tony Wood  
1 Griggs Garden, Fremington  
01271 321424

## 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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