

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 7th December 2015 at 7.00pm at Fremington Parish Hall,
Higher Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, R Cann, D Chalmers, Mrs J Dyson, K Groves, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne, G Turner and T Wood
Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk and Mrs E Badcock, Services Officer

In Attendance: 7 Members of the public and press

1512/24 **Apologies**
Cllrs Mrs J Flynn and D Brailey.

1512/25 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Rennles declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 1512/46.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in Item 1512/37 as a Member of the Fremington Parish Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Mrs Kingdom declared a Personal Interest in Item 1512/37 as a Member of the Fremington Parish Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Chalmers declared a Personal Interest in Item 1512/41 as the Parish Council's representative on DALC.

Cllr Ms Scott declared a Personal Interest in Item 1512/43.

1512/26 **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chairman announced that all the chairs from the Beechfield Centre have vanished and asked if any member had any information. Cllr Ms Scott confirmed that the Youth Club did not have the chairs, Cllr Biederman stated that the Community Group has got some old chairs if the Parish Council would like them. It was agreed to report the missing chairs to the Police.

The Chairman thanked those that were able to attend the Remembrance Service and hoped that attendance would increase next year.

The Chairman reported that she had attended the recent Parish Forum on behalf of the Parish Council along with the Clerk and gave a brief summary of the discussions.

The Chairman thanked and congratulated staff on the tree that had been displayed for the St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

1512/27 **To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (Confidential)**
It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (Confidential).

PART A

1512/28 **To receive a report from the Police**
A report was not received. It was reported that the Police had carried out recent enforcement of the morning restriction prohibiting vehicles from entering Ellerslie Road and 12 people received a ticket.

1512/29 **Public Participation Period**
Cllrs Mrs McCormack-Hole informed members of the public that DCC is piloting a survey on the services it provides before sending to everyone in the county and questionnaires were available.

A member of the public raised further concerns relating to the possibility of asbestos on the former Army Camp Development. It was confirmed that Environmental Health had carried out investigations and could not find any asbestos but further complaints had been received and further investigations would be undertaken. It was agreed that Cllr Biederman would organise a meeting with members of the public and NDC to discuss the matter.

- 1512/30 **To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015 as a correct record**
Copies were circulated with the agenda.
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting on the 2nd November 2015 as a correct record. Cllr Mrs Kingdom duly signed the minutes.
- 1512/31 **To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following Committee meetings**
- Finance & Personnel Committee held on Thursday 29th October 2015
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee held on Thursday 29th October 2015
 - Parks & Playing Fields Committee held on Thursday 29th October 2015
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Fields Committee held on Thursday 29th October 2015
 - Tews Lane Committee held on Tuesday 10th November 2015
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee held on Tuesday 10th November 2015
 - Parks & Playing Fields Committee held on Wednesday 25th November 2015
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Fields Committee held on Wednesday 25th November 2015
 - Finance & Personnel Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2015
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2015
- 1512/32 **Highway issues – update**
Cllr Ms Scott reported that ruts had appeared along Old School Lane past where they have just re-surfaced from heavy vehicles. Cllr Biederman asked Ms Scott to e-mail him and he would investigate.
- Cllr Chalmers reported that DALC will be holding a Highways Conference in the spring of 2016.
- 1512/33 **Matters to Note** (all held in the office unless specified as enclosed)
- Email from DCC re Highways Management Licences & Applications – Information about new banners and decorations procedure (Copy enclosed for Cllrs only)
 - Healthwatch Voices – Issue 10 - Autumn 2015
 - Devon Senior Voice – Issue 28 – Autumn 2015
 - Email from NDC re works to trees covered by a TPO in Red Lane, Fremington
 - NDC – Refusal of application for Certificate of Lawfulness of proposed use or development – Proposed erection of single storey garage to side of property, 1 Lagoon View, Yelland, Barnstaple
 - DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2015
 - Email from Mr A Jones, NDC re works to trees at Fremington Quay
- 1512/34 **County and District Councillors' Reports** - To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors for information only.
Cllr Biederman reported that the planning appeal for Aspen Grove had been upheld.

1512/35

To consider request for additions to burial plot at Fremington Cemetery

Members considered the request and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Clerk and Chairman to agree suitable additions in conjunction with the views of the contractor.

1512/36

To consider, amend or agree the draft budgets and set the precept for the Financial Year 2016/2017

Members considered the recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee to increase the precept to £128,399.68 which would be an increase of £5 a year per Band D property. The increase was debated at length and although in percentage terms (15.86%) it seemed like a significant increase the majority of members felt that it would be necessary to maintain services which are essential to the community and following funding cuts in the last year from both NDC and DCC, it was noted that the amount per property (which will be £36.55 a year) may reduce as more developments are completed within the parish and the tax base increases and it will enable the Parish Council to maintain the current standard of service, including highway verge cutting throughout the parish above and beyond DCC's policy of only cutting visibility and safety areas four times a year.

Cllr Cann proposed and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to take a recorded vote.

Cllr Cann seconded by Cllr Bell proposed an amendment to increase the precept by 9%.

When put to the vote Cllrs Cann and Bell were in favour and Cllrs Mrs S Kingdom, F Biederman, D Chalmers, Mrs J Dyson, K Groves, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne, G Turner and T Wood were against.

Cllr Cann seconded by Cllr Bell proposed an amendment to increase the precept by 10%.

When put to the vote Cllrs Cann and Bell were in favour and Cllrs Mrs S Kingdom, F Biederman, D Chalmers, Mrs J Dyson, K Groves, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne, G Turner and T Wood were against.

Cllr Cann seconded by Cllr Bell proposed an amendment to increase the precept by 11%.

When put to the vote Cllrs Cann and Bell were in favour and Cllrs Mrs S Kingdom, F Biederman, D Chalmers, Mrs J Dyson, K Groves, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne, G Turner and T Wood were against.

Cllr Ms Scott seconded by Cllr Cann proposed an amendment to increase the precept by 14%.

When put to the vote Cllrs Ms Scott and Bell were in favour and Cllrs Mrs S Kingdom, F Biederman, R Cann, D Chalmers, Mrs J Dyson, K Groves, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne, G Turner and T Wood were against.

Cllr Chalmers seconded by Cllr Rennles proposed the original recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee to increase the precept by 15.86%.

When put to the vote Cllrs Mrs S Kingdom, F Biederman, D Chalmers, Mrs J Dyson, K Groves, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne, G Turner and T Wood were in favour and Cllrs Cann and Bell were against and the motion was carried. It was therefore **resolved**, with two votes against, to set the precept at £128,399.68 for the financial year 2016-2017.

It was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer the agreement to the budgets for 2016-2017 until the January meeting.

1512/37

To receive a recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding the Grant Applications received for the financial year 2016/2017

A list of the organisations/groups who had applied for a grant in financial year 2016-2017, together with how much they had asked for, had been circulated with the agenda and the recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee was considered. The Finance and Personnel Committee explained that it was recommending grants for organisations that had no other financial structure in place to raise funds and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention from Cllr Biederman, to award the following grants:

Grant Applications 2016/2017		
1	Albert Hall Show Band	£100
2	Barnstaple Disabled Fellowship Club	£100
3	Bickington Brownies	£100
4	Byeways Bowling Club	0
5	Torrige, North Devon, Mid Devon, Bude CAB	£200
6	Elmfield Boat Project	£100
7	1 st Fremington Air Scouts Beaver Colony	£100
8	1 st Fremington Air Scouts Cub Section	£100
9	1 st Fremington Air Scouts	£100
10	1 st Fremington Brownies	£100
11	1 st Fremington District Rainbows	£100
12	Fremington Football Club	£100
13	Fremington Garden Club	£100
14	1 st Fremington Guides	£100
15	2 nd Fremington Rainbows	£100
16	Fremington Parish Hall Management Committee	Pass on amount from NDC usually £200
17	Fremington Senior Citizens	£100
18	Instow, Westleigh & West Yelland Parish News	£100
19	Lady Linscott Club	£100
20	Muddlebridge Allotment Association	0
21	Roundswell Parent and Toddler Group	£100
22	The Instow & District Social & Friendship Club	£100
23	Tomlin Hall	Pass on amount from NDC usually £200
Total Grant Funding		£2,400

1512/38

To consider joining the Road Warden Scheme

Members considered joining the scheme but still had reservations about the types of tasks expected. It was **resolved**, with one vote against, to agree in principle to undertake the training and report back so further investigations could take place.

1512/39

To consider arranging a Digital Workshop

Cllr Chalmers reported that Devon Communities together are offering free digital workshops for Councils. It was **resolved**, with one vote against and one abstention, to arrange a digital workshop.

1512/40 **To consider request from the Babbages Allotment Association for an amendment to the Tenancy Agreement**
 Members received a request from the Babbages Allotment Association to amend the tenancy agreement to allow a greenhouse or potting shed. It was noted that this alteration had already been made for the Muddlebridge Allotments and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to amend the tenancy agreement in line with the Muddlebridge Allotment agreement and with the consent of the landowner.

1512/41 **To consider resolutions to allow the Parish Council to apply for the Foundation Local Council Award**
 It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Parish Council publishes online the following information:

1. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
2. Code of Conduct and a link to Councillors' Register of Interests
3. Publication Scheme
4. The last annual return
5. Transparent information about council payments
6. A calendar of all meetings
7. Minutes for at least one year of Full Council and all Committees
8. Current Agendas
9. The Budget and Precept information for the current or next financial year
10. The complaints procedure
11. Council contact details and Councillor information
12. The action plan for the current year
13. Evidence of consulting with the community
14. Publicity advertising council activities
15. Evidence of participating in town and country planning

It was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that Fremington Parish Council has:

16. A risk management scheme
17. A register of assets
18. Contracts for all members of staff
19. Disciplinary and grievance procedures
20. A policy for training new staff and councillors
21. A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year
22. A clerk who has achieved 22 CPD points in the last year

Cllr Cann commended staff on their hard work.

1512/42 **To receive further information relating to the Future of the North Devon Records Office**
 Members received further information, it was unclear whether or not funding had been secured to sustain the facility until the end of the current financial year and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to invite a representative from DCC, the Trust and the Town Clerk from Barnstaple Town Council to attend a meeting and discuss the future plans and funding.

1512/43 **To consider request for hire of Fremington Quay and erection of marquee for a wedding**
 Members considered the request, concerns relating to parking, toilets and utilities were raised and it was **resolved**, with one vote against and one abstention, to approve the request in principle subject to the Clerk reaching satisfactory conditions in conjunction with the Fremington Quay Management Committee, any future requests for a wedding in this location would be considered on its own merits.

1512/44 **To receive and adopt the recommendations in the Working Party notes for the Wardens' Accommodation at Fremington Quay**

Cllr Groves left the meeting.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the recommendations contained within the Working Party notes and attached to the minutes as Appendix one.

Cllr Groves returned to the meeting.

1512/45 **To consider whether or not the Parish Council wishes to adopt the open space on the former Army Camp Development**

Members felt that given that this offer could be an asset or liability an informal meeting should be arranged to investigate all of the facts and figures. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer any decision until after an informal meeting.

Cllr Rennles declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in the following item and left the meeting.

1512/46 **To receive report from Cllr J Bell on the Yelland Ashbed Site** (item requested by Cllr Bell)

Cllr Bell reported that NDC had had an informal meeting with the site owners and the Yelland Action Group had also arranged a meeting. The action group has concerns with how they will deal with the asbestos buried on site and grave concerns over the development which will have a visual impact from Instow and Appledore. Cllr Bell felt that the community will not be given enough time to consider the application and a better public consultation should take place.

Cllr Cann asked if the application has been submitted yet, Cllr Bell replied that it had not yet been submitted but was expected before Christmas.

Cllr Biederman confirmed that there will be a full consultation and he will call the application in to be considered by the Full Planning Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that once the application is submitted the Parish Council will organise a specific public meeting for the application.

Cllr Rennles returned to the meeting.

Cllr Mrs McCormack-Hole left the meeting

1512/47 **North Devon Council – Planning Appeals**

The Planning Inspectorate has advised that the following appeal has been dismissed and planning permission is REFUSED:

Appeal Ref: APP/X1118/W/15/3129063

Application Ref: 58824

Appeal by: Mr Len Tanner

Proposal: Erection of 8 residential units together with parking, access and landscaping

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information.

Cllr Bell left the meeting and did not return.

1512/48

North Devon Council – Planning Applications

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following planning applications:

It was formally noted that participation of the Councillors who are also members of NDC in both the debate and subsequent vote (in respect of any of the above, were preliminary taking account of the information matters) was on the basis that the views expressed made available at the time to the Parish Council. The District Councillors were reserving their final views on the applications until they were in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against

59837 Proposal: Removal of Condition 45 & 46 & variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 55809
Location: Land at Anchorwood Bank, Taw Wharf, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL.

60204 Proposal: Extension & alterations to dwelling
Location: 5 Allenstyle View, Yelland, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Dawson

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design and no adverse impact on the amenities of adjoining neighbours.

The Parish Council could not comment on the following application as it is the applicant.

60229 Proposal: Demolition of existing & erection of replacement community
Location: Beechfield Road, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Fremington Parish Council

60246 Proposal: Change of use from storage facility to trampoline park facility
Location: Centurion Court, Lauder Lane, Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr B Isaac

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to there being adequate parking available.

Cllr Mrs McCormack-Hole returned to the meeting.

60266 Proposal: Conversion of loft to provide additional living accommodation
Location: White Oaks, 18 Lynhurst Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs J Stapley

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design and no adverse impact on the amenities of adjoining neighbours.

60270 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 52 Brynsworthy Park, Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Beckhurst

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design and no adverse impact on the amenities of adjoining neighbours.

60286 Proposal: Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to three dwellings (use Class C3) & for associated operational development
Location: Collacott Farm, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr I Stagg

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the design being in keeping and no adverse impact on the wider landscape.

60309 Proposal: Extension to Hospice
Location: Childrens Hospice South West, Little Bridge House, Redlands Road, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr G Jones

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL as long as the application does not result in a loss of car parking spaces.

60329 Proposed: Extension to dwelling
Location: 22 Becklake Close, Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Bailey

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design and no adverse impact on the amenities of adjoining neighbours.

1512/49

North Devon Council – Planning Decisions

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has APPROVED the following application with conditions as filed:

59921 Proposal: Retrospective application for change of use of land to domestic curtilage
Location: Home Farm Lodge, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr E Hanley

59957 Proposal: Selective reduction of the eastern side of the tree canopy to achieve a maximum clearance of 3 metres from the adjacent property by removal of branches less than 50 millimetres in diameter
Location: 40 Lower Cross Road, Bickington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr S Short

59984 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 19 Swallow Field, Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: John A Stromski & Associates

59992 Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to allow installation of additional dormer window attached to planning permission 57947 conversion of loft to form additional living accommodation together with an extension over the garage with insertion of dormer window to rear & velux windows (amended description)
Location: 50 Ballards Crescent, Yelland, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Nick Adams

60002 Proposal: Erection of replacement livestock & general purpose agricultural building
Location: Little Knightacott Farm, Lydacott, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: NPAS Devon Ltd

60010 Proposal: Change of use from light industrial to D2 Trampoline Park
Location: Thompson Aerospace and Defence, Fishleigh Road,
Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Jet Sports Ltd

60110 Proposal: Extension to garage
Location: 63 Meadowbrook, Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr S Clements

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information.

1512/50

Councillors Questions

Cllr Rennles asked for information on the Coastal Communities project and the £10,000 funding which NDC had secured. Members were informed that a Stakeholders event is taking place on the 16th December. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk will be in attendance and will report back following the meeting.

Cllr Groves reported that he was disappointed that two Councillors had walked out of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting.

Cllr Cann left the meeting and did not return.

Cllr Groves felt it was not an appropriate way to represent the Council.

The Chairman agreed that she was disappointed with Councillors behaviour of late and asked that all Councillors put their personal opinions aside and work for the good of the community and the whole parish.

1512/51

Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed Dated