

**Minutes of Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 13th January 2014 at 7.00pm at Fremington Parish Hall,
Higher Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs R Cann (Chairman), C Bell, J Bell, F Biederman, B Clifton, D Brailey, D Harris, B Hockin, Mrs C McCormack-Hole, Mrs S Kingdom, Ms M Scott, B Sherborne and C Turner
Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk, and Mrs E Badcock, Services Officer.
Christina Davey and Emily Harper, Strategic Planning, Devon County Council
Mark Jones and Stuart Pratt, Green Frog Energy Ltd

In Attendance: 10 Members of the public

1401/11 **Apologies**

As recorded on the attendance sheet, apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs J Flynn and T Wood; apologies were also received from the Police.

1401/12 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Turner, Cann, Hockin, Biederman and Brailey declared a personal interest in item 1401/22 as District Councillors.

Cllr Hockin declared a personal interest in item 1401/31 56621 and 56686.

Cllr Biederman declared a personal interest in item 1401/31 56621, 56756, 56655, 56717 and 56762.

Cllr Mrs McCormack-Hole declared a personal interest in item 1401/31 56683.

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in item 1401/31 56762.

1401/13 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the following: -

- Planning application for erection of wind turbine at Lower Litchardon Farm, Newton Tracey – would members like to comment as a neighbouring parish? It was agreed to consider this item as a matter of urgency under North Devon Council – Planning Applications.
- Devon County Council's review of its accommodation strategy for older people. The Parish Council has been invited to send two representatives on Thursday 23rd January 2014 10am – 12.30pm Cedars Lodge, Sticklepath, Barnstaple (further information attached); the Chairman has confirmed his attendance, although the deadline for confirmation was Friday 10th January. If another member would like to attend, the Clerk will contact the organisers.
- Road Closure: - the closure at Beards Road intended for Friday 10th/Monday 13th January has been postponed until Mon 20th/Tues 21st January due to the bad weather.
- Emptying of Portacabin – Tews Lane we need to arrange a date for emptying, the portacabin can then be relocated. It was agreed to arrange for Councillors to empty the portacabin on a Saturday morning.
- Armed forces day – the North Devon Veterans Association is inviting Councillors to attend the 2014 Army Forces Day at Kingsley School, Bideford on Saturday 28th June 2014. The event covers this country's military heritage from the 1940s to the present day.
- Roundswell Underpass – a complaint has been received from the Roundswell Residents' Association about the state of the underpass nearest to Sainsbury's. It was agreed for the County Councillor to investigate.

- A response had been received from the North Devon Council Planning Manager who had confirmed that the appropriate officer to discuss the future direction of planning was not at work full-time and was unable to commit to attend outside meetings at present.
- The Devon Countryside Access Forum is carrying out its annual recruitment of members; if anyone would like to be involved please contact the Clerk for further information.

1401/14 **To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (Confidential)**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (Confidential)

PART A

1401/15 **To Receive a Report from the Police**
A report was not received.

1401/16 **Public Participation Period**
A resident requested reassurance on the tender process undertaken by Devon County Council when awarding the highways contract to Colas and the repair work to Bickington Road. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Devon County.

1401/17 **To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 2nd December 2013 as a correct record**
Copies were circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and four abstentions from Cllrs C Bell, Biederman, Ms Scott and Turner, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2013 as a correct record. Cllr Cann duly signed the minutes.

1401/18 **To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following Committee meetings**
Copies had been circulated with the agenda.

- Extra-Ordinary Parks and Playing Fields held on Wednesday 27th November 2013
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parks and Playing Fields held on Wednesday 27th November 2013.
- Finance & Personnel Committee held on Monday 2nd December 2013
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee held on Monday 2nd December 2013.
- Tews Lane Committee held on Tuesday 17th December 2013
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee held on Tuesday 17th December 2013.

1401/19 **Highways issues – update**
There were no highways issue – updates to discuss.

1401/20 **Matters to Note (all held in the office unless specified as enclosed)**

- Letter from Mr P W Cloke, Headteacher, Fremington Community Primary & Nursery School re school place numbers – 5th December 2013 (copy enclosed)
- Devon County Council notes from the Parish Paths Partnership Autumn Workshop
- Veterans World magazine – December 2013

It was **resolved** to note the above matters. It was further **resolved** to write to Mr Cloke in response to his letter explaining that his request for a disabled parking bay should be directed to the County Council.

1401/21

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Brailey reported that Sticklepath School will be getting new classrooms in the near future. It was agreed for the Chairman to write to County Councillor Matthews thanking him for his tireless efforts for Sticklepath School.

Cllr Hockin reported that it had been announced that the New Homes Bonus available to District Councils would not be paid if the District Council had refused a planning application which was later accepted at appeal.

Cllr Cann reported that Fremington Village had been added to the assisted area status.

1401/22

To receive and consider the Draft Devon Waste Plan – Presentation from Devon County Council

The Chairman introduced Christina Davey, Strategic Planning, Devon County Council. Ms Davey explained the background to the proposed Waste Management Plan and explained that it would be used to inform decisions on planning applications. Ms Davey further explained that the Brynsworthy site had been included in the plan, with a revised site boundary, for a waste recovery facility. Cllr Clifton asked for clarification on the technology to be used at the site, Ms Davey explained that the plan is not technology specific due to the advances in technology and the length of the plan. Cllr Harris was concerned that the facility and deliveries would operate 24hours a day, Ms Davey confirmed that the facility would operate 24hours a day but the deliveries would be restricted.

It was **resolved**, with one vote to the contrary and four abstentions, that the Parish Council, in principle, supports the Devon Waste Plan and the Waste to Energy facility at Brynsworthy. The Parish Council would seek assurances on the emissions from the facility, the restricted deliveries to the site and ensuring it is not serviced 24hours a day seven days a week.

The Chairman thanked Ms Davey for her comprehensive report.

1401/23

To receive presentation from Green Frog Energy Ltd relating to application 56596

The Chairman introduced Mark Jones, Managing Director, Green Frog Energy Ltd. Mr Jones explained that Green Frog is the largest provider of reserved power to the National Grid and has fourteen sites across the country with the closest being at Plymouth. Mr Jones further explained that the Energy Act came into force on the 18th December 2013 which requires generators to tender to connect to the National Grid and European Legislation requires coal plants to come off by 2018.

Ms Davey and Ms Harper left the meeting and did not return.

Mr Jones explained that the generators will supply energy to the local grid and need to be fast and responsive to deliver the energy quickly and there is capacity at Yelland to connect the generators into the local grid. The generators are fuelled by gas and this supply is also available at Yelland. Mr Jones confirmed that the noise levels would be minimal and the same as at hospitals and schools, the site would be serviced daily and engineers would be on call in close proximity. The generators would service around 9,000 homes and ensure there is a constant frequency of power.

Members were concerned that fossil fuels are being used when there is not enough renewable energy, the impact on residents and wildlife in the area and the CO2 emissions. Mr Jones explained that there would be a fence and landscaping around the site, residents will not be able to hear the generators and they will not have a negative impact on the wildlife. Mr Jones further explained that the generators do not give off a visible smoke or smell.

A member of the public expressed their disappointment at the lack of public advertisement and raised concerns about whether or not the land owner's permission had been sought for the proposal. The member of the public proceeded to question Green Frog about the removal of trees and shrubs that had taken place within the area, the connection with other developments and possible future residential developments in the area. Mr Jones confirmed that the landowner's permission had been sought, the removal of trees and shrubs was not anything to do with the proposal or indeed Green Frog, and the proposal is not linked to other developments.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jones and Mr Pratt. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to note the information.

Mr Jones and Mr Pratt left the meeting and did not return.

1401/24 **To receive and consider correspondence from Devon County Council relating to parking in Beechfield Road**

The Parish Council had received a letter from a resident that they had been sent from Devon County Council. The letter related to the ongoing issue of parking in Beechfield Road and the possibility of the introduction of double yellow lines. The letter explained that the County Council only considers requests from the Parish Council as the local elected body representing the views of the community. Cllr Biederman explained that during a consultation with residents it was established that residents do not require double yellow lines and the school and parents need to be approached about the parking issue.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to write a letter to Devon County Council supporting the resident. It was further **resolved** that the County Councillor will investigate the matter and report back at a future meeting.

1401/25 **To receive and consider Devon County Council's Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

Members considered the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to express the Parish Council's concerns that the existing problems in places such as Muddlebrook and Bickington have not been addressed and the proposed developments are only going to exacerbate the situation. Members would also like investigations to be carried out on the impact the lack of dredging the river has had on the recent flooding, and would seek clarification on who is responsible for flooding and who will provide the resources. It was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to write to the appropriate Parish Councils to request support for the proposition.

1401/26 **To consider attendance at Western Power Distribution's Stakeholder Workshop**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Cllrs J Bell, Biederman and Hockin to attend the workshop at Exeter Racecourse on Monday 10th February 2014.

1401/27 **To receive and consider Devon County Council's consultation on how to reduce its public transport budget**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to express the Parish Council's grave concerns at the proposed increase to students and alterations to the bus passes which will have a negative impact on the viability of rural routes. Devon County Council states that there are only 200 subsidies but most of these are rural routes which will impact on our already struggling town centres and could lead to potential isolation of vulnerable residents.

- 1401/28 **To receive and consider North Devon Council's Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for a proposed Community Infrastructure Levy**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to create a working party to prepare a response to the above. The working party will consist of Cllrs Turner, Hockin, J Bell and Cann.
- 1401/29 **To consider commemorating the First World War Centenary**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to investigate the possibility of an exhibition at the Heritage Centre and the possibility of repairing the flag poles next to the war memorial.

Cllr Brailey left the meeting at 8.55pm and did not return.
- 1401/30 **To note approval of Planning Permission for Cemetery Extension**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the above information.
- 1401/31 **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 NDDC 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.
- 56596 Proposal: Siting of 9MW gas fuelled capacity mechanism embedded generation plant to support the National Grid
Location: Land at West Yelland, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Green Frog Energy Ltd

The Parish Council would like the need for this facility to be demonstrated, if the facility is required the Parish Council believes it would be better sited on the original power sub station site to reduce the visual impact and noise ambience for residents. It was further agreed that Councillor Turner would call the application in at District level for consideration by Committee.

Cllr C Bell left the meeting at 9.05pm and did not return.
- 56621 Proposal: Erection of one 500KW wind turbine (height 74m, height to hub 50m, blade diameter 48m)
Location: Land adjacent to Rooks Bridge Covert, Lydacott, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr P Tucker

Two members of the public addressed the Parish Council with concerns that the above application would have a negative impact on wildlife in the area, listed buildings and residents and would be a visual intrusion.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL the application would have a detrimental impact on the diverse wildlife in the area; it would negatively impact on two listed buildings within close proximity; the noise and flicker from the proposed turbine would negatively impact on residents, it would further undermine the requirement for gas generators and would constitute an accumulative visual impact. The proposed wind turbine is not directly related to the farm and would form a small scale commercial operation which would be inappropriate in the countryside. It was further agreed that Councillor Turner would call the application in at District level for consideration by Committee.

The Chairman raised the following application as a matter of urgency and the Parish Council is commenting as a neighbouring Parish.

- 56756 Proposal: Erection of one wind turbine (height 79m, height to hub 55m, blade diameter 48m) together with accompanying access track, widening of existing farm entrance, crane hard standing, electrical switchgear house with associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound
Location: Lower Litchardon Farm, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL the application would have a detrimental impact on the diverse wildlife in the area; the noise and flicker from the proposed turbine would negatively impact on residents, it would further undermine the requirement for gas generators and would constitute an accumulative visual impact.

- 56655 Proposal: Outline application for erection of dwelling with integral garage & car parking
Location: Southfork, Pottery Lane, Yelland, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs K Birch

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of adjoining properties and the issue of surface water run-off being addressed.

- 56683 Proposal: Retrospective change of use of land from agricultural to domestic garden
Location: Woolmers Farm, North Lane, Bickington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mazzard Investments Ltd

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

- 56686 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 8 Hopperstyle, Bickington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr N Hawkins

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL in principle the Parish Council has concerns over the amenity of the adjoining properties.

- 56690 Proposal: Approval of details in respect of discharge of condition 21 (play area) & 26 (roads, footpath, verges, visibility splays) attached to planning permission 53147 (App/X1118/A/12/2188898)
Location: Former Fremington Training Camp, Hill Top, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr J Moka, Barratt David Wilson Homes

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

- 56717 Proposal: Demolition existing flat roof rear extension & erection of new hipped roof rear extension with raised decking
Location: 64 Oakland Park South, Sticklepath, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr I Wilson

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbours and the raised platform not impacting on the amenity of neighbours.

56718 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 10 Cross Close, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr R Kendall

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

56762 Proposal: Erection of four holiday lodges
Location: Lower Yelland Farm, Yelland, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Day

The applicant addressed the Council as a member of the public and outlined the proposal.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend APPROVAL subject to highway conditions being met.

1401/32 **North Devon Council – Planning Decisions**

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

53554 Proposal: Change of use from field to extension to cemetery/burial ground together with formation of turning area (amended plan)
Location: Fremington Cemetery, School Lane, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Fremington Parish Council

56216 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 24 Heal Park Crescent, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Executive Management Assist Ltd

56354 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 17 Oakland Park South, Sticklepath, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Simon Dovell

56571 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: Green Meadows, Bickington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: PWH Associates (Barnstaple) Ltd

56586 Proposal: Erection of garage
Location: Bendles Lodge, 15 Lower Cross Road, Bickington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr I Masters

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

1401/33 **Councillors Questions**

Cllr Ms Scott asked if the Parish Council was going to mark the current Vicar’s retirement. It was agreed that it would be marked.

PART B

1401/34 **Close**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed Dated