

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Parks and Playing Fields Committee
held on Thursday 30th October 2014 at 10.00am
at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Higher Road, Fremington**

- Present:** Cllrs D Harris (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, Mrs McCormack-Hole, Ms M Scott and B Sherborne
Mrs Victoria Woodhouse, Parish Clerk, Cllr D Brailey, Mr D Beechey, Treasurer of the Muddlebridge Allotment Association, Mr J Wilson Secretary of the Lagoon View Community Orchard Association and 4 members of the public
- 1410/34 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr T Wood.
- 1410/35 **Declarations of interests**
Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in Items 1410/33, 1410/34 and 1410/38 as the residents are known to him.

Cllr Ms Scott declared a Personal Interest in Items 1410/30, 1410/31, 1410/33, 1410/34 and 1410/38 as family members live at Fremington Quay and Item 1410/35 as an allotment holder.
- 1410/36 **To agree the agenda as published**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the agenda as published.
- 1410/37 **Chairman's Announcements**
It was announced that the Rockspinner had now been installed in the Beechfield Play Area and appeared to be well used; it was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the Community Group for its contribution towards the Rockspinner.

Members were reminded that the consultation period for the replacement of the Beechfield Centre had started and would run until the 24th November 2014 with a consultation evening being held at the centre on Monday 10th November 6pm – 8pm.

A response had been received from North Devon Homes in reply to the Committee's letter of support towards the residents to keep land at Hollamoor View as an open space.

The Chairman invited Cllr Brailey to address the Committee. Cllr Brailey explained that he had obtained funds and was seeking the Committee's approval to place a carousel and spring horse at the Ellerslie Road Play Area. The Committee had no objections to the proposals and it was agreed to place this item on the next Agenda for formal approval.
- 1410/38 **Public Participation Period**
A resident raised concerns about the condition of the Beechfield Car Park. It was explained that a contractor had been recalled to carry out improvement works and there were plans to upgrade the surface of the car park after the replacement of the Beechfield Centre.
- 1410/39 **To approve and sign the minutes of meeting held on 25th September 2014 as a correct record**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2014 as a correct record. Cllr Harris duly signed the minutes.
- 1410/40 **Issues raised by residents at Fremington Quay**
It was noted that a date was still being sought for a meeting with residents, DCC and the Committee. A resident raised concerns that further sleepers had gone missing from the site and concerns were raised over the condition of the backdoor on the Warden's Accommodation. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate Planning, the cost and if appropriate authorise the replacement under delegated powers.

Residents asked when the Pill side of the BOAT Road would be cut, it was explained that this is usually carried out as the last cut in November to prevent re-growth. There were concerns that grass cuttings had been left in the Paddock; it was explained that the Biodiversity Officer had agreed with the previous Clerk and Contractor to leave the cuttings, this would be investigated. It was noted that the No Mooring sign was still in the river and had not been replaced; it was agreed to write to Ward members and request action is taken and include the relocation of the dog bin in the letter. Residents requested that a sign is placed on the Boatmen's amenity area informing them of how to obtain the combination code to use the area. Residents were concerned about the condition of the well and water tower; it was agreed to carry out investigations. Residents asked for an update on the replacement of the interpretation board.

1410/41 **To receive and consider further plans to update the café area at Fremington Quay**

Two possible proposals were circulated to members, the tenants informed members that they were not happy with either design but would like a steer from members on the possibility of serving ice cream out of the café window. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree in principle to ice cream being served from the café window subject to, the tenants investigating the need for planning permission to change the window, any change to the window must be in keeping with the character of the area and building and the cost is to be met by the tenants. It was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer the item for further consideration at the next meeting, with plans the tenants are happy with.

1410/42 **To receive and consider information relating to a Community Orchard at Lagoon View**

Mr Wilson addressed the Committee and outlined the plans for a Community Orchard at Lagoon View, the land in question is still in the ownership of the developer and the developer would be happy to transfer ownership to a responsible body. The Association requested that the Parish Council considers taking the ownership of the land, all maintenance and costs would be met by the Association. Members considered the request and the implications should the Association cease to exist and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to accept ownership of the land subject to a lease being set up between the Parish Council and the Association and an explicit condition in the lease explaining that should the Association cease to exist the Parish Council will not be able to maintain the land to the same standard, it will be maintained in line with similar Parish Council assets.

1410/43 **To approve the works and associated quotation for additional parking at Fremington Quay**

Members were informed that Planning Permission had been granted for the works, although there is one condition to discharge, six quotations were sought but only one received at a cost of £9,415 + VAT and funding had been sought to meet the cost. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the works and the quotation and appoint Dan Perrin Landscapes to carry out the works, once the Planning Condition has been discharged, at a cost of £9,415 + VAT.

1410/44 **To receive an update on the North Devon Council's Dog Bin at Fremington Quay**

Members were informed that the District Council was investigating the possibility of other methods of emptying the bin in the original location but felt it would not be able to change working practices of the contractor. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer this item until the next meeting when it was hoped further information would have been received.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move Item 14 on the Agenda forward to this point due to time constraints.

1410/45 **Muddlebridge Allotments****a) To receive report from the Clerk further to the correspondence received from the Muddlebridge Allotment Association at the meeting held on 26th June 2014**

Following a delay in the re-letting of an allotment plot, the Muddlebridge Allotment Association had asked the Parish Council to investigate methods of weed control should a similar situation arise in the future. A report was received prior to the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to accept the recommendations contained therein. In the event a plot becomes overgrown due to a delay in it being re-let the Clerk will instruct either the Contractor (at a cost of £60 for a one off strim) or the Handyperson (at a cost of £30 for a one off strim), and as availability allows, to strim the plot as a one off; if this becomes a regular occurrence the Parish Council will investigate other options.

b) To receive and note letter from the Allotment Association with reference to grass cutting

The Parish Council had been asked to investigate the cost of cutting communal areas at the Muddlebridge Allotment site, the Association had considered the costs and agreed to continue cutting the communal areas. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to note the information.

At 11am the Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow the Finance and Personnel Committee to commence as publicly advertised and to reconvene at 12pm.

Cllrs Mrs McCormack Hole, B Sherborne, Mr D Beechey, Mr J Wilson and all members of the public left the meeting and did not return.

The meeting reconvened at 12pm.

Present: Cllrs D Harris (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman and Ms M Scott
Mrs Victoria Woodhouse, Parish Clerk, Cllr Mrs S Kingdom

1410/46 **To consider draft budget for 2015-2016**

Members considered the draft budget and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer the item until the next meeting.

1410/47 **To consider proposals for the upgrade and refurbishment of the Swallowfield Play Area following site visit**

Members considered the proposals made following the site visit which were: -

- Two x wooden gates on the entrance points
- Replacement of safety surfacing with wetpour or whatever else might be appropriate (cheapest option please)
- Replace the cargo net on the multiplay
- Remove horse rocker
- Replace horse rocker with basket swing
- Paint existing equipment

Cllr Biederman agreed to give the rest of his Investing in Devon fund towards the project and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to investigate the possibility of cheaper surfacing, to obtain further quotations and to obtain further funding.

1410/48 **To discuss the maintenance of the Paddock at Fremington Quay**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer this item until the next meeting.

PART B

1410/49 It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information:

1410/50 **To receive update on the possible breach of a tenancy agreement**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note that the breach had been rectified.

1410/51 **Close**
There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Signed.....

Dated