

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Parks and Playing Fields Committee
held on Thursday 28th February 2019 at 10.00am
at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Higher Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs F Biederman (Chairman), S Adams, Mrs J Cann, D Chalmers,
Mrs S Kingdom and A Rennles (from Minute No. 1902/33)
Mrs Victoria Woodhouse, Parish Clerk

1 member of the public

1902/27 **Apologies for Absence**
Miss L Goodger.

1902/28 **Declarations of interests**
Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in item 1902/34 as a dog owner.

Cllr Chalmers declared a Personal Interest in item 1902/34 as a dog owner.

Cllr Adams declared a Personal Interest in item 1902/34 as a dog owner.

1902/29 **To agree the agenda as published**
Agreed.

1902/30 **Chairman's Announcements**
None.

1902/31 **Public Participation Period**
A member of the public requested to speak under item 1902/34 the Chairman and Committee agreed.

1902/32 **To approve and sign the minutes of meeting held on 31st January 2019 as a correct record**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2019 as a correct record. Cllr Biederman duly signed the minutes.

1902/33 **To receive update on the timescales for the replacement of the Beechfield Centre**
Members were informed that works on site would commence on the 4th March 2019 it was agreed that the contract with the principal contractor would be signed prior to the start and the contract would be for a period of 26 weeks meaning completion should be by the 23rd August 2019. Members were further informed that unfortunately the Beechfield Centre Car Park and Playing Field would not be accessible during this time due to the site compound and site safety reasons, although the Centre Car Park is not a public car park the Council's Contract Administrator had written to the school as a matter of courtesy to inform them that the car park would be closed.

Cllr Rennles entered the meeting.

It was noted that there clauses within the contract to deal with delays. Members asked about the relocation of the Council Offices and were informed that the planning application for change of use of the current offices had been submitted and once determined the Council would be looking to market the current office for sale.

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

1902/34

To consider allowing dogs on a lead to use the Village Green (item requested by Cllr Biederman)

The Chairman and Committee allowed the member of the public to speak on the item. The member of the public raised objections to allowing dogs on “our village green” which they believed was for everyone to enjoy, they explained that there are other areas for dogs such as the nature reserve at the back of the Village Green where dogs can be exercised and this area should be kept dog free. Concerns were raised that not all dog owners are responsible and you cannot prevent dogs from “going to the toilet” and every contact leaves a trace which raises health concerns, especially for children, from Toxocariasis. The member of the public felt it would be irresponsible for the Parish Council to agree to allow dogs on the Village Green.

It was noted that two further letters of objection to dogs on the Village Green had been received.

Cllr Biederman explained the reasons for requesting consideration of this item, he explained that the Village Green is underutilised, the Community Group has recently carried out a lot of work on the Green to try and encourage use and when they hold events on the Green they are regularly asked if people can bring their dogs to which they have to say no. If minded to approve dogs should only be allowed on the Village Green on leads, Cllr Biederman also felt that the signage on the Village Green was not welcoming or conducive to usage of the Green.

Members debated the advantages and disadvantages of allowing dogs on leads on the Village Green. The difficulty of enforcing the rule of no dogs on the Village Green was discussed along with the safety of the area for children and dogs and the exclusion of a large proportion of residents from events by not allowing dogs on the Green.

Cllr Biederman proposed and Cllr Mrs Cann seconded that a trial period of 3 months be implemented to allow dogs on the Village Green on leads and temporary signs be erected to this effect. The vote was tied with 3 in favour and 3 against the Chairman’s casting vote was in favour of the proposal and therefore it was **resolved**, with four votes in favour and 3 votes against, to allow dogs on the Village Green on leads only for a trial period of 3 months and erect temporary signs.

1902/35

To consider using volunteers to help with the reinstatement of the path around Griggs Field and access from Aspen Grove (item requested by Cllr Biederman)

Cllr Biederman explained that the Parish Council is still awaiting a delivery of scalpings and informed members that the Parish Clerk had provided DCC with the appropriate exemption licence to allow the use of the scalpings. However, once the scalpings are received they would require spreading and the Parish Council does not have the funds to reinstate the path or spread the scalpings he was therefore proposing that the Parish Council look to utilise volunteers to undertake this work. It was noted that any volunteers working for the Parish Council would be covered by the Parish Council’s insurance, however, a risk assessment would need to be produced and appropriate insurance and licences would need to be provided to the Parish Council for any machinery that would be required.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the use of volunteers to spread the scalpings around the pathways at Griggs Field subject to the Parish Council producing a risk assessment and appropriate licences and insurance being provided to the Parish Council prior to any work being carried out.

1902/36

Received update on vacant allotment plots at the Babbages Allotment Site

Members were informed that there were currently four vacant plots and no waiting list, members noted that this had been an ongoing situation and was costing the Council a significant amount of money to trim and cover the plots to prevent the growth of weeds. The suggestion of a “flame weed killer system” had been investigated and was not a viable option for the allotments, the vacant plots had been widely advertised.

Members discussed options for raising interest in the site and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to produce a simple leaflet with the information of the allotment plots that Cllrs Mrs Cann and Chalmers would deliver to Bickington Residents, Cllr Biederman would speak to Petroc about the possibility of including in their programmes.

1902/37

Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50am.

Signed.....

Dated

DRAFT