

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th September 2019 at 7.00pm in Fremington Parish Hall, Higher Road, Fremington.

Present: Cllr S Kingdom (Chairman)
Cllrs S Adams, J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, I Capon, C Connell, I Crawford, K Groves and B Sherborne
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock (Parish Clerk/RFO), Mrs E Badcock (Services Officer), one member of the public, Cllr J Mackie and Cllr H Walker (NDC)

1909/01 **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllrs A Rennles, C McCormack-Hole and B Hockin.

1909/02 **Declarations of interest**
Cllr Connell declared a DPI in item 18 on the Agenda: Riverside Park/former Army Camp as he is a resident of the area.

Cllr Biederman declared an interest in item 14: Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service as he is a member of the organisation.

1909/03 **Chairman's announcements**
The Chairman made the following announcements:

- The Old School House – Planning permission has been refused
- The Beechfield Centre Official Opening was being held on Friday, 13th September 2019, members were asked to let the Clerk know of their attendance
- Cllr Biederman's North Devon Council Service is being held on Sunday, 22nd September. She informed members that she would be on annual leave and encouraged members to attend
- The Parish Council office is now located and open in The Beechfield Centre
- There will be a picture of the late Tony Wood in the foyer of The Beechfield Centre

1909/04 **Police report**
No report was received.

1909/05 **Public participation**
Further to Min no: 1908/06, a member of the public asked again for the Council to look at the Emergency plan for Brexit, however, felt that it now needed to extend to an emergency plan for the area.

1909/06 **Minutes**
The Chairman reported that the resolution in Minute no: 1908/13 should read: **RESOLVED:** That advice is sought whether it is legal and the Clerk contacts neighbouring town and parish councils and North Devon Council to identify whether there is a strategic group already set up.
RESOLVED: That the minutes are of the meeting held on 5th August 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

(NC)

1909/07

County and District Councillor reports

Cllr Biederman informed members that the application was refused at Higher Road. The new £800,000 astro turf pitch at Tarka Tennis Centre is due to open at the weekend, it is expected to be used by 1500 people per week and is suitable for many different sports.

Cllr Cann informed members that there is a project well underway to protect the bird life on the Taw Estuary. She further reported that consultations on BT phone box uses were taking place at present and encouraged anyone with suggestions for uses to contact her. She also reported that she will update members when further information becomes available on the 106 monies as there had been a number of requests for information.

Cllr Mackie informed members that she had attended mental health training last week for residents that may approach councillors and found it most useful. There is a Crisis Centre named The Moorings available for self-referral drop ins and open in the evenings. She also informed members that North Devon Council were due to meet with the Fire and Rescue Service to discuss the proposals.

Cllr Mackie also commented on item 12 and explained that she was aware that concerns have already been made to North Devon Council in relation to the Ash beds, who have consequently written to Devon County Council. There was a visit by DCC in July with an Oncologist.

Cllr Walker reported that there is a safety problem with a path that goes straight onto Old Bideford Road from the Glenwood Park development, there is nothing to stop you running straight onto the road. She has requested the Parish Council to take a look and hopefully agree there is a safety issue outside Glenwood Park, then it could be sent to HATOC for discussion and to enquire whether there is any money available. Cllr Biederman referred that it may be a highways issues and he will look into this. Cllr Walker further reported that Fremington Medical Centre has asked for support for a new defibrillator to be sited in its location.

Cllr Capon raised concerns over pavements and road safety at Old Bideford Road. There were discussions regarding the hedgerow at Tews Lane and that there were previous conversations concerning the need for a pavement to the new developments and school, which were originally indicated where the main hedge is situated.

1909/08

North Devon Council Planning Appeal

Site address: Old School House, Bickington Road, Bickington, Barnstaple

Description of development: Alterations to existing access to create vehicular access together with erection of garage

Application Ref: 65593

Appellant's name: Mr Capner

Appeal Ref: APP/X1118/D/19/3234130

Appeal start date: 5th August 2019

RESOLVED: That the information be received and noted.

(NC)

1909/09

North Devon Council – Planning Applications**66855** Proposal: Erection of garage

Location: Land at Babbages, Bickington, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mrs C Provan

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for approval.

(NC)

70123 Proposal: Erection of decking to include balustrade & steps to allow for the extension of the original patio for the erection of the Orangery already approved under 66429

Location: Roundhayes, Bickington Road, Bickington, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr R Hodgson

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for approval subject to no adverse impact on any neighbouring properties.

(NC)

70158 Proposal: Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of 1 x Hawthorn (T1), 1 x Eucalyptus (T3) & Hawthorn (T4)

Location: 13 Lyddicleave, Bickington, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr H J Kempf

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for refusal to the removal of the trees, however, the council recognises the need for good tree management and asks that the ward members keep an eye on this application and call in, if necessary.

(NC)

70232 Proposal: Retrospective application for erection of one dwelling and extension to that Dwelling

Location: 39A John Smale Road, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr P Mayne

RESOLVED: That the application is refused as over intensification of the site and drainage concerns.

(NC)

70237 Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Location: 28 Home Farm Road, Fremington, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs S Luxton

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for approval subject to no adverse impact on any neighbouring properties.

(NC)

70310 Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of two dwellings

Location: Ashleigh, 45 Park Avenue, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs West

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for refusal as over intensification of the site and no adequate off-street parking.

(NC)

70311 Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Location: 14 Quay View, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr L Manu

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for approval subject to no adverse impact on Fremington Pill or neighbouring properties. We note that it is a civil matter, however, there are concerns regarding the timescale of development on the property.

(NC)

70339 Proposal: First floor extension over garage
Location: 53 Brynsworthy Park, Roundswell, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Andrews

RESOLVED: That the application is recommended for approval subject to no adverse impact on any neighbouring properties and its in keeping with the street scene.

(NC)

Cllrs Kingdom, Biederman, Cann, Sherborne, Crawford, Capon and Adams declared a personal interest in the following application as the applicant is known to them.

Members **RESOLVED:** to take the applications 70343 and 70345 together.

Cllr Cann raised a concern regarding the conflict between the applicant and Cllr Bell and felt that he should declare an interest in this item. Cllr Bell disagreed.

70343 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of crown reduction of three Ash trees
Location: Land to the rear of 83 & 84 Lagoon View, West Yelland, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr P Thorn

70345 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of crown reduction of one Poplar & one Ash tree
Location: Lagoon View Community Orchard, Land adjacent to 84 Lagoon View, West Yelland, Barnstaple

RESOLVED: that the applications are refused as the trees are healthy and there appears to be no safety concerns, however, the Council does recognise the need for good tree management and asks that ward members keep an eye on the applications and call in, if necessary.

(9.1.abs)

Councillors discussed the Council's consistent approach towards tree management and in particular the removal of TPO trees.

1909/10

Planning decisions

66907 Proposal: Erection of garage
Location: 73 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr Neil Foster

66928/ Proposal: Conversion of building to form one dwelling
66929 Location: United Reform Church, Bickington Road, Bickington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Capner Property Developments Ltd

70176 Proposal: Application for a Non-Material Amendment to planning permissions 57663 & 63468 in respect of revised materials layout
 Location: Land adjacent B3233 West Yelland, Barnstaple
 Applicant/Agent: Miss G Brierley

70178 Proposal: Application for a Non-Material Amendment to planning permissions 57663 & 63468 in respect of removal of block paving within the pavement only throughout the development
 Location: Land adjacent B3233 West Yelland, Barnstaple
 Applicant/Agent: Miss G Brierley

RESOLVED: That the approved planning decisions above be received and noted.

(NC)

1909/11

Motion of Councillor Bell – Ash Beds

Cllr Bell reported that Devon County Council designated the site as a wildlife site and that fences were broken down. People who walk over the site have made a track, which has resulted in bike trails being made and nesting birds disappearing. DCC has sent an Oncologist on site and a report was completed.

Cllr Adams queried whether the bike trails were an organised event due to the number of bikes and suggested to word something that could be shared on social media to inform people that this is not an area to be used for trail biking.

Cllr Capon said that he went to a demonstration on Saturday to speak on congestion and traffic management with regards to protecting our estuary. There were 4/5 councillors from different parishes who asked what Fremington Parish Council is doing about the issues.

Members felt that the planning conditions of the fencing should be enforced.

RESOLVED: An amendment to the motion, which resulted in the following motion being approved. That the Council writes to the owners and agents of the Ash beds to voice Fremington Parish Council's opposition to the wildlife site being used for trail biking and to copy in Mr Bowman at Devon County Council and Mr K Bines at North Devon Council and ask North Devon Council and Devon County Council to enforce the planning conditions stipulated.

(NC)

1909/12

Climate Change

Cllr Crawford reported to members that he was working on a Terms of Reference and issues that the Council can investigate and complete, which will be submitted to the next Parks and Playing Fields committee.

Cllr Groves reported that he had a number of requests, which may result in financial funding being needed. The Chairman explained that the Council had specific budgets, so a request would need to be made following the Working Party meeting and action plan and that budgetary provisions for 20/21 would also need to be investigated.

1909/13

Fire and Rescue Service

Cllr Biederman explained that the Fire and Rescue Service was consulting on lots of proposals including removing Barnstaple Fire Station from 24 hour to day time cover and retained evening cover.

*** Cllr Biederman left the meeting at this point having declared an interest ***

Cllr Capon stated that given the amount of new housing being built, he finds it unbelievable that the service is looking to be cut. A delay could be detrimental to lives.

Members expressed grave concerns regarding the proposals, and it was **RESOLVED:** That the Council writes to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service expressing concerns regarding the cuts to Barnstaple's 24 hour cover and the potential impact on the wider neighbouring towns and parishes.

(NC)

*** Cllr Biederman returned to the meeting. ***

1909/14

Councillor questions

Cllr Adams reported that he will be asking the Parks and Playing Fields Committee to start looking at Local Green spaces, infrastructure and local biosphere protection policies.

Cllr Bell asked whether the County and District Councillors attending council meetings could give a written report, rather than verbal.

Cllr Biederman informed members that a group of NCS students planted 50 trees as part of their project. They were kindly donated by St John's Garden Centre. He further reported that Party at the Manor was a great success.

Members raised a concern over the extension to the road to Old School Lane to the Cemetery.

Cllr Capon raised concerns over the Highways Contribution that Fremington Parish Council should have received over the last 4 years. £307,947.20 in Highway contribution should have been received and he requested to know where it has been spent, especially after the Strategy committee last week, where it was noted that S106 contributions have been sought from the Roundswell and Larkbear developments.

He further reported that the Section 106 monies for Openspace at Tews Lane needed chasing up and asked Cllr Cann to investigate this issue with the District Council.

Cllr Groves asked what was happening to the Air Ambulance landing site. The Clerk replied that the Devon Air Ambulance site team had been out to survey the site last week, following the completion of The Beechfield Centre and it is hoped it will be up and running in the very near future.

1909/15 **Part B – Exclusion of Press and Public**
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 involved the likely disclosure of confidential information. (NC)

1909/16 **Beechfield Car Park**
Members were given a report from the Parish Clerk on options available, following Section 106 money that is likely to be available in October/November 2019.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk is authorised to action the improvement of the car park and that fencing is placed around the remainder of the play area subject to 106 money being granted and agreed by North Devon Council and that the contract is extended to Falon Construction trading as CDL and Woodward Smith. (8.2)

*** Cllr Connell left the meeting. ***

1909/17 **Riverside Park/Former Army Camp**
The Clerk gave a report on the issues and progress to date.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk continue discussions with North Devon Council and developers and that the Council will accept the buildings, football pitch, LAP and LEAP as previously agreed and will only accept the MUGA on the proviso that it is brought back up to an approved standard and a management system is in place and the guarantee is still valid. (NC)

Meeting ended at 9.35pm.

Signed

Dated:.....