

**Minutes of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee held on
Thursday, 30th January 2020 at 10.00am in
The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington.**

- Present: Cllr S Adams (Chairman)
Cllrs I Capon, I Crawford, C McCormack Hole and J Bell.
Also in attendance, Mrs K Graddock – Acting Parish Clerk, Cllr A Rennles,
Cllr S Kingdom and 1 member of the public.
Cllr Biederman from Griggs Field Agenda item.
- 200131 **Apologies**
None received.
- 200132 **Declarations**
Cllr S Adams declared an interest a personal interest in Item 5 – Trim Trail.
- 200133 **Public Participation**
A member of the public on behalf of the Muddlebridge Allotment Association gave their sincere thanks to Mrs Graddock for her efforts with regards to the allotments. They explained that at the last rents the Association was not invited for discussions with the Council and it was appreciated to be involved. An informal discussion was held with Mrs Graddock and some Cllrs which was the first time since Muddlebridge was formed such an invitation was extended. They furthermore said that they were pleased to see 4 members of the Council attend. They reiterated that separating the rents and allowing an EMR would help ease the situation and will alleviate concerns from tenants that Muddlebridge subsidises Babbages.

Cllr Rennles endorsed the member of publics statement.
- 200134 **Minutes**
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 28th November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)
- 200135 **Trim Trail**
The Chairman gave a brief overview of the situation to date and that in order to submit grant applications, a firm location for the Trim Trail to be sited was needed. Members discussed whether to use Tews Lane however, felt that this could be a separate project when the Tews Lane site is enhanced.
RESOLVED: That the Trim Trail is located in Griggs Field. (NC)
- *** Cllr S Adams declared a Personal interest. ***
- 200136 **The Beechfield Centre**
Members received two quotations for the cleaning services at The Beechfield Centre and looked at the quality of the service and any additional information that was submitted with the applications.
RESOLVED: That H2O are appointed for a period of 12 months for cleaning services at The Beechfield Centre at a total of £262.50 per month. (1abs)

S.A

200137

Climate Emergency Working Party

Cllr Crawford tabled notes from the last Climate Emergency Working Party meeting, which are attached as Appendix 1.

Members felt that there was in fact quite a few access points from the Parish to the Tarka Trail and that the surface is in reasonable standard. Cllr McCormack Hole suggested that the Working Party walk from Barnstaple to Instow to take a look at the Tarka Trail surface

RESOLVED:

1. That the Clerk communicate with County Councillor F Biederman to take up the issues regarding the Tarka Trail that have been raised by the CEWP.
2. That Fremington Parish Council sign up to the Devon Climate Declaration.
3. That Fremington Parish Council look at ways that it can reduce its carbon footprint within its premises including solar panels, cleaning supplies and any other matters and that a survey is carried out on where the Council can action on the points above.
4. That Fremington Parish Council look at addressing the provision of solar panels at Tews Lane extension.
5. That any communication from the Climate Emergency Working Party is sent and checked by Mrs Graddock prior to any publication.
6. That the Clerk investigate options for potential painting of a wing at Roundswell Underpass.

(NC)

Cllr McCormack applauded Cllr Crawford on his action to date. Cllr Crawford thanked Mrs Graddock for attending the last meeting to refocus members ideas to Fremington.

200138

Griggs Field

Members were reported that the project initiated by Cllr Biederman had now concluded and resulted in the planings becoming solid and too difficult for anyone to distribute. Quotes had been received and it was

RESOLVED: That the Clerk enquire with Cllr Biederman for any funding towards this project, as the Council has limited funds to complete this work.

(NC)

200139

Bee Keeping

Members were reported that a request to site bees on the Babbages allotment was submitted. Members were very supportive of this idea and felt that bees were important to encourage to be sited on site. The Clerk informed members that she had contact North Devon Council as the landowner and they were investigating whether it was possible to site bees on the allotment site.

RESOLVED: That siting bees on the Babbages Allotment site is encouraged and the Clerk continue discussions with North Devon Council and report back to a future meeting.

(NC)

200140

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 involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

(NC)

S.A

200141

Muddlebridge Allotments


Members were given a verbal report from the Clerk on the situation to date in relation to the rent and lease at Muddlebridge allotments.

RESOLVED:

1. The land is leased for 4 years from the Glebe Agents.
2. That there is no rental increase for Muddlebridge allotment tenants for the period of the lease (4 years).
3. That any remaining monies from the rental income is kept in a separate EMR for expenditure on the Muddlebridge allotments only.
4. That the Clerk investigate the wall and bank at Fishleigh Quay.

(NC)

Meeting ended at 10.50am.

Signed:  Dated: 27-02-20

Report from Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) To Parks & Playing Field Committee (P&PFC) - 30th January 2020

It is recommended the Notes of CEWP meeting held on 14th January at Appendix A are accepted.

Update on previous Resolutions and action taken:

Actions 1),2) and 3) are proceeding and liaison with 361 Energy CIC leads to confirmation that they are prepared to participate in our proposed Climate Open Day event on a Saturday in the Beechfield Centre.

The anticipated date of 15th February is now postponed to allow more time to ensure that other environmental organisations in North Devon can also participate and to coincide if possible with the 'climate week' event in March being proposed by NDC environment lead Cllr Netti Pearson. Liaison will also take place with Mike Jones at NDC as previously suggested.

Recommendations to P&PFC from CEWP meeting held 14th January

- 1) Access to the Tarka Trail is limited with Fremington Quay being the only access whereas access from housing developments at Tarka Ridge and Riverside (old army camp) are needed. **CEWP recommend improved access to the Tarka Trail cycleway in conjunction with adjoining local councils.**
- 2) **CEWP recommend that Fremington Parish Council support the Devon Climate Declaration** at Appendix B
- 3) **CEWP recommend a monthly working party report be sent to Contact and for publication on FPC Facebook page.**
- 4) **CEWP Recommend that the Parish Council consider how to reduce the carbon footprint within its premises**

Appendix A

Notes of Climate Emergency Working Party - Fremington Parish Council held on Tues. 14th January 2020 at Beechfield Centre

Present: Kate Graddock - Parish Clerk, Cllr. Kelvin Groves, Marc Binns, Cllr. Ian Capon, Peter Thorn, Martin Sosnowski, Lou Goodger, Barbara Lloyd, Peter Smith, Edwina Stevenson, Emily Willoughby, Stephen Jarvis, Cllr. Ian Crawford

Apologies: Joan Gristwood, Steve Webber, Serin Terzi

Parish Clerk: Kate Graddock, Parish Clerk clarified that recent abusive emails were not acceptable and recommended good practice which included leaving party political banners at the door. Ian Cr. thanked Kate for her support to resolve this matter. In answer to several questions from members present, the issue of where the parish boundaries lay was raised - Kate agreed to provide a map showing the boundaries.....**Action Kate**

Appendix 1.1

Notes of 3rd Dec. & Recommendations for Action/ / Matters Arising

Notes of 3rd accepted as read.

The secretary (Ian Cr) explained that 'Actions' from previous meetings would be minuted in these notes to show completion or awaiting action (*Recommendations from the CEWP to the Council will be recorded with Council decisions and further actions within these notes, and are printed in italics to show on this occasion that they were not reported at this meeting.*

Recommendations approved by Parish Council;

- Budget allocation for CEWP - now approved at £2000 from April 2020
- To approach developers, nurseries, local businesses, for funding donations for an ongoing tree planting programme to meet a target of 900 trees per year in Fremington to meet the Government Climate Change Committee's target of 1.5 billion trees by

2050.....**Action Ian Cr**

- To approach Koa Tree Camp <https://www.koatreecamp.com/>, and Gaia Trust <https://www.giaitrust.org.uk/home-farm-marsh.html> for funding...**Action Ian Cr**

- To ask local councillors for donations from their spending pots...**Action Ian Cr**

Recommendations pending Action - requiring further discussion

- 2020 – 2022 (Planting March and November) The planting of numerous fruit / nut (edible) trees throughout the parish to provide free food to parishioners and benefit wildlife / increase bio- diversity. Funding to be requested via PPFC and Full Council as soon as practicable for each planting date, with additional funding requested via NDC and DCC councillor grants and invitation to local business and individuals through press release and social media campaign.

- 2020 – 2024 The creation of a New Woodland

Funding to be accessed via The Woodland Trust / NDC / DCC / charities who provide full funding and advice for larger scale schemes. This will provide space for FPC to meet its target of 900 trees planted per annum without encroaching on individual resident areas, whilst also meeting wildlife and biodiversity benefits.

- 2020 - 2021 Creation of a Community Compost heap (as currently successfully in a place in Bratton Fleming) - Parks & Playing Fields Committee not supporting due to admin and location issues.

- 2020 onwards Support the aspiration of allotment holders to accommodate Bee Hives to increase pollinators - Parks & Playing Fields Committee not supporting.

Actions discussed:

- Park School may have spare trees - contact is Katey Phillips.....**Action Edwina**
- District councillors to be asked for donations from funding pots....**Action Ian Cr**
- Local farmers might give land for copses with donated trees and planting by CEWP. It was suggested approaches be made to NFU - Peter reported that as farmers received no subsidy for tree planting, they were unlikely to give up land. Chris explained that farming subsidies were under review so changes may come.
- North Devon Biosphere could be approached re coastal land for tree planting - Ian Cr reported that he was waiting a reply from Peter Jollands...**Action Ian Cr**

Appendix 1.2

Steve J reported that Netti Pearson, lead environment Cllr. at NDC were discussing re-forestation within the district.

- A question was raised as to whether parish councils can ban the use of herbicides and Ian agreed to investigate the position - after discussion it was agreed that written clarification be obtained**Action Ian Cr**
- Cycling on the Tarka Trail is inhibited by the poor condition of the surface. Use of Section 106 monies, now known as Community Infrastructure Levy, for upgrading of Tarka Trail together with improved cycleway network access to the Trail. This was agreed as a **Recommendation to the P&PFC****Action Ian Cr**
- Community energy production is seen as a method of reducing the cost of energy to residents. This initiative has been taken in Torridge by Bideford Town Council and it was agreed to invite a speaker to CEWP from BTC**Action Ian Cr**
- Discussion took place on traffic congestion and abandoned persual of traffic lights at Cedars R'bout and the need for park and ride. Ian Ca reported on the prospect of bus gates on Old Torrington Rd.
- A speaker from 361 Energy has morphed into a proposal suggested by councillors that CEWP organise a public open day event with invitations to environmental organisations such as 361 to attend. Kelvin suggested that we invite Stagecoach. Further discussion on the event was referred to **Group Activity** item.

Yelland (Power Stn Site) Development:

Joan's correspondence with the Environment Agency has clarified that the EA are only concerned about flooding and contaminants. The issue of impact on wildlife, such as migrating birds should be referred to Natural England. The Parish Council has decided to hold a public meeting at 7.00pm on Thurs. 27th January in the Parish Hall with a presentation of the latest proposals from a NDC planning officer. Peter was concerned that another site would have to be found to comply with Government housebuilding targets. Ian Ca stated that the Local Plan might have targets for housing but their location could be changed and that nothing should be built in the estuary.

Tarka Trail - Upgrading and Cycleway Connectivity:

Peter called for upgrading to give a separate walk way and cycle way. Access to the Tarka Trail is limited with Fremington Quay being the only access whereas access from housing developments at Tarka Ridge and Riverside (old army camp) are needed. **CEWP recommend improved access to the Tarka Trail cycleway in conjunction with adjoining local councils.**

Devon Climate Declaration

On the 22nd May 2019, members of the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group endorsed the underlying principles of the Devon Climate Declaration which has been circulated to members.

All organisations are encouraged to sign the Declaration to show the growing support for taking action. Councils who support the Declaration should send an

email to <environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk> with accompanying evidence, such as a hyperlink to the minute of a meeting.

The working party were unanimous in calling for FPC to support the Declaration.

CEWP recommend that Fremington Parish Council support the Devon Climate Declaration

Fremington Parish Contact Magazine

Steve proposed that we should publish our activities in the Contact magazine including the CEWP climate event. Edwina and Emily offered to do a monthly update for Contact and Parish Facebook page.

CEWP recommend a monthly working party report be sent to Contact and for publication on FPC Facebook page.

Group Activity:

Marc reminded us that we should be looking at all aspects of the environment issues which include Transport, Energy conservation and Power generation. Ian Ca mentioned that we should refer to the Neighbour Plan which is due to be published. Concern was expressed about the need to maintain our consideration of re-wilding and this was accepted as on going. Members then broke into two groups for discussion.

Group 1 Report Back - Energy was the main topic and issues raised were;

HOUSING - Mandatory installation of solar panels, insulation by cladding and 30amp electric car charging points. Minimum building standard of Code 5

COMMUNITY ENERGY - Campaign for councils to work together to establish Community Energy organisations to provide cheaper energy to residents.

Peter and Martin have agreed to work on energy..... **Action Peter & Martin**

Group 2 Report Back - Traffic congestion was the main topic with emphasis on talking to school children and parents about walking to school and to the county council to provide FREE BUS PASSES for pupils.

Ian Ca offered to work with Emily on school liaison**Action Ian Ca & Emily**

AOB;

1) It was pointed out that "Fairy Liquid" is being used in the Beechfield Centre kitchen. The concern is that FL is fossil fuel based washing up liquid when other greener products were available. This is not the first time that members have expressed that as a Council we should be setting an example on environmental matters such as solar panels on our buildings and that we should ask the Parish Council to investigate best practice.

CEWP Recommend that the Parish Council consider how to reduce the carbon footprint within its premises

2) Ian Cr reported that a solar panel installer was making a presentation on plans to install acres of solar panels at Litchardon Cross on Thurs. 16th Jan. in Lovacott Village Hall from 3pm to 7pm.

Next CEWP Meeting - 7.30pm Tuesday 4th February at Beechfield Centre

Devon Climate Declaration

1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.
4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its

delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:

- Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
- Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
- Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
- Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
- Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
- Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
- Divesting from fossil fuels
- Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
- Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
- Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
- Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.

7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.

8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.

9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same.