

**Minutes of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee held on  
Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 11.00am in  
The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington.**

Present: Cllr S Adams (Chairman)  
Cllrs J Cann, I Capon, I Crawford and J Bell.  
Also, in attendance, Mrs K Graddock – Deputy Executive Officer.  
1 member of the public and Cllr A Rennles.

2002/46 **Apologies**  
None received.

2002/47 **Declarations**  
None received.

2002/48 **Public Participation**  
A member of the public spoke on item 6: Bee Keeping – They mentioned that they had a situation at Muddlebridge allotments and consulted the Allotment holders and majority of holders were against the inclusion of bees. They asked whether the plot holders of Babbages have been consulted and whether the residents and the families of children using the park are happy with the bees being sited. They also asked that with regards to the Muddlebridge Licence, whether a clause has been included to help with the timescale in which the re-negotiation can take place.

Cllr Rennles, as the allotment representative raised huge concerns over the proposals to site bees on the Babbages allotment site and that he has not had any input in the proposals. He stated that the bees need to be secure, however, bees don't always do what they are told. He felt that it is very close to the children's play area and there could become issues with insurance and security of the site.

2002/49 **Minutes**  
**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

2002/50 **Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP)**  
Members were circulated a copy of the CEWP notes from 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, which are attached as Appendix 1. Members discussed the notes and recommendations from the Working Party and the Clerk informed members that she was going to ask for further information/guidance on the following matters:

- Banning of Glyphosates
- Tarka Trail – walkabout by CEWP members
- Future Home Standards
- Audit of Fremington Parish Council property

An issue picked up from the CEWP was traffic congestion and Cllr Capon felt that a letter to the Chief Executive of The Tarka Learning Academy with regards to traffic congestion and what proposals he has in place to help with the situation when the new school opens in Tews Lane, as there is already parking issues in the area. Members felt that they could ask him to consider involving parents and children in ways in which to help with traffic congestion. Cllr Cann

S.A

raised an idea of a walking system – where there is a drop off point away from the school and a member of staff collects children at various points and walks them to school. After some discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Deputy Executive Officer write to the Chief Executive of The Tarka Learning Academy to raise concerns over traffic congestion and to enquire as to what measures he has in place to try and help the situation.
2. That the Climate Emergency Open Day event on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 is approved.
3. That the following recommendation from the Climate Emergency Working Party is submitted to Full Council for discussion in relation to the proposed application for a Solar Farm on the A39:  
*“The CEWP recommend to the Parish Council that any planning application for the A39 Solar Farm be approved as this is a climate emergency and this project provides a huge amount of clean power jobs, money to the community whilst still providing some agricultural activity and improved biodiversity”.*

(NC)

2002/51

**Bee Keeping - Babbages**

Members were reported that the Clerk had invited the Allotment Representative to the initial meeting with the member of Babbages Allotment site but was unable to attend. She had been in discussions with North Devon Council, as landowners, who had now informed her that they were accepting the provision of a maximum of 2 beehives on the allotment site as a trial and the users would need to be members of the British Bee Keeping Association. North Devon Council reiterated that this use of site must be monitored regularly, and any concerns raised by residents must be considered. Members were supportive of bee keeping on allotments and it was

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Deputy Executive Officer consult with the tenants on the site regarding the proposals.
2. That the Deputy Executive Officer investigate the Policies and procedures associated with bee keeping and bring back to the next meeting for discussion.

(NC)

2002/52

**Griggs Field – Community Orchard**

Members were submitted a request to site a Community Orchard at Griggs Field. The Clerk reported that she had been informed there was a management plan for Griggs Field, however, there can be no evidence found that this had been produced. Advice from Parks at North Devon Council said that any plan greater than 5 years old was unsuitable. Cllr Bell raised a query as to how the applicant would stop the of spreading diseases with the orchard, given that Griggs Field is a natural area.

**RESOLVED:** That the Deputy Executive Officer contact Mr Hynes to enquire as to whether he or his students could complete an Ecology report of Griggs Field to evidence and support a potential Management Plan in the near future.

(NC)

S.A.

2002/53

**Parish Grass Cutting**Parish Grass Cutting

Members received three quotations for the Parish grass cutting.

**RESOLVED:** To appoint Dave Budd Gardening Services to undertake grass cutting within the parish from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. It was felt that being the lowest tender not only would it provide value for money but also continuity of service.

**DCC Verge Maintenance/Grass Cutting**

Members were reported that the current contractor was happy to work with the Parish Council to re-wild areas within the Parish. Members felt that the continuity of this service was important at the present time and to establish the re-wilding areas was one of the Committees aims for the coming year.

**RESOLVED:** That Dave Budd Gardening Services be appointed to complete the DCC Highway maintenance for £10,237.50 for 2020/21.

(NC)

2002/54

**CCTV – The Beechfield Centre**

Members were reported that the 106 monies were unable to be used for this purpose and the Clerk had applied for a grant. Cllr Capon suggested giving the Police a key to be able to use the facilities and it would also help with patrols/presence at the Centre.

2002/55

**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)

2002/56

**Muddlebridge Allotments**a) Execution of Lease for Muddlebridge Allotments – Glebe Agents

The Draft Lease was circulated to members prior to the meeting. A query was raised on the Council's responsibility over boundary management, in particular the river boundary and the potential impact on the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Deputy Executive Officer investigate the matters with the Council's Solicitor and a delegated decision on executing the lease is given to the Chairman and the Deputy Executive Officer.

(NC)

b) Allotment Licence – Muddlebridge tenants

Members were circulated a copy of the current licence issued to tenants.

Members felt that a clause on re-wilding should be included and it was **RESOLVED:** For the Clerk to investigate the appropriate wording to include in the licence to allow partial re-wilding of allotments on the site, however, permission from the Council must be sought before actioning any re-wilding.

(NC)

S.A.

c) Letter of Appeal

Members were circulated a copy of a letter of appeal, prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the appeal is upheld, and the tenant is given 3 months to ensure the plot is in a suitable standard.
2. That the Deputy Executive Officer draft a policy for appeals.

(NC)

Meeting ended at 12.19pm.

Signed: .....  ..... Dated: 10-03-20 .....

**Notes of Climate Emergency Working Party - Fremington Parish Council held on Tues. 4th February 2020 at Beechfield Centre**

**Present:** Cllr. Kelvin Groves, Marc Binns, Martin Sosnowski, Peter Smith, Steve Webber, Edwina Stevenson, Emily Willoughby, Joan Gristwood, Stephen Jarvis, Cllr. Ian Crawford

**Apologies:** Cllr. Ian Capon, Peter Thorn, Cllr. Myka Scott, Barbara Lloyd,

**Actions & Matters Arising from 14th January:**

All 'Actions' referring to tree planting within the parish and requesting donations from cllr. fund pots, are suspended as most of available green spaces have been planted and takes account of NDC initiatives on re-afforestation. Exception to this is N. Devon Biosphere where contact is Andy Bell re tree planting - **Action Ian Cr**

**Recommendations pending Action - requiring further discussion**

- *2020 onwards Support the aspiration of allotment holders to accommodate Bee Hives to increase pollinators - whilst concerns by Muddlebridge allotment holders rule out bee hives, **Babbage allotments are in favour of bee hives supported by the Parish Council.***

**Actions discussed:**

- **Herbicides** - 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 - **Glyphosphates permitted by DCC - FOI link**  
[https://www.devon.gov.uk/accesstoinformation/archives/information\\_request/glyphosate-based-weed-killers](https://www.devon.gov.uk/accesstoinformation/archives/information_request/glyphosate-based-weed-killers)
- **Tarka Trail** surface condition and access points had been referred to P&PFC as a Recommendation for Action - **P&PFC Resolved 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.** Peter S reminded the CEWP of the importance of alternative modes of transport. The reliance on the car is a cultural issue which needs to change. Steve W was concerned that we might become a 'talking shop'. Public Transport is clearly seen as part of the solution.
- Devon Climate Emergency - **Resolved That Fremington Parish Council sign up to the Devon Climate Declaration.**
- Community Energy Speaker to CEWP - **Ian Cr reported that Cllr. James Craigie (BTC) had agreed to attend our March meeting.**

## APPENDIX 1

- **Communications** - CEWP recommended a monthly working party report be sent to Contact and for publication on FPC Facebook page. **Resolved That any communication from the Climate Emergency Working Party is sent and checked by Mrs Graddock prior to any publication.** Joan supported the use of the parish church magazine 'Contact' confirming next publication dateline is 1st March. **Action Edwina & Emily**

- **Housing /Energy** Peter S reported that New Standards on Building Regulations (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings>) would apply by 2025 and called for these better standards to be referred to in consultations on planning applications by Parish Council.

**CEWP recommend that these Future Home Standards be supported when planning applications are considered.**

- **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**

- **Environmental leadership** - CEWP Recommend that the Parish Council consider how to reduce the carbon footprint within its premises.  
**Resolved 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. That Fremington Parish Council look at addressing the provision of solar panels at Tews Lane extension.**

### Climate Open Day Event:

In liaison with 361 Energy, Ian Cr had moved our proposed date for this public event to Sat. 28th March. It was agreed to approach the organisations below on the basis that we can accommodate the first 10 who respond; **Action Ian Cr & Steve J**

361 Energy

Kosi Homes (Mukti Mitchell)

Plastic Free ND

Solar PV/ heat pump/ insulation company(ies) (recommended by 361)

Car share Devon

School Eco Club

Electric bikes (Bike shed, Planet Bike)

Devon Wildlife Trust

Electric cars- Nissan, VW, Vauxhall, Peugeot, Kia, Hyundai,

Stagecoach

North Devon Public Transport Users

North Devon Coast AONB

Giai

North Devon Biosphere Reserve

**Communications - Climate Open Day Sat.**

Press Release

Steve J to draft, publication through Kate who has offered to produce a poster. Neighbouring parishes to be sent poster. Liaison with NDC environment lead Cllr. Netti Pearson as our event falls at end of NDC Climate week. **Action SJ & Kate**

Facebook

Army Camp / Riverside residents - **Action Martin**

Parish Council & Contact - **Action Kate**

Fremington Community Group - **Action Edwina**

Roundswell Residents Assoc. - **Action Graham & Ian Cr**

Schools liaison - **Action Kelvin**

**AOB :**

**Car ownership** can be replaced with a car availability scheme reducing individual costs and pollution as suggested by Martin

**A39 solar farm**

**CEWP recommend to Parish council that any planning application for this be approved as this is a climate emergency and this project provides huge amounts of clean power, jobs, money to community, while still providing some agricultural activity and improved biodiversity.**

**Beechfield Centre** solar PV panels/hot water solar- Is there a surplus in the budget that could be used for this or can this be worked into the next budget. Can any monies received from solar farm community fund be used for this? This is an emergency and it is important to lead by example.....**Action Ian Cr & Kate**

**Rewilding-** no conclusive action envisaged at the moment as dependent on District and needing a detailed survey of verges.

**Google group** for CEWP members..... **Action Ian Cr**

**Next CEWP Meeting - 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at Beechfield Centre**