

**Minutes of the Virtual Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 11th May 2020 at 7pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, I Capon, C Connell, I Crawford, C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, M Scott and B Sherborne
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Cllrs H Walker and J Mackie, North Devon Council

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Technical checks were undertaken, the Chairman read out the procedures for virtual meetings and confirmed that the meeting was not being recorded.

2005/10

Apologies

Cllr K Groves.

a) To consider approval of apologies for Cllr Adams until September 2020 due to training

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve Cllr Adams' apologies.

2005/11

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Rennles declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 2005/21 Planning Application 71018 as a neighbouring property. Cllr Rennles made a statement in relation to Item 2005/21 Planning Application 71405, he stated that as a Barnstaple Town Councillor he had not seen the application as this was the primary parish for the application he would not make any comment.

Cllr Scott declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 2005/21 Planning Application 71379 as the applicants are friends.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 2005/21 Planning Application 71405 as a District Councillor.

Cllr Cann declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 2005/21 Planning Application 71405 as a District Councillor.

2005/12

Chairman's Announcements

None.

2005/13

Public Participation Period

None.

2005/14

To consider the adoption of supplementary Standing Orders to meet the statutory requirements for the holding of remote meetings

Information was circulated to members prior to the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt supplementary Standing Orders to meet the statutory requirements for the holding of remote meetings, and this lasts until May 7th 2021 or the repeal of legislation whichever is earlier.

2005/15

To note the procedures for virtual meetings

The procedures were circulated prior to the meeting and are attached to these minutes as appendix one. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the procedures.

2005/16

County and District Councillors' Reports - To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors for information only.

Cllr Mackie informed members that NDC's Community Cllr Grant Scheme was now

open for applications, however, each Cllr would only have £500 as they were asked to contribute towards the prompt action Covid-19 fund. £30million has been paid out to small businesses and there are still around 900 eligible business to apply.

The housing team have managed to find permanent housing for 16 families that were suddenly made homeless due to the crisis and the waste and recycling service is operating normally, for now, despite a 30% reduction in staff. Many members of staff have been redeployed to other areas, currently NDC is experiencing a loss of revenue of around £2million a month. Cllr Mackie explained that there were concerns about access onto the main road in application 71379 and explained that 71472 required careful study of some of the elements involved in the application, it is in flood zone one and the possible increase in traffic is a material consideration, Cllr Mackie further explained that the site is subject to an enforcement investigation.

Cllr Walker thanked NDC's finance team who are working hard. The Crematorium had been able to reduce the impact social distancing has on the numbers attending services by offering free streaming and the Crematorium was coping without a problem. Cllr Walker thanked the Executive Officer and staff of the Parish Council for responding to the community support and explained that NDC could not help those in need without the support of the Parish Council and volunteers. Cllr Walker raised concerns about the access for disabled people in the plans for the new leisure centre and the facilities that were available she felt they should be on the public facing side and not after you pay to ensure they are accessible to disabled people using the whole facility.

Cllr Biederman explained that DCC recycling centres were now open but were for essential hazardous items. Cllr Biederman felt that both DCC and NDC's websites were very effective in providing information to the community but there were scams circulating and he urged people to be aware. Cllr Biederman thanked all DCC, NDC and FPC staff, there had been a rapid change in how the staff work and they have adapted with the situation. Cllr Biederman had spoken to Fremington School and was pleased it was operating well in the circumstances with around 5% of pupils in school and the school had managed to get the food out to those that would have been entitled to free school meals. Cllr Biederman raised concerns about the deduction in collection of Council Tax and urged the Parish Council to be careful with funds as there could be a shortfall.

Cllr Walker further reported that those who would have received assisted bin collects have now been identified and letters sent.

2005/17 **To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March 2020 as a correct record.

2005/18 **To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following Committee meetings**

- Parks & Playing Fields Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020
It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Field Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.
- Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2020
It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2020.

- Parks & Playing Fields Committee meeting held on Friday 1st May 2020
It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Field Committee meeting held on Friday 1st May 2020.

2005/19 **To ratify decisions taken during COVID-19 pandemic and since 17th March 2020**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to ratify the decisions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic and since 17th March 2020 which are attached to these minutes as appendix two.

2005/20 **To appoint a member of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee following disqualification as in line with Standing Order 15 (ix)**
It was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Biederman to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee.

2005/21 **North Devon Council – Planning Applications**
North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following planning applications:
It was formally noted that participation of the Councillors who are also members of NDC in both the debate and subsequent vote (in respect of any of the above, were preliminary taking account of the information matters) was on the basis that the views expressed made available at the time to the Parish Council. The District Councillors were reserving their final views on the applications until they were in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against.

70939 Proposal: Retrospective application for erection of agricultural building for the storage of agricultural equipment and the keeping of poultry and associated works
Location: Rooksbridge Yard, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: Mr J Knight

Concerns were raised that the wording associated “works” was too vague and not specific after discussion:

Cllr Cann proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawford to recommend refusal as the proposal is not in keeping, is a bad design and further investigation into the associated “works” is required. When put to the vote there were 8 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention for the proposal.

Cllr Biederman proposed, seconded by Cllr Bell to recommend approval subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties, and the inclusion of bird and bat boxes. When put to the vote there were 3 in favour and 8 against the proposal.

Therefore, it was **resolved**, with two votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend REFUSAL as the proposal is not in keeping, is a bad design and further investigation into the associated “works” is required. It was noted that Cllr Walker would call the planning application in to be dealt with by Planning Committee.

Cllr Rennles declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and was removed from the meeting to the waiting room for the following item.

71018 Proposal: Alterations to dwelling to include conversion to loft to provide en-suite bedroom
Location: Blue Gables, 8 Linden Close, Sticklepath
Applicant/Agent: Mrs S Neave

It was noted that there were not any plans available for the above application and it was therefore **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend REFSUAL due to a lack of information and plans.

Cllr Rennles was returned to the meeting.

71379 Proposal: Erection of one dwelling
Location: Garden of Milton House East, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr D & Mrs T Evans

Cllr Scot declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest and was removed from the meeting to the waiting room for this item.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL due to the location and close proximity to the Nature Reserve which would have a detrimental impact, the proposal would spoil the Conservation Area of the Village and the access is inadequate and does not provide a safe access.

Cllr Scott was returned to the meeting.

Cllr Biederman and Cann declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest as Members of the North Devon Council and were removed from the meeting to the waiting room for the following item.

Cllr Rennles was removed from the meeting to the waiting room for the following item.

Cllr Walker and Mackie had left the meeting.

71405 Proposal: Reserved matters application for the erection of a new swimming facility in an extension to the existing centre, to include 25m swimming pool & learner pool, sports hall & associated facilities; together with the extension of the existing car parking, relocation of HGV parking to accommodate the new car parking, hard & soft landscaping (outline planning permission 63351)
Location: Tarka Tennis Centre, Seven Brethren Bank, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Parkwood Leisure Limited

It was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL the size is inadequate for the size of Barnstaple as a town and tourist area, the provision of disabled facilities is inadequate and there is a lack of other facilities such as squash and short mat bowls.

Cllrs Biederman, Rennles and Cann were returned to the meeting.

71437 Proposal: Creation of new vehicular access
Location: 1 Heather Cottage, Bickington Road, Bickington
Applicant/Agent: Mrs Wheatley

It was **resolved**, with no voted to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL this is an unsafe access given its location on a bend on the main road.

71468 Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition 4 (LEAP) attached to planning permission 64378 (reserved matters application for erection of 61 dwellings (outline planning permission 63356) to allow for an amended layout

Location: Land West of Mead Park, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mrs K Holden

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to confirmation that the boundary line of the development is the approved line, there are concerns that the boundary may have crept into the green wedge, and there is still the provision of 17 affordable homes.

71472 Proposal: Change of use of land to form seasonal tent and motor caravan site

(March to October) together with erection of reception / facilities building

Location: Tarka Trail Camping, Lower Yelland Farm, Yelland

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Birch

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL due to the noise and disturbance to the estuary birds, the adverse impact on the Tarka Trail, this is overdevelopment and over intensification of the site, it is creeping into the open countryside. There would be an increase in traffic on the B3233, there is no mains drainage and the discharge would be into the estuary. There is no business case or strategic plan for the proposal and the Parish Council would like to see stricter enforcement of conditions on previous planning approvals.

The Parish Council would also ask if this is in line with the adopted local plan?

2005/22

North Devon Council – Planning Decisions

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has APPROVED the following applications with conditions as filed:

70934 Proposal: Conversion of attached garage to form additional living accommodation together with repositioning of oil tank.

Location: Crawfordton, Bickleton, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Horsgood

71228 Proposal: Extension to dwelling

Location: 2 Linden Close, Sticklepath

Applicant/Agent: Mr S Maurice & Mrs S Bridgman

71218 Proposal: Conversion & extension of garage to form annexe

Location: 5 Lower Cross Road, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Stow

71162 Proposal: Extension to dwelling

Location: 33 West Yelland, Yelland

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs McLynn

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

2005/23

Councillors Questions

Cllr Crawford asked if a report on the Neighbourhood Plan could be placed on the next Council Agenda.

Cllr Scott thanked the staff of Fremington Parish Council who had been very helpful and provided lots of relevant information, she had found the Parish Council's website and social media useful and informative as well.

Cllr Rennles extended his thanks to all the staff.

Cllr Biederman felt that the young people of the parish should be applauded they had not been seen and they should be thanked for adhering to the restrictions and the help and assistance they have given to the community, it was agreed to thank them via the Parish Council's Facebook Page.

Cllr Kingdom thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting which was a new experience for everyone.

Cllr McCormack-Hole informed members that she had recently had an engagement meeting with the North Devon Hospital and the message they would like to send out to the community is that they are very much open for business and have suitable measures in place to ensure public safety.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed Dated

