

## **Notes of the Climate Emergency Working Party Meeting held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.**

Present: Steve Jarvis (Chairman), Cllr I Crawford, L Goodger, M Martin Sosnowski, P Smith and K Graddock (Clerk).

### **Apologies**

None received.

### **Communication**

Members discussed the communication between the individuals within the working party and that at present, consent was not given to circulate individuals contact details. A discussion was had on whether continuing with emails, implementing Whatsapp, Messenger, a private Facebook page would help.

Action: For the Clerk to open a private Facebook page and members continue to use email. Also, for the Clerk to issue a new consent form to allow for individual email addresses to be distributed within the working party group. These communication methods are to be trialled for 3 months.

### **Bee Keeping at Babbages Allotments**

Members were informed that a Bee Keeping Policy was adopted at the last Parks and Playing Fields meeting. Members were delighted to hear of this and encouraged the keeping of bees. Some members felt that the Council should promote bee keeping.

### **Cycleways in Fremington and connections to the Tarka Trail**

Cllr Crawford and S Jarvis informed members that there is a need for more connections onto the Tarka Trail and in particular from Bickington. The following suggestions were discussed:

- From Bickington onto Tarka Trail – Through Babbages onto Allotments across field.
- Bridleway from Eilerslie Road to Tarka Trail
- North Lane past The Tomlin Hall which leads to North Down Farm.

Some members wondered whether they would be used as it would be a lot quicker to cycle on the main road. Some members responded that there are many hazards on the main roads and we should also be looking at the carbon aspect.

It was muted regarding speaking to landowners – The clerk advised not to do this as it would need Council approval and there is a procedure in place through Devon County Council in relation to investigating landowner consents.

Action: For the Clerk to contact Devon County Council and the DCC Cllrs for Bickington, Fremington and Roundswell to investigate any possible funding and whether they would support additional routes onto the Tarka Trail.

### **Rewilding of Verges**

Members considered the rewilding of verges within the parish. Cllr Crawford explained that he had been in discussions with the Executive Officer regarding the rewilding and the Council are looking at their finances and possible cut backs in

places. He was awaiting maps to be sent. The Clerk advised Cllr Crawford that she had the maps and could help identify the Parish grass in addition to the DCC visibility splays that need to be cut. It was noted that rewilding can be time consuming however, it was felt that there would be enough individuals to help with a project. The Clerk advised that Cllr Mackie had recently emailed her regarding this and would like to look at a project for the area.

L Goodger raised that many residents cut the areas outside of their houses and estates, so any project would need good advertisement and encouragement to spread the message.

Action: That the Clerk produce maps that show both the visibility splays and parish grass cutting and divide them into areas which can be distributed between the Parks and Playing Fields Committee and the CEWP to investigate possible rewilding areas and then a further meeting is held to discuss the progression of the project.

### **New Standards on Planning Applications for 2025 – Energy Saving**

Cllr Crawford gave an overview that there are new standards on planning applications being introduced in 2025, which included fuel and power and ventilation. He said that no housing after 2025 should have a gas boiler installed and outside heat (heat pumps) and onsite generation should be sought.

Members asked what weight the Parish Council had on planning applications and whether they could include specific items in their comments. The clerk replied that the Council is a Statutory Consultee and should look at material considerations, but confirmed that if the Council wished, it can make a comment on individual aspirations.

P Smith felt that it's the CEWP's role to make people (including the Council) aware that we want the best standards and want the regulations taken seriously. Members agreed it is the Parish Council's role to encourage people to use environmentally friendly alternatives.

Action: That the Full Council is requested to consider writing to North Devon Council to encourage them as the Planning Authority to look at applying the highest standards possible now when deciding planning applications, as documented in the new regulations for 2025.

### **Any other matters**

Joining Parishes Together – Members felt that there needed to be more joined up thinking in relation to Climate Change and that Fremington should take a lead within this area. North Devon Council had started to make progress, but the communication was limited. Members said there were groups already thinking together, such as the Devon Community Energy Network and the Climate Forum.

Action: That the Clerk contact the Lead Member at North Devon Council to raise a slight concern about the lack of joined up working and acknowledge her involvement but request that Fremington Parish Council invite 2 representatives from each local

council (not necessarily a member of the Council) to join a zoom meeting to discuss initiatives/ideas etc.

Trees in Griggs Field – The Clerk reported that she had been involved that the trees planted in Griggs Field were needing to be moved due to their location near the drainage ditch.

Action: Cllr Crawford would contact Cllr Groves to rectify this matter and the Clerk would forward a suitable location.

P Smith asked whether the Cllr from Bideford was still due to present on community energy. Cllr Crawford informed members he unfortunately went to the wrong meeting venue last time.

Action: Cllr Crawford contract Cllr Craigie to agree a suitable date in the future for a presentation on community energy.

L Goodger asked for her attendance to be via Zoom until a vaccine is found, as she works in a clinical setting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Action: The Clerk to organise and send Agendas nearer to the date

#### **Recommendations to Parks and Playing Fields Committee:**

- 1. For the Clerk to contact Devon County Council and the DCC Cllrs for Bickington, Fremington and Roundswell to investigate any possible funding and whether they would support additional routes onto the Tarka Trail.**
- 2. That the Clerk produce maps that show both the visibility splays and parish grass cutting and divide them into areas which can be distributed between the Parks and Playing Fields Committee and the CEWP to investigate possible rewilding areas and then a further meeting is held to discuss the progression of the project.**
- 3. That the Full Council is requested to consider writing to North Devon Council to encourage them as the Planning Authority to look at applying the highest standards possible now when deciding planning applications, as documented in the new regulations for 2025.**