

**Minutes of the Virtual Fremington Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday
3rd August 2020 at 7pm via Zoom**

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

1 Member of the public

2008/01

Apologies

Cllrs C Connell, S Adams, K Groves, M Scott and A Rennles. Members were informed that Cllr Rennles had requested that his apologies be approved until October 2020 for personal reasons, it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the apologies.

2008/02

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cann declared a Personal Interest in Item 2008/17 Application 70941 as the applicant is known to her.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in Item 2008/17 Application 71789 as the applicant is known to him and a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 2008/18 Application 71278 as it is his property.

Cllr McCormack-Hole declared a Personal Interest in Item 2008/13.

2008/03

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that a member of staff had been successful in completing the Level 2 Certificate in Principles of Team Leading. Members requested that congratulations be relayed to the staff member.

2008/04

Public Participation Period

None.

2008/05

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

Cllr Cann reported that £23,816 had been agreed at the recent resources and strategy meeting for the Babbages Play Area Cllr Cann expressed her delight at securing the money. Cllr Cann informed members that the District Council ward members had received correspondence from the Planning Officer relating to requests to extend working hours in developments. The ward members felt that the times requested (7am – 9pm) were not appropriate in a residential area. There have been recent issues with fly-tipping and Cllr Cann thanked and congratulated Cllr Walker on continuing to collect and deliver prescriptions to residents. It was noted that the broken fence in Lower Cross Road was being dealt with.

Cllr Biederman reported that the Public Space Protection Order Consultation ends on the 9th August 2020 and urged everyone to respond. Cllr Biederman further reported that the business support scheme ends of the 19th August

2020 and the North Devon Council has paid out over £42 million to 95% of businesses that have applied. A bid has been submitted for £9million to revitalise Barnstaple town centre. The school at Roundswell is progressing well and on scheduled to open in September 2020 and the Enterprise Centre is also progressing well. Cllr Biederman is working with the Police and Community Safety Hub around anti-social behaviour and warning letters are being written to those that have been identified.

Cllr Walker reported that she had submitted a sheet for the planning application 39a John Smale Road to be dealt with by the Planning Committee as it is a repeat application which has been submitted several times. There are applications for proposed tree works at Glenwood Park due to ash die back, however, the tree officer has not yet confirmed if they will be replaced with mature trees.

2008/06 **To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th July 2020**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2020 as a correct record.

2008/07 **To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following Committee meetings**

- Parks & Playing Fields Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2020

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Field Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2020.

- Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2020

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2020.

- Fremington Quay Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2020

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Fremington Quay Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2020.

2008/08 **Matters to Note**

- Devon County Council Road Closure- Higher Road, Fremington. 20th August 2020 between 07:30 – 18:00
- Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter – Summer 2020

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

2008/09 **Councillor Advocate for the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Cllr Cann informed members that she had stepped down because the meetings were in Exeter and she is unable to get to them, Cllr Hockin had assumed the position but had now resigned from the Council.

Cllr Biederman explained that the meetings are in Plymouth and he is NDC's representative so would be happy to drive Cllr Cann to the meetings if she would like to be the representative.

Cllr Cann confirmed that she would like to resume the position if transport is available and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Cann as the Parish Council's Cllr Advocate.

2008/10

Plastic Free North Devon

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Bell as the Parish Council's representative on Plastic Free North Devon.

2008/11

Model Member Code of Conduct Consultation

Members were informed that DALC was encouraging all Town and Parish Councils to respond along with individual Cllrs and members of staff.

Members considered the Model Member Code of Conduct Consultation. Cllr Kingdom raised the point that there is no timescale for the handling of complaints against Cllrs and she felt this was unfair.

Cllr Biederman expressed the importance of Cllrs reading the consultation and the adopted Code of Conduct to refresh themselves of the standards they sign up to as a Cllr and to remember their conduct at all times and especially their conduct towards staff, other Cllrs and when out in the community.

Members spoke in support of raising the lack of time scales for dealing with allegations through the consultation process and felt that this can cause a certain level of distress, especially in a volunteer role. Members did acknowledge that a time scale is likely to depend on the allegation and should be dealt with in the shortest time possible and would like to see reference to this within the Model Code of Conduct.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to respond positively to the consultation and with thanks and express the view that the Parish Council believes complaints should be dealt with in a timely manner and in the shortest time possible.

2008/12

Bench Policy

Members considered a draft bench policy for all Parish Council areas excluding Fremington Cemetery. Concerns were raised about the maintenance responsibilities identified within the policy; the Executive Officer explained that once a bench is installed on Parish Council land it does become the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure it is safe for use. Members discussed the maintenance responsibilities and liabilities further and it was agreed to include within the policy that the Parish Council will make an attempt to contact the owner of the bench if we intend to remove the bench.

Members felt that paragraph 3.12 was contradictory and it was agreed to remove this paragraph.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the draft policy as amended.

Cllr McCormack-Hole declared a Personal Interest in the following item.

2008/13

Cemetery

a) To consider request for Kerb Set

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to approve the request.

b) To consider request for Memorial Bench

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the request subject to the location being agreed between the Executive Officer and the Burial Superintendent.

2008/14

Appointments to Committees

a) To appoint 1 member to the Finance and Personnel Committee

b) To appoint 1 member to the Footpaths Committee

c) To appoint 2 members to the Fremington Quay Management Committee

d) To appoint an Allotment Association Representative

It was noted that 3 members were required to be appointed to the Fremington Quay Management Committee. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Bell to the Fremington Quay Management Committee and to defer all further appointments until the September meeting and after the co-options.

2008/15

Community Priorities

Members were asked to consider updating the Community Priorities for S106 funding. Members were informed that the Committees had identified the following priorities:

Parks & Playing Fields Committee

- Resurfacing and updating all play areas. Members felt the focus should be on improving what we have, not necessarily provision of new.
- Access to Fremington Quay that complies with the Equalities Act 2010 instead of “access to Fremington Quay through development”.
- Trim Trail in Fremington.
- Provision of Allotments.

Fremington Quay Management Committee

- Enhance the heritage, history and environment of Fremington Quay.

Tews Lane Committee

- Drainage works to the football fields.
- Extension to the community building.

Members felt that the Tews Lane Committee should be asked to consider artificial grass and whether this would be a financially viable option for Tews Lane.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to amend the community priorities as above with the addition of any improvements that reduce the carbon emissions or improve the ecology of the parish.

2008/16

Street Naming

Correspondence was received in relation to the official naming of a new street name for the Roundswell Enterprise Park, the proposed name was:

Enterprise Road, Roundswell Enterprise Park, Barnstaple

Alternatively, the developer had suggested Athelstan Road or Hardstad Road should the parishes prefer. Any suggestions the Parish Council may have for the name of the street were also welcomed.

Members were adamant that Roundswell should be in the name but were content if the Enterprise Centre was to be called Roundswell Enterprise Park it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to confirm that it will be called Roundswell Enterprise Park and if so the Parish Council supports the road name of Enterprise Road.

2008/17

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.

ENQC/0004/2020 Proposal: Temporarily amendment to working hours condition 13 planning permission 63553 to Monday - Friday 07:30 - 19:00 and Saturday 08:30 - 17:00
Location: Glenwood Park Roundswell Devon
Applicant/Agent: Miss S Fenner

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no work being carried out on bank holidays.

70941 Proposal: Outline Application for mixed use of 3 open market dwellings and a commercial unit (all matters reserved) (Departure from the Local Plan)
Location: Land at Glenwood Farm, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: Mr D Easterbrook

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL,

the proposed would constitute over intensification of the site, it is out of the development boundary, the vehicular access over a right of way is not safe and would create a conflict with traffic entering and exiting the site, the proposal does not deliver any affordable homes.

If the North Devon Council is minded to approve all of the homes should be affordable as it is a departure from the Local Plan and proper pavements should also be installed.

71578 Proposal: Erection of 2 new dwellings and associated works
Location: 1 Beechfield Road, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Ms S Hayne

It was **resolved**, with one vote to the contrary, to respond to this application as a neighbouring property owner. The Parish Council would recommend REFUSAL, the proposal is over intensification of the site, there is insufficient parking and the Parish Council has concerns over safety given the proximity of the proposal to the play area and school.

71650 Proposal: Subdivision of dwelling to create 2 dwellings
Location: 2 Maple Grove, Bickington
Applicant/Agent: Mr E Fisher

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties. The Parish Council would ask if this is a retrospective application as members believed the work may have already been completed.

71703 Proposal: Extension to dwelling and erection of Garden office in the rear garden
Location: 4 Heal Park Crescent, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mrs K Clark

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to adequate parking for the use intended.

71724 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 21 Bickington Lodge, Bickington
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Woollacott

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties.

71751 Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 65724 to allow for garden store and refuse area
Location: Land at Old School Road, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: W S Gayton and Sons

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to make no comment on this application given that the applicant is the Parish Council's Burial Superintendent.

71771 Proposal: Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of Ash Trees (T2-T7) and selective reduction of 1 Ash Tree (T*)
Location: Glenwood Park Phase2 Rookabear Avenue
Applicant/Agent: Tony Bengler Landscaping

Given the Parish Council's commitment to Climate Emergency the Parish Council **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the proposed works being in the interest of good tree management, the trees being completely removed, and no stumps left and the trees removed being replaced at a ratio of two trees to the one removed.

71789 Proposal: Application for consent to works for trees covered by a tree preservation order in respect of crown & height reduction of T T2 T3 and Felling of T4. Replacement Downy Birch to be planted as replacement
Location: 8 Brake Wood Close, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr Paul McWhinnie

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention from Cllr Biederman, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the proposed works being in the interest of good tree management, and the trees removed being replaced at a ratio of two trees to the one removed.

71790 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order in respect of felling of x Ash Tree (T7)
Location: Glenwood Park Ph, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Tony Bengler Landscaping

Given the Parish Council's commitment to Climate Emergency the Parish Council **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the proposed works being in the interest of good tree management, the trees being completely removed, and no stumps left and the trees removed being replaced at a ratio of two trees to the one removed.

71822 Proposal: Extension to dwelling to improve facilities for a disabled person
Location: Rose Cottage, Bickington
Applicant/Agent: Mrs Young

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties.

2008/18

North Devon Council – Planning Decisions

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

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in application 71278.

71018 Proposal: Alterations of dwelling to include conversion of loft to provide en-suite bedroom
Location: Blue Gables 8 Linden Close Sticklepath Barnstaple Devon EX31 2HD
Applicant/Agent: Mrs S Neave

71278 Proposal: Extension to dormer windows
Location: 8 & 10 Broadway, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Wilkie & Mr & Mrs Biederman

71544 Proposal: Sitting of four internally illuminated digital freestanding signs & one internally illuminated digital booth screen
Location: McDonalds Restaurant Ltd, John Penrose Road, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: McDonalds Restaurants Ltd

To note that the following application has been withdrawn:

70428 Proposal: Application to substitute plots 66-67, 104-107, 113-115 and 126-127 approved under application 63468 with replacement house types to increase the unit numbers by 8 (through the use of smaller house types) and amendments to plots 54, 111-112, 116 and 123-125 (additional information – drainage statement) (Amended Plans)
Location: Land adjacent to the B3233 (Known as Tarka Ridge) West Yelland Nr Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr A Cattermole

2008/19

Councillors Questions

Cllr Crawford asked if there was any knowledge of how the parish can access the funding that has been provided to DCC. Cllr Biederman explained that he did circulate details of the funding to all Cllrs and the information is available on DCC's website, however, this funding is very much about urban centres and unlikely to benefit the parish.

Cllr Cann felt that the play area inspections were quite a responsibility and asked if there was anyone else available to undertake the inspections. It was noted that there was not anyone else available at this time.

Cllr Capon asked if NDC had a five-year land supply given the new planning regulations that are being pushed through and the loss of appeal in Torrington.

Cllr Bell asked if there could be an extension on the Public Space Protection Order Consultation as some people have been struggling to access the consultation on NDC's website. It was agreed to email Cllr Biederman.

Cllr Biederman was concerned about the amount of bench applications the Parish Council is receiving for the Cemetery and asked if a Memorial Orchard could be investigated.

2008/20 It was **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 items as they involve the likely disclosure of confidential information.

Members of the public left the meeting.

PART B

2008/21 **Riverside Park/Former Army Camp**

Members were informed that the solicitor had advised that a lease term of over 7 years would have to be registered with HM Land Registry and would incur additional legal costs for the groups. The Executive Officer had relayed the information to the groups and had asked them to consider the terms carefully in relation to the registration and any implications this could have on funding opportunities. It was noted that originally the Parish Council had agreed to a 10 year term and it was unlikely that this would be long enough for significant funding bids anyway, the Football Club had indicated that they would prefer a 7 year lease and it was therefore **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to offer a 7 year lease instead of 10 if the groups were in agreement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Dated