

**Minutes of the Virtual Parks and Playing Fields Committee Meeting held  
on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 9.30am via Zoom.**

- Present:** Cllr S Adams (Chairman)  
Cllrs J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, I Capon, I Crawford, McCormack-Hole.  
Also present: Mrs K Graddock (Deputy Executive Officer) and Cllr S Kingdom.
- 2009/23     **Apologies**  
No apologies were received as all members were present.
- 2009/24     **Declarations of Interest**  
None received.
- 2009/25     **Public Participation Period**  
No members of the Public were present.
- 2009/26     **Minutes**  
It was **resolved** with one abstention that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be approved as a correct and signed at a later date (due to Covid-19) by the Chairman.
- 2009/27     **Benches on the Village Green**  
Members were reported that the cost of 3 benches and fitting would be £630.00 from a local contractor. It was noted that the Community Group had agreed to purchase the replacement benches (3 wooden and one Remembrance) and donate to the Parish Council.
- \*\*\* Cllr Biederman declared Personal interest as the Chairman of the Fremington and District Community Group. \*\*\*
- Cllr Bell and Crawford raised concerns over the benches being made from softwood and would prefer benches being made from hardwood, therefore asked for the newly adopted Bench Policy to be re-submitted to Full Council for reconsideration.
- A request had also been submitted for a memorial bench to be sited on the Village Green of which details were circulated to members prior to the meeting. After further discussion, it was unanimously **resolved** the Parish Council purchase 3 wooden benches for the Village Green from North Devon Picnic Benches at a total cost of £630.00 on behalf of the Fremington and District Community Group and that the memorial bench is accepted and part of the 3 benches being installed and that any costs for that bench including installation is invoiced to the requester. Also, that the Bench Policy is re-submitted to Full Council to reconsider the materials used when placing benches in Fremington Parish.
- 2009/28     **Fencing at Beechfield**  
Members were reported that the Deputy Executive Officer and Executive Officer were looking to think strategically about the provision of fencing and property maintenance and that this item could be deferred for consideration

at a future meeting to ensure that all options are considered. Therefore, it was **resolved** that the item is deferred until a future Agenda.

2009/29

### **The Beechfield Centre**

The Deputy Executive Officer reported that the Centre had been open for around a month and bookings were slow but steady. There had been a couple of new regular bookings and the Admin team were starting to promote availability. In addition, she reported that she had been successful in obtaining a £2,500 discretionary business grant for the hire of Beechfield which would ensure that the hires budget is on track. This grant was granted on the understanding that it was to fill the loss of income from The Beechfield Centre.

Cllr Cann reported about youth provision and asked whether the Council could forward information out about youth groups continuing to meet and any guidance. The Deputy Executive Officer responded that she would be very cautious completing this as the Council wouldn't be in a position to provide government guidance to other groups.

2009/30

### **Maybe Something Beautiful**

Cllr Biederman reported that he had been approached by Fremington School in relation to a project called Maybe Something Beautiful. This project would run over the Autumn term and would consist of the School sharing a book called Maybe Something Beautiful which is about how art transformed a neighbourhood. The School would look to create designs to be decorated on benches or other areas authorised by the Council. Members liked the idea of the project and it was unanimously **resolved** to delegate authority to the Deputy Executive Officer in association with the Chairman of the Committee and Cllr Biederman to ascertain the best location for the project to take place.

2009/31

### **Climate Emergency Working Party**

Members were circulated the CEWP notes prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix 1. Cllr Crawford asked the committee to consider the following:

- a) Rewilding of Verges - Cllrs to survey own areas with the CEWP members to identify areas for potential rewilding. Cllr Biederman raised a slight concern over how successful the verges could be – the preparation work is vital. The Deputy Executive Officer explained that there were two parts to this project. To identify areas and then obtain permission from landowners (Devon County Council/North Devon Council). Cllr Biederman expressed that he would be willing to use some of his locality budget for this project and to set up a meeting with the Neighbourhood Officer, Devon County Council following the areas being identified.
- b) Electric hook up points for cars – The Deputy Executive Officer suggested that a member of the CEWP investigate costings for this and is brought back for further discussion.
- c) Passivhaus – The CEWP would like Fremington Parish Council to write to North Devon Council to look at the principles of Passivhaus standards and for those standards to be used on future development. It

was noted that this is also something that should be included within the Neighbourhood Plan.

After further discussion, it was unanimously **resolved** that items a and b are actioned by the Deputy Executive Officer and that a request is submitted to the Full Council for the Council to write to North Devon Council to look at the principles of Passivhaus standards and for those standards to be used on future development and that the item is also included within the Neighbourhood Plan.

2009/32

### **Budget 2021/22**

The Deputy Executive Officer reported that herself and the Executive Officer were going to complete an audit of all Council property to help inform the budget process. The following matters were identified as potential items for inclusion in the Parks and Playing Fields budget:

- Bench by the bus stop at Ellerslie Road
- Removing of the Youth Shelter at the Village Green
- Increase maintenance budget for Play Areas and Equipment to ensure the maintenance of existing equipment is kept satisfactory
- Bus stop in Yelland

The Deputy Executive Officer reiterated her previous comments that she had serious concerns over the level of funding and maintenance needed just to bring the Council's play areas and equipment to a satisfactory standard. At present, there is minimal resources (staff and funding) to complete repairs and we were relying on the provision of existing contractors, which is not sustainable for the future given the number of matters that have recently needed to be addressed. There is likely to be a number of pieces of equipment that will need to be removed or replaced due to poor condition or end of life. She further reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee were due to consider options and that a meeting is due to take place with North Devon Council regarding management of play areas/equipment.

2009/33

### **Part B – Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was unanimously **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

2009/34

### **Fremington Football Club**

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Licence for the Changing Rooms at The Beechfield Centre for Fremington Football Club be renewed on the same terms and rental as 19/20.

The meeting ended at 10.32am.

Signed: ..... Dated:.....

## APPENDIX 1

### Notes of the Climate Emergency Working Party Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Ian Crawford, Cllr Ian Capon, Mr Steve Jarvis (Chairman)  
Cllr Lou Goodger, Mr Peter Smith, Mrs Joan Gristwood.  
Mrs Liz Steer (Administration Officer) and Miss Nieve Wuttke-Keary (Apprentice Administration Assistant)

1. Apologies: Mr Robert Manning, Mr Steve Jarvis would be arriving late to the meeting
2. Cllr Crawford chaired the meeting and started by explaining that there were reduced members now due to the new GDPR forms being signed and returned so the group was compliant with GDPR and those who had signed the forms were now able to email members. The Google emails were now disbanded. Louise Goodger was welcomed to the meeting and congratulate on being co-opted as a Cllr. The group sent their best wishes to Mrs Kate Graddock.

Cllr Ian Capon spoke about how well the Neighbourhood Plan comments had been received and there had been a good response from Cllrs, it has been taken back to the consultants for re-wording. There was a general discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs Gristwood asked if there was still time to put forward suggestions, the over consensus was that provisions to be put in place for the elderly (future proof old age) and Mrs Gristwood will email her suggestions into Mrs Graddock before the 8<sup>th</sup> October as the NP goes before Council for discussion.

3. Cllr Ian Crawford began to discuss re-wilding verges

Mr Steve Jarvis entered the meeting at 6.22pm and took over the chair.

There was a general discussion about the verges, Cllr Crawford and Cllr Capon both agreed that more clarity was need over the maps and what were visibility splays. Cllr Crawford wanted to know who would volunteer and would like Mrs Graddock to declare who has volunteered and has anyone from Roundswell Residents Association volunteered. Cllr Capon was concerned that if areas are assigned to Cllrs they will not get done. Mr Steve Jarvis suggested that they walk round the Parish and decide what areas would be suitable for re-wilding, it was agreed that Louise would email Steve when she was available to meet. Steve also said this needed to be moved on, once areas were identified stakes, tape and seed would be needed to be purchased, also once areas were identified then reiterate posting through doors encouraging people to be involved, Cllr Ian Capon commented that approval would have to be sort from DCC and FPC.

Mrs Gristwood is a member of PCC St Peter's church has explained that they had looked at planting more shrubs along the wall adjacent to the Military Road, there were plenty of trees in this area but were aware not to plant anything that would obscure viability .

4. Mr Peter Smith explained he had not had time to read in depth the impact of Government Climate Change Committee Report on 2-4° temp rise by 2050. A discussion

## APPENDIX 1

followed and everyone agreed that there would be significant impact by 2050. There could be a 2-metre sea level rise, and this would impact the Parish this was major concern. Mr Steve Jarvis made it clear that radical changes were need requiring Government money. Cllr Crawford said that there was very little at Parish level. Cllr Ian Capon made the group aware that DCC had a flood risk management strategy consultation and encourage all to view the website as it covered flooding all over the county.

Mr Peter Smith suggested looking for community funding to provide electrical hook up points in the local area. It was suggested that Mrs Kate Graddock investigate funding and ask Park and Playing Fields Committee to see what funding was available from DCC.

5. Mr Peter Smith explained that it was important that people were aware of grants that were available from 5 to 10 K, this included insulation, new efficient boilers and various other energy saving measures. Cllr Ian Crawford said that all household could and should be encouraged to apply for grants.

Cllr Louise Goodger left the meeting 7.00pm

It was also mentioned that Fremington Parish Council could apply for loans for Greening the Locality. SALIX is the website that Cllr Ian Crawford suggested to view for local councils, another website was 361 Energy helping people in North Devon to take climate change action. Cllr Ian Capon suggested that FPC advertise this website on their Facebook page and maybe consider an open day to help advertise this for people. Also, it was discussed about the possibility of turning the Gas Network into Hydrogen.

6. Other matters were discussed regarding the lack of pavements from Instow toward Bideford and the fact that people are being encourage to give up cars, and some elderly people who use mobility scooters cannot always get any distance because of the lack of pavements and it was felt that more funding was necessary. Cllr Ian Capon said it was DCC highways that got funding from new developments for pavements, Cllr Ian Crawford said that the CEWP should champion the improvement of pavements.

Mr Steve Jarvis reported that Covid19 money was still available, but the time frame was short. Other issues were raised regarding Passivhaus buildings which are built with comfort while using very little energy for heating and cooling, the construction according to principles developed by the Passivhaus Institute in Germany. It was discussed that as a working group they should write to the Parish and ask them to write a letter to NDC to consider similar specifications when considering planning applications. It was decided that a letter should be written to influence NDC to push for the highest standards possible when building. It was also questioned as why the new leisure centre was being built & designed with no solar panels.

Cllr Ian Capon mentioned the current reforms to the current planning system, he suggested that individuals and Cllr's write to their MP's saying these reforms should be stopped.

A date for the next meeting was suggested as 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Meeting Closed 19.29pm.