

**Minutes of the Virtual Fremington Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday
5th October 2020 at 7pm via Zoom**

- Present:** Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, I Capon, C Connell (from Minute No 2010/02), I Crawford, L Goodger, K Groves (from Minute No 2010/05) C McCormack-Hole, B Sherborne and H Walker (from Minute No 2010/13)
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Cllrs J Mackie, North Devon Council
- 2 Members of the public
- 2010/01 **Apologies**
Cllrs S Adams, J Cann, M Scott and H Walker who would be late.
Apologies were also received from the Police.

Cllr Connell entered the meeting.
- 2010/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None.
- 2010/03 **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chairman asked those Cllrs that had volunteered to undertake play inspections to ensure that they are completed on time and the paperwork returned promptly to the office or, if they cannot complete the inspection inform the office, it was noted that officers are spending a considerable amount of time chasing Cllrs.
- 2010/04 **Public Participation Period**
A member of the public raised objections to planning application 72100, concerns were raised about the access to the site and the ecological impact the proposed development would have on the site especially given the endangered species, such as hedgehogs and the greater horseshoe bat, that use the garden for habitat and the loss of protected trees. Further concerns were raised about the lack of clarity on the boundaries from the site plan and the possibility of further development on the site.

Cllr Groves entered the meeting.
- 2010/05 **County and District Councillors' Reports**
Cllr Biederman reported that the Tarka Trail from Fremington Quay towards Barnstaple would be closed for five days from 12th October for resurfacing, a group of representatives from the District Council and Fremington Rural County Ward Parish Councils had met with representatives of Aurora Power to discuss how the grant funding could be administered should the solar farm gain planning approval and it was agreed to form a group similar to that of the TAP fund which community groups could then bid into for funding. Through North Devon Council he had received a briefing last week on the Government's white paper and it was noted that the housing number for North Devon alone would be around 650 new homes each year if given approval which is increase of approximately 93% on the current rate.

Cllr Mackie reported that the North Devon Council is hoping to install electric charging points in 19 of its car parks with Fremington and Bickington both included on the list. The homeless people that were housed during the pandemic will receive help with funding from the Government to stay in their current accommodation. Cllr Mackie informed the Council that she would email the Executive Officer some information from the North Devon Council in relation to item 2010/10 and encouraged members of the public to submit photographic and video evidence with representations to planning applications. Cllr Mackie reported that the ward members had decided to call the solar farm planning application in to be dealt with by the planning committee as it is such a large application and they felt it should be decided through the democratic process.

2010/06

Police

a) To receive a report from the Police

It was noted that the Police had submitted their apologies and been unable to complete a report for the meeting.

b) To consider making every effort to address the problem of cyclists riding on the pavements (item requested by Cllr Bell)

Cllr Bell reported that Instow has signs which say "no cycling on pavement" and he would like to see the same signs in Yelland and Fremington, he explained that since the start of the pandemic more people are cycling and cycling on the pavement in these areas.

Members discussed the proposal; it was noted that it was a Police matter and agreed to write to the Police to raise the issue.

2010/07

To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2020 as a correct record.

2010/08

To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following Committee meetings

- Parks & Playing Fields Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Field Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020.

- Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020.

- Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020.

2010/09 **Code of Conduct**
The Parish Council's adopted Code of Conduct was reviewed, and it was **resolved**, with no votes the contrary, not to make any amendments at this time.

2010/10 **Passivhaus**
The recommendation from the Parks and Playing Fields Committee (submitted by the Climate Emergency Working Party) was that Fremington Parish Council writes to North Devon Council to ask it to look at the principles of Passivhaus standards and for those standards to be used on all future development and that Passivhaus standards is also included within the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Executive Officer informed members that Cllr Mackie had highlighted that Passivhaus is mentioned in the joint Local Plan and the North Devon Council Climate Action Plan and Mount Sandford Green is an example of Passivhaus being used in North Devon and these points may assist with the letter to NDC.

Cllr Crawford asked if it would apply to the development at Severn Brethren and felt this should be asked in the letter to NDC. It was noted that meeting Passivhaus standards was around more expensive to build but you would get more back in the energy savings.

It was **resolved**, with not votes to the contrary, to accept the recommendation from the Parks and Playing Fields Committee to write to NDC and to include the desire for Passivhaus in the Parish Council's responses to planning applications.

2010/11 **Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme**
Members considered the request to lead on the scheme. It was noted that the information on the areas within the parish that would be eligible to apply was not clear, the scheme relates to rural areas and it would appear that some parts of the parish would be eligible, members felt that further clarity should be sought. Cllr Biederman suggested the economy team at DCC might be able to assist and it could be that they could work with the parishes in Fremington Rural to identify those that qualify and how to take projects forward. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to write to Cllr Biederman as the County Councillor to see if the economy team at DCC could provide further clarity and assistance with the project.

2010/12 **Emergency Plan**
The notes from the meeting held on the 11th August 2020 were received as appended to these minutes as appendix one. Cllr Biederman informed members that good progress had been made and moved on from the notes that had been received following a further meeting, it was noted that another meeting had been scheduled for 14th October 2020 to produce the lists to inform the plan and following this meeting the working party will start to complete the plan with the Executive Officer. Cllr Biederman explained that those identified to ask to cover Fremington and Yelland had been unable to join the group but happy to help in the event of an

emergency and a resignation had been received from Cllr Capon; therefore Cllr Kingdom would represent the Roundswell area and Cllr Biederman would represent rural.

The Deputy Co-ordinator was invited to speak and explained that the plan needs to be developed to ensure it is put forward to the whole parish and everyone feels involved.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to ratify the appointments and progress to date from the working party.

2010/13

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.

72050 Proposal: Extension to Dwelling
Location: 3 Spinney Close, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: Mrs G Waghorn

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

72100 Proposal: Erection of 2 dwellings & associated garaging
Location: The Vicarage, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend REFUSAL the proposal is ecologically unacceptable and will have a negative environmental impact with the removal of hedgerows and trees with preservation orders resulting in a loss of habitat for endangered native species such as hedgehogs and greater horseshoe bat. The plans are deceptive and not clear, the access to the site is not safe and the site is on the edge of a Conservation Area. The proposal would have a negative impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and the Parish Council would like to see a more detailed plan for the future of the site which supports affordable homes for local people sensitively built to protect the wildlife in the area and neighbouring properties and to the Passivhaus standards.

72112 Proposal: Demolition of the existing dwelling, erection or a new dwelling together with the re-siting of the driveways
Location: The Willows, Bickington Road, Bickington
Applicant/Agent: Mr J Taylor

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to submit comments that any development should protect the privacy and amenity of neighbours and should be to the Passivhaus standard, the Parish Council is concerned about the substantial increase in height and the wider visual impact and notes that there may be a landownership issue.

Cllr Walker entered the meeting.

72128 Proposal: Change of use from Gymnasium (Class D2) to Teaching facility (Class D1) (retrospective)

Location: Unit 1A-1B Narita House, Fishleigh Road, Roundswell, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Tom Ahern

Cllr Capon left the meeting due to technical issues.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to comment that the Parish Council feels this is an inappropriate site for an education facility given that it is primarily used by businesses and the Parish Council fears for the safety of the young people using a public car park for access and outdoor space.

72147 Proposal: Extension to Dwelling

Location: 3 Rooks Nest, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Bond

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

72148 Proposal: Erection of PVCu conservatory to rear of property

Location: Home Farm Lodge, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Hanley

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

72151 Proposal: Extension to dwelling (amendments to 70457)

Location: Elmsleigh, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr Wharton

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

72168 Proposal: Extension to dwelling linking 2 existing single storey extension

Location: 1 Lynhurst Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mr B Aston

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

72205 Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition 3 (lighting strategy) attached to planning permission 71468 to allow lighting strategy to be within the list of approved plans.
Location: Land West of Mead Park, Bickington, Barnstaple.
Applicant/Agent: Vistry South West

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL, the Parish Council has concerns that the fence line has moved and would ask the Planning Officer to ensure that the fence line is as per the planning permission that has been granted.

2010/14 **North Devon Council – Planning Decisions**

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

71578 Proposal: Erection of 2 new dwellings and associated works (amended design of dwelling and parking layout)
Location: 1 Beechfield Road, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Ms S Hayne

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

71876 Proposal: Insertion of rear dormer
Location: 24 Ellerslie Road, Sticklepath
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Pollard

To note that the following application has been REFUSED:

71877 Proposal: Erection of 2 bed house, new garage and creation of access drive
Location: 57 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr P Parson

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

2010/15 **Councillors Questions**

Cllr McCormack-Hole asked if someone could help her set up her Cllr email, Cllr Biederman offered to help.

Cllr Bell reported that cotton buds and plastic straws will be banned in law from Thursday and thanked the Parish Council for the daffodils and the grass cutting contractor for the works on the area where they will spread more wildflower seeds in Yelland.

Cllr Groves reported that there is already an issue with parking in Lyddicleave following the opening of the new school.

Cllr Crawford asked if bus shelters could be put back on the Agenda. It was noted that the Working Party was supposed to audit the bus shelters and the item would be placed back on the Agenda once this had been completed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Dated