

**Minutes of the Virtual Fremington Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell, I Crawford, L Goodger (from Minute No 2101/04), C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, M Scott, B Sherborne and H Walker  
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

PC Robinson (from Minute No 2101/05)

4 Members of the public

2101/01 **Apologies**  
Cllr Adams due to work commitments.

2101/02 **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Walker declared a Personal Interest in Item 2101/15 application 72564 as a District Cllr and item 2101/14 as a District Cllr.

Cllr Cann declared a Personal Interest in Item 2101/15 application 72564 as a District Cllr and item 2101/14 as a District Cllr that sits on the HATOC Committee.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in Item 2101/15 application 72564 as a District Cllr, item 2101/14 as a District Cllr and 2101/15 application 72628 as the Agent is possibly a friend.

2101/03 **Chairman's Announcements**  
Members were informed that the Maintenance and Amenities Operative had commenced employment with the Parish Council and the deadline for co-option applications for Maple ward has been extended.

2101/04 **Public Participation Period**  
A member of the public introduced himself as the Chairman of the Fremington Riverside and Waters Edge (FRWE) Residents' Association.

Cllr Goodger entered the meeting.

The Chairman explained that the Association was set up towards the end of last year following a survey of the residents in which there was a 44% response rate and out of those that responded 98% were in support of a Residents' Association. Key officers have been elected; however, these will need to be ratified with residents in due course. The aim of the Association is to work with the Management Company to ensure value for money and the Association would also like to work closely with the Parish Council and thanked the Executive Officer for her support to date. The Association would be happy to update the Council at its monthly meetings or invite a Cllr to attend Association meetings.

Cllr Biederman thanked the Chairman of the Residents' Association and introduced himself as a District Cllr, along with Cllr Mackie, for Fremington and the County Cllr for the area.

PC Robinson joined the meeting.

2101/05

### **County and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Walker reported that the Policy and Development Meeting had taken place last week which sets out NDC's plan for the forthcoming year. A home energy advisory service was being introduced and the census will be completed this year. Cllr Walker confirmed that NDC services would remain open and running and encouraged anyone who requires help to ring customer services on 01271 327711. Those present were reminded that the vaccinations are being administered by the NHS and are taking place at the Leisure Centre, letters will be received inviting individuals for vaccination in due course, people should not ring their surgery about vaccinations.

Cllr Biederman wished everyone a Happy New Year, and explained that there have been issues within the waste and recycling department, if one of the crew members tests positive or displays symptoms of COVID-19 then that removes the whole crew from service, crews cannot "mix and match", if after 48 hours your waste or recycling has not been collected then you will need to take it back in and put out again on your next scheduled collection day. Cllr Biederman explained that he had spoken to Superintendent Toby Davis about concerns people have about the travel rules and his advice is to follow common sense and what you think is reasonable, the Police will engage and encourage people to follow the guidance. Cllr Biederman has also raised concerns about speeding through the parish – with less cars on the road it seems to have become a problem and enforcement will be undertaken. Cllr Biederman reported that the provisional bid for the High Street in Barnstaple had been successful but was not for the whole amount. DCC is considering its budgets, there will not be any serve cuts as there is nothing left to cut – since 2010 DCC has lost 180million pounds a year from central government contributions which is around 72% of the budget.

2101/06

### **Police**

PC Robinson asked if there were any times of day when speeding is an issue, it was agreed that it is a general issue but there is not any particular pattern.

PC Robinson provided a Police Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 as follows:

Bickington – 5 crimes

Yelland – 3 crimes including theft of patio doors, PC Robinson explained that recently there have been several thefts from building sites.

Roundswell – 15 crimes

Fremington – 1 crime

PC Robinson informed members that there is a DPD scam circulating and warned people to be vigilant.

Members thanked PC Robinson for her presence and report.

2101/07 **To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 as a correct record.

2101/08 **To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following Committee meetings**

- Parks & Playing Fields Committee meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Parks & Playing Field Committee meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Finance & Personnel Extraordinary Committee meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

2101/09 **Cllr Resignation**

a) Resignation of Cllr Capon

It was **resolved** to note the resignation of Cllr Capon

b) Parks and Playing Fields Committee

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer the appointment until after the co-option.

c) Finance and Personnel Committee

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Cllr Rennles to be appointed to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

d) Tews Lane Committee

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Walker to the Tews Lane Committee.

Cllr Rennles left the meeting.

2101/10

**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and note the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

2101/11

**Committee Terms of Reference**

The proposed Terms of Reference were circulated prior to the meeting with a recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee that they be adopted as per Appendix one to these minutes. Cllr Biederman moved the recommendation and thanked the Officers for the work and the positive steps that had been taken to hopefully engage those with work commitments.

Generally, members welcomed the move to hold an evening Committee meeting, however, Cllr Bell did not see the need for a new Committee and felt that the items could be dealt with within the existing Committee structure.

There was some discussion around the timings of Committee meetings to ensure productive and focused meetings whilst still allowing those with work commitments to take part in the evening meeting. Members were informed that the timings of the meetings did not form part of the terms of reference, it was noted that Officers would confirm the times of Committee meetings in due course and these could be altered if necessary.

Cllr Rennles returned to the meeting during the discussions and abstained from voting.

It was **resolved**, with one vote against and one abstention, to agree the new Committee Terms of Reference.

Cllr Rennles left the meeting.

2101/12

**Draft Budgets & Precept for 2021/2022**

Members were informed that the tax base had been confirmed at 4384.96 which was an increase on the previous year of 93.75. The draft budgets were circulated prior to the meeting for consideration, it was noted that at the December Full Council Meeting it was agreed to include £500 within the draft budgets for a community/thank you event and this had been included with the current draft. It was noted that the draft budgets showed a deficit between the budgeted expenditure and income, members were informed that there would be a savings from the salaries budget which could be used towards this deficit, but they should be mindful of further financial impact and income loss because of the pandemic.

It was noted that the initial figure for the precept that had been submitted to NDC was an increase of £2.89 per year for a Band D property if the precept was set at £265,816.27 with the increase in tax base this would result in the same increase of £2.89 per year for a Band D property and reduce the deficit to a figure that could be met from the savings, any further savings can then be allocated by the Finance and Personnel Committee to Ear Marked Reserves to reflect the Parish Council's priorities including renewal and repairs to play areas and further financial losses from the pandemic.

Cllr Biederman thanked the Committee and staff for all the work they have put into the budgeting process, he explained that the community is struggling, and the Finance and Personnel Committee has tried to keep the impact as low as possible.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to:

- 1) Approve the draft budgets for 2021/2022.
- 2) For the Finance and Personnel Committee to allocate further savings to Ear Marked Reserves in due course.
- 3) To agree a precept of £265,816.27 for 2021/2022.

2101/13

**Devon County Council (North Devon HATOC) (Traffic Regulation) Amendment Order**

Cllr Biederman informed members that the proposals were minor but local issues that have been raised, the yellow lines were being proposed to improve traffic movement in Bickington and Beechfield Road, Fremington.

Cllr Cann raised concerns about the order relating to the yellow lines outside of Elm Cottages, she felt it would displace too many parked cars. Cllr Walker agreed that the north east boundary shown takes it too far into Mead Park. Cllr Biederman felt there was a mistake on the maps that had been provided with the proposals and they did not show what he had agreed and supported.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to strongly object to the order in Bickington which would displace too many vehicles, the Parish Council believes there is a small problem outside 1 Elm Cottage back towards the junction of Mead Park and the proposal should reflect this issue, it was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the proposals for Fremington.

Cllr Rennles returned to the meeting.

2101/14

**Interim Devon Carbon Plan**

The consultation for the Interim Devon Carbon Plan was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Rennles felt that the content matter was good but proposed, which was seconded by Cllr Sherborne, that any consideration of the document should be deferred until the author releases the consultation responses.

It was noted that the author was asking for comments on the consultation document.

Cllr Crawford felt it was disappointing that DCC had not linked with other authorities before inviting the public to comment on the document and there did not appear to be much inducement for Councils to be involved and proposed, seconded by Cllr Kingdom, that the CEWP be asked to review the document.

After the vote It was **resolved**, with two votes to the contrary and two abstentions, to ask the CEWP to review the document and submit comment back to the Parish Council.

2101/15

**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.*

72212 Proposal: Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in respect of Re-pollarding of 4 Ash Trees (T1-T4)

Location: 47 Lagoon View, West Yelland

Mr B Heath

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the works being in the interest of good tree management.

72564 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree protection order in respect of removal of one stem from an Ash Tree (T2), reduction to standing dead wood of two Oak Trees (T3 & T4) and selective branch reduction of two Oak Trees (T5 & T6)

Location: Various Locations at Roundswell, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Mr Andrew Moulton

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and three abstentions, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the works being in the interest of good tree management.

72597 Proposal: Extension to dwelling including new summerhouse

Location: 16 Home Farm Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr S Woodward

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the proposal not being over intensive and no adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties.

72598 Proposal: Erection of timber building for vehicles and storage of bins and logs  
Location: Rookabear Cottage, Lydacott  
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs McKenna

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL the building is of significant interest and the proposal would negatively impact and detract from this, it would not be in keeping with the area and the Parish Council is concerned at the loss of the Devon Bank.

72615 Proposal: Listed Building Consent for replacement of window  
Location: Sunnymead, North Lane, Bickington  
Applicant/Agent: Mrs L Broughton

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

72626 Proposal: Conversion of agricultural building to single dwelling  
Location: Little Knightacott Farm, Lydacott  
Applicant/Agent: Miss & Mr Ward

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties or the wider landscape and the Planning Officer being content that the building is not needed as an agricultural building now or in the future.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in the following application as the Agent is possibly a friend, Cllr Biederman did not take place in the discussion.

72628 Proposal: Installation of treatment plant and conversion of our house to office/ car port  
Location: Little Knightacott Farm, Lydacott  
Applicant/Agent: Mr S Watts

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, that the Parish Council could not provide comment on this application as the information that had been provided was incorrect, it does not appear to be a conversion and the address is incorrect.

2101/16 **North Devon Council – Planning Decisions**

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

72328 Proposal: Extension to dwelling with erection of 1 dwelling in the garden  
Location: 1 Barn Park Road, Fremington  
Applicant/Agent: Mr W Yeo

- 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 Bengier Landscaping
- 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 Bengier Landscaping
- 72443 Proposal: Extension & alterations to dwelling  
Location: 8 Bramble Walk, Roundswell  
Applicant/Agent: Pat Woodbridge
- 72195 Proposal: Erection of rear single storey extension together with first floor extension over the garage  
Location: 41 Barracks Road, Fremington, Barnstaple  
Applicant/Agent: Mr J Charnock

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

2101/17

#### **Councillors Questions**

Cllr McCormack-Hole explained that permits for the car park in Bickington need to be renewed on an annual basis, a resident who does not have access to the internet has been informed that the only way to apply is online. Cllr McCormack-Hole was concerned that several people within the village cannot use the technology necessary to access the services online and asked if any assistance can be provided. District Cllrs suggested that they should be contacted directly, and they will pursue with NDC.

Cllr Scott made members aware that she had been responding to posts/messages on social media in relation to dog fouling and had been asked what efforts the Council is making to combat the issue, Cllr Scott confirmed that she had informed residents of the efforts the Dog Warden had been making.

Cllr Crawford reported that trees had been removed from the proposed Aldi site/old Pound Stretcher site and informed members that he would take up with NDC's tree officer.

Cllr Rennles asked if the statement from the North Devon Public Transport User Group's Representative had been considered within the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that the representative had been involved in the Steering Group and Cllr Crawford had also agreed to represent the views raised.



Cllr Bell stated that in the CEWP minutes it references the Yelland Pottery Lane Community Tree Planting for clarity there is no such group, the trees were planted for Lagoon View and it is not true that there are only tubes and the sticks are dead, Cllr Bell has inspected the trees and out of the 25 planted there are 12 which are alive and growing well.

Cllr Biederman reminded members to report dog fouling issues to District Cllrs and via NDC's website and to give as much information as possible, Cllr Biederman agreed that dog fouling is an issue in the parish.

2101/18 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.

The press and public left the meeting.

## **PART B**

Members were informed that, with the consent of the Chairman, members from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that had been reviewing the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan would present to the meeting the work to date and then leave ahead of any discussion.

2101/19 **Neighbourhood Plan**  
The work to date was circulated prior to the meeting. The representatives from the Steering Group explained to members that the working group, which had been appointed by the Steering Group, had reviewed the second draft of the Neighbourhood Plan produced by the consultants against the consultation responses and data available. It was noted that this was the group's interpretation of the information available but is the Parishes plan, the work of the group had been presented back to and supported by the Steering Group; however, the Parish Council had not seen this work to date, this was the reason for presenting the information at this point and to seek comments from Cllrs on the work before continuing and in turn consulting the public.

Cllr Biederman raised concerns about taking this item in Part B. Members of the Steering Group did not feel the contents could or should be made public until the Parish Council has commented on the Steering Group's work to date and reiterated that it is their interpretation of data but the Parishes plan. The draft content stipulates various policies and/or aspirations/objectives with very little input from the Parish Council and members were asked if they would be happy to go public with that as a Council document prior to having the opportunity to review.

Cllr Biederman did not agree that this item should be dealt with in Part B and proposed and it was **resolved**, with two votes to the contrary, that this item be deferred and brought back to the February meeting in the public session of the Full Council meeting. In the meantime, individual Cllrs could submit their comments on the work to date to the Executive Officer to be collated and circulated to the working group/Steering Group as appropriate for review.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....