

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Full Council meeting held virtually on Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, J Bell, F Biederman, I Capon, C Connell, I Crawford, L Goodger, C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, M Scott, B Sherborne and H Walker
Mrs Kate Graddock, Deputy Executive Officer
Cllr J Mackie – North Devon Council and 1 member of the public.

2012/01 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr J Cann.

2012/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None received.

2012/03 **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chairman mentioned the following:

- There is a Zoom meeting on 17th December 2020 for all councillors to wish Kate well in her future job when she leaves the Council for her new venture - she will be missed.

*** Cllr B Sherborne entered the meeting at 7.03pm. ***

- The Chairman read out the following statement to members:

It is with disappointment that I feel the need to speak to you now about how we interact with each other and staff members as Cllrs.

We have been elected to represent the views of the parishioners of this parish, we should keep our political views away from parish meetings and the council in general, the council is not a political body nor should it be used as a platform to attack each other's or promote political views.

Members should respect each other, bullying of any kind, whether it be between individual Cllrs or staff, is not acceptable behaviour nor is using your Cllr title inappropriately. I should remind you that when you signed your declaration of acceptance you agreed to abide by this Council's adopted Code of Conduct. If you feel any Cllr has breached the Code of Conduct this should be reported to the Monitoring Officer for investigation and action as appropriate.

This leads me on to the recent communications regarding the Climate Emergency Working Party. It was a Council decision to appoint a working party and to delegate the functions of this group to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee. If any member of this Council feels that the group has breached its terms of reference, acted beyond its remit

or feels it should be reviewed, then I would ask you to follow the correct procedures for requesting an Agenda Item as laid out in the Parish Councils adopted Standing Orders.

I would also like to draw your attention to the importance of reading your paperwork and asking questions in good time ahead of meetings. As councillors we are asked to attend one full council meeting a month. You are all sent paperwork for this and some of you are not reading your paperwork or responding to the emails that require a response. Again, I find this unacceptable behaviour and I can't see how you can make an informed decision without reading paperwork or emails.

I know that some councillors have raised concerns over the atmosphere in recent meetings and again I would point out that I feel that this is caused by a lack of respect for each other and the staff.

If any of you have any issues with this message or want to discuss any aspect of this with me then please do contact me. I will be happy to talk to you.

We won't all get on, but I must ask you to keep any disputes with fellow councillors outside of the Parish Forum. The parish council is definitely not the area for debating or discussing any differences between yourselves.

You need to be respectful of your fellow councillors and staff accepting that at times the decisions made will not necessarily be what you would like. But that is democracy.

- Members were reminded that staff should not be contacted on their personal mobiles under any circumstances and all communication should go through the office at all times.

2012/04 **Public Participation**
None received.

2012/05 **County and District Councillors' Reports**
Cllr Walker
Covid 19 - Covid 19 outbreak that has affected the waste and recycling teams despite efforts to keep them in their own bubbles – this has had a knock-on effect with collections. Any missed collections are up on the website and the Council do try to put the details on their Facebook page.
Penhill - Pre-application on Class Q to turn it into a dwelling.

Cllr Mackie
West Yelland Bus Shelter – Received a few phone calls and hope that the Bus Shelter will be in situ soon.

Notice Board – disappointed not to see the Agendas and Minutes on the Yelland notice board and hope that it is down to the circumstances at the moment.

Community Recognition – Many people are still dependant on the volunteers. When back to reality, it would be good to get everyone together who has volunteered to have a debrief and a possible celebration to say thank you.

Waste & Recycling – If the crews do not turn up to collect your bins, you can leave it out for 48 hours, after which it needs to be brought back in.

Dog Waste in the Parish – Since the darker mornings there has been an increase in dog fouling. The Environment Protection Officer has been observing activity and has noticed certain areas (Chilpark, Home Farm and towards the School) are littered with dog waste. Cllr Mackie asked the Council to publicise people picking up their own dog waste. n

Cllr Biederman

Griggs Field – S.106 funding for re-surfacing of pathways at Griggs Field.

PSPO – It has become apparent that people are not aware of the Tarka Trail code and a meeting has been set up to discuss this further with DCC Martin Caddy.

New Equipment – Pleased to donate some ward budget towards a hedge trimmer and strimmer for the Parish Council's new Maintenance and Amenities Operative.

71113 Higher Road – Parish Council has refused application numerous times. Been called to Planning Committee on Wednesday.

Enterprise Centre – Opening in the New Year and aimed at young entrepreneurs.

Kate Graddock – Wish Kate well in her new role and thanked her for her support and help in his role as County Councillor and District Councillor and what is our loss is the new employers gain.

2012/06

Police

No Police report was received. It was **resolved** to send a letter of thanks to the Police for their hard work during the Coronavirus pandemic.

2012/07

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2020 as a correct record.

2012/08

Committee Minutes

Parks and Playing Fields Committee

It was **resolved** with one abstention to receive the minutes of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 29th October 2020.

Finance & Personnel Committee

It was **resolved** with one abstention to receive the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday, 29th October 2020.

Fremington Quay Committee

It was **resolved** with one abstention to receive the minutes of the Fremington Quay Committee meeting held on 29th October 2020.

Finance & Personnel Extra Ordinary Committee

It was **resolved** with one abstention to receive the minutes of the Parks and Extra Ordinary Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 5th November 2020.

2012/09

To consider a request to place a Headstone and Kerb set in Fremington Cemetery

Members were circulated a request to place a headstone and kerb set within the Cemetery on plot number 413. Members agreed that requests should be determined outside of Full Council in future if there is nothing out of the ordinary. It was **resolved** that requests that are not out of the ordinary are authorised by Officers and that the Headstone and Kerb Set request is approved.

2012/10

West Yelland Bus Shelter

Members were submitted a report explaining that following receipt of the Utility stats reports the Highways Neighbourhood Office for DCC has concerns about the location of BT Openreach's Broadband cables under the service being in very close proximity to the proposed shelter. They were now proposing to relocate the shelter to the wider verge by Welches Lane. Cllr Biederman stated that the proposed new location is an area that has taken a considerable amount of time from parishioners and councillors to re-wild and there is likely to be 15-16ft of pavement needed in the new location and there is no funding for the pavement, only for the bus shelter.

Members were unsure if the proposed relocation of the bus shelter was going to be clear as they felt it could spoil the view if sited in the new location. It would also take a considerable amount of extra funding to site this in the new location. Members also felt there was enough visibility for the homeowners of 43 West Yelland to exit their property. Cllr Biederman reminded members that the current proposed location outside of 43 West Yelland is the official bus stop. It was **resolved** that the Council support the location of the bus shelter outside 43 West Yelland.

2012/11 **Public Consultation Land Adjacent to Roundswell Roundabout, Barnstaple, EX13 3RZ**

Cllr Biederman called a point of order and felt that councillors should be mindful of commenting. Cllr Kingdom asked why it was on the Agenda. The DEO explained that it is a formal request so it would be placed for members to decide whether to comment. She further explained that it is not a formal planning application consultation but a pre-application, therefore it was **resolved** that the Fremington Parish Council does not comment on this correspondence.

*** Cllr Connell entered at 7.39pm. ***

2012/12 **Draft Budgets & Precept for 2021/2022**

Members were circulated the draft budgets for 2021/12 and report by the Executive Officer prior to the meeting. Cllr Biederman reminded members to ensure that they thoroughly read the budgets presented as the Council has to budget accordingly and for projects that the Council may wish to complete. Cllr Walker would like to see a provision of funding for fencing around the Beechfield Centre. The DEO explained that she had investigated this before but the Beechfield Centre wouldn't be able to be blocked off as there are fire exit points all around. Cllr Crawford stated that he would like to see provision for seats. Members asked for the budget to be clearer at the next meeting and for it be reviewed and it was **resolved** that the Council's initial Precept request is submitted to North Devon Council for £260,126.24.

2012/13 **Resignation of Cllr**

a) Resignation of Cllr Groves

It was **resolved** to note the resignation of Cllr Groves.

b) Fremington Quay Environment Group

It was **resolved** that Cllr H Walker be appointed onto the Fremington Quay Environment Group.

c) Fremington Local Nature Reserve Management Committee

It was **resolved** that Cllr Crawford be appointed onto the Fremington Local Nature Reserve Management Committee.

2012/14 **Passivhaus**

Members were circulated a response from North Devon Council on their letter regarding Passivhaus recommendation. Cllr Crawford felt disappointed with the response and given the prospect of legislation to build further housing it is an important policy. Cllr Biederman stated that this correspondence does not stop the Parish Council from making comment on any planning applications considered by the Parish. It was **resolved** to write to the MP to explain the importance of Passivhaus and that the Council would like to see it included within the White Paper.

2012/15 **Plastic Free North Devon**
Members were asked to consider supporting the banning of body boards that was being taken forward by Plastic Free North Devon. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council support the initiative and the Clerk writes to Plastic Free North Devon to reflect their support with the banning of body boards.

2012/16 **Community Recognition**
Cllr Scott explained that she would like to see the Council recognise the volunteers that have and are still continuing the support to the Parish during the Coronavirus pandemic. She felt there are so many volunteers within the community including 'good neighbours' and it was thought that nominations could be sought from the community. It was also felt that the Council needs to think about the events that they put on to recognise people including the Grants Evening which could be a special evening for important organisations and groups within the Parish.

Cllr Rennles mentioned that he sent cards to community volunteers as the Mayor of Barnstaple, but he found that some were missed and that it was not the right way in hindsight and encouraged councillors to think about what they wish to do before actioning.

Cllr McCormack-Hole felt that a 'thank you' could be placed within the local Newsletters.

Cllr Biederman suggested holding an event in the near future, possibly a 'thank you' evening. It was **resolved** to place £500.00 within the 2021/22 budget for this purpose and discussions continue next year following the easing of Coronavirus restrictions.

*** Cllr Rennles left the meeting. ***

2012/17 **North Devon Council – Planning Applications**

72112 Proposal: Demolition of the existing dwelling, erection of a new dwelling together with re-siting of the driveway (amended location plan)
Location: The Willows, Bickington Road
Applicant/Agent: Mr J Taylor

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the Council's previous comments are submitted, that it should be a Passivhaus and not inconvenient to the neighbours.

72274 Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 70716 to allow plot substitution of a 'Granary' house type to plot 32 with subsequent minor adjustments to plot 32 to accommodate
Location: Land off Yelland Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr C Kent

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the application is refused on over intensification and if mindful to approve the dwelling should remain a 3 bedroom.

72310 Proposal: Demolition of a funeral home, conversion of garage & coffin store to form 1 bungalow together with erection of 5 dwellings & associated works

Location: Lauderdale, Hopperstyle, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: W S Gayton and Sons

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the Council was unable to recommend either approval or refusal due to the working relationship with the applicant but wished for the privacy and amenity of neighbouring properties to be maintained.

72440 Proposal: Consent for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of 17 Ash Trees

Location: 83 Yelland Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr R Catlin

Members understood that the trees were affected with Ash dieback and needed to be removed if this was the case. Cllr Biederman asked who checks that trees do get replanted. It was agreed that an item to discuss this further is placed on a future Agenda item for Parks and Playing Fields.

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the application is recommended for approval subject to the replanting on a 2:1 basis using British trees.

72443 Proposal: Extension & alterations to dwelling

Location: 8 Bramble Walk, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Pat Woodbridge

It was **resolved** with one abstention that the application is refused due to over intensification and concerns over the loss of a garage with no parking provision identified.

72471 Proposal: Two storey rear extension to dwelling

Location: 9 Park Avenue, Sticklepath

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Easton

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the application is recommended for approval subject to no adverse impact on the neighbouring properties or amenities.

72486 Proposal: Erection of PVCU conservatory to rear of property

Location: Home Farm Lodge, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr M Attewell

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the application is recommended for approval.

72500 Proposal: First floor extension over existing garage/utility room
Location: 29 Oaklea Crescent, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr R Box
It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the application is recommended for approval.

72527 Proposal: Extension and alteration to dwelling
Location: 7 Cross Close, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr K Hopper Link to Application 72527

Members noted that the application name is incorrect and should read Hooper. It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that the application is recommended for approval subject to no adverse impact on the neighbouring properties or amenities.

2012/18

North Devon Council – Planning Decisions

Members were given the following planning decisions of Approval:

71823 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree protection order in respect of removal of 2 Ash (T1 & T2) and 1 Oak (T3) and removal of epicormics growth from various Oak trees
Location: 73 Lagoon View, West Yelland
Applicant/Agent: Mr P Walker

72128 Proposal: Change of use from Gymnasium (Class E(d) was D2) to teaching facility (Class F1(a) was D1) (retrospective). (amended description)
Location: Unit 1A – 1B, Narita House, Fishleigh Road, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: Tom Ahern

72148 Proposal: Erection of PVCu conservatory to rear of property
Location: Home Farm Lodge, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Hanley

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

72151 Proposal: Extension to dwelling (amendments to 70457)
Location: Elmsleigh, Sticklepath, Barnstaple
Applicant/Agent: Mr Wharton

72286 Proposal: Prior approval for change of use of barn to 1 no. dwelling house (CLASS Q)
Location: West Penhill Farm, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Mr and Miss Ward Link to Application 72286

Members were given the following planning application as withdrawn:

72118 Proposal: 72118 Proposal: Outline application for erection of 5 dwellings together with associated garages, construction of private access road & form new crossover from Cleave Park (All Matters Reserved)

Location: Land adjacent to Cleave Park, Fremington, Barnstaple.

Applicant/Agent: P Simon Link to Application 72118

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary that to note the decision notices above.

2012/19

Councillor Questions

Cllr Bell asked what was happening with the Something Maybe Project. The DEO explained that the Fremington School are currently working on their boards and they will be located around the Beechfield Car Park. Cllr Bell mentioned correspondence he had received from Plover Rovers asking for support on their initiative regarding Oceans and that he would forward to the DEO to disseminate to councillors.

Cllr Crawford explained that the pavements in Bickington are overgrown. Cllr Kingdom suggested reporting to DCC as they are the authority responsible for this matter.

Cllr Biederman explained that he has been approached by Patches Pet Food Bank and wondered whether the Council could host a box for donations. The DEO explained that currently the office was only open for appointments due to coronavirus restrictions, but she would consider how it could work.

The Chairman wished everyone a 'Merry Christmas'.

Meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Signed: Dated: