

**Minutes of the Virtual Fremington Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday
8th February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell (from Minute No 2102/18), I Crawford, L Goodger, C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, M Scott, B Sherborne and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Cllr Jayne Mackie, North Devon Council
Mr T Steer – Co-option Candidate

17 Members of the public

2102/06

Apologies

Cllr S Adams and Cllr C Connell would be late to the meeting.

2102/07

Declarations of Interest

None.

2102/08

Chairman's Announcements

None.

2102/09

Public Participation Period

A member of the public made representations to the Parish Council on the community facilities at Riverside Park and in particular requested clarification on what went wrong with the adoption of the MUGA. They asked for clarification on the legal obligation relating to the MUGA remaining accessible to those that do not live on the estate, how the Parish Council understands it not to be a financial burden on those living on the estate by not adopting and how the residents' views were represented.

Cllr Biederman felt that the developer had not been honest with any of the parties involved and suggested that an item is placed on the next Agenda to liaise with the Residents' Association and find a way in which the Parish Council can support residents moving forward.

2102/10

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Mackie reported that the building of the new leisure centre had begun, the application for lockdown business support grant is still open on NDC's website and Cllr Mackie thanked the Executive Officer for reinstating the Agendas on noticeboards.

Cllr Cann reported on the issues that had been experienced in Fremington for those booking vaccination appointments and explained that the issue of having to apply for parking permits for the Bickington car park online had been discussed at NDC, it had been agreed that too many services are online, and they are trying to find alternative ways to deliver these for those that cannot access online. Cllr Cann reported that concerns had been raised about the resurfacing works on the pavements around Woodville and Sticklepath and it has been raised with the County Councillor for the area. Cllr Cann explained that lorries are struggling to find the premises they are

delivering to at the Brannams industrial estate and NDC is currently looking at signage. Cllr Cann further reported that she had been to investigate the mud on the road at Tews Lane which has now be cleaned.

Cllr Biederman reported that the pathway at Tews Lane is being completed and there will be a safe access from the Redrow site which is due to start in four weeks times. The Enterprise Centre is now open and the “bridge to opportunities” (over the A39) is now open for bicycles and pedestrians. The authorities are currently engaged in the budget process and all are proposing an increase to the maximum amount permitted. The independent party is not happy that DCC is proposing to cut the highway budget and they feel this is false economy. The Police and Crime Commissioner is looking to increase its budget by 6.7% to provide 40 extra Police Officers on top of the 140 funded by central government. The vaccine roll out has been an enormous effort from everyone involved and all of the over 80s that can be have been vaccinated, there are concerns about the lack of communication and people being directed to facilities out of the area. Cllr Biederman and Cllr Mackie have been working on a dog fouling strategy with NDC which is being presented to the next meeting.

Cllr Rennles explained that the Rotary Club is looking for volunteers to help at the Leisure Centre with the vaccine programme and urged anyone that is available to contact the Rotary Club direct.

Cllrs Cann and Goodger explained that volunteers do need to be a part of an organisation to help at the vaccination centre and/or complete rigours NHS protocol.

2102/11

Police

A Police report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the report.

Cllr Biederman expressed that he had made a personal plea at the last meeting for some speed enforcement and the Police had agreed, however, he had not seen any and asked if an update could be sought.

2102/12

To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021 as a correct record.

2102/13

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

- Parks & Playing Fields Committee meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021

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 28th January 2021.

- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021
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 28th January 2021.
- Fremington Quay Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Fremington Quay Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021.

2102/14

Co-Option – Maple Ward

One application for Co-option had been received from Mr Tim Steer. Mr Steer gave a short presentation in support of his application and Cllrs had the opportunity to ask questions.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to Co-opt Mr Tim Steer to the Parish Council for the Maple Ward.

Cllr Steer signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the meeting.

2102/15

Riverside Park

Members received a request from the Fremington Riverside Park and Waters Edge Residents' Association for support in placing a noticeboard on the estate, it was noted that the Residents' Association had requested financial support from the Management Company towards the cost of the noticeboard and suggested locations were provided. Members considered the request, members felt that the best location would be on the side of the storage building or a freestanding noticeboard in the vicinity of the storage building, concerns were raised that planning permission might be required to site a noticeboard in this location and members were reminded that the building was in the process of being leased to the Football Club and advice would need to be sought from the Parish Council's solicitor and agreement from the Football Club as necessary. Cllr Biederman confirmed that he would contribute towards the cost from his Locality Fund and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to support the provision of a noticeboard for both Residents' Association and Parish Council information on/or in the vicinity of the storage building dependant on planning requirements and to seek financial support from the Management Company and Cllr Biederman's Locality Fund to pay for the noticeboard.

2102/16

Healthwatch Assist Network

It was noted that the Network is active in South Devon and is looking to increase its presence in North Devon, Cllr Crawford explained that it is like a Government funded Watchdog. Members felt it was a useful and valuable service to have in the area and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to join the Healthwatch Assist Network.

2102/17

Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan and work to date from the Steering Group was circulated prior to the meeting. Members were informed that the Steering Group has specifically asked for:

1. The Parish Council to consider its approval of the 'deliverables' under Chapter 9 on the draft document.
2. The Steering Group has agreed that it can work on the draft produced through to a final document and is also recommending that the Parish Council agree to thank the consultants for their work to date and agrees for the Steering Group to take the draft forward.

Cllr Biederman commended the Steering Group on the work so far and felt that a lot of work had gone into the document so far and it was a good and interesting read. Cllr Biederman felt it would be "foolish" for the Parish Council not to consider the best way forward for the parish and to shape what we would like as a parish given the Government's commitment to building new houses.

Cllr Connell entered the meeting.

Cllr Crawford, on behalf of the Steering Group, thanked Cllrs that had submitted individual comments for review and explained that all comments had been included or taken account of within the document in some format. Cllr Crawford felt that most of the work had been undertaken by members of the Steering Group and supported the proposal for the Parish Council to agree to the Steering Group taking the document forward.

Members were informed that should the Parish Council approve the deliverables shown in Chapter 9 the next stage proposed by the Steering Group is a 4-week consultation on the draft document inviting Architects, Agents and Landowners to put forward land for consideration

Cllrs discussed items for inclusion in the plan, or confirmation that the points raised are accounted for in the document, members felt that an informal meeting of the Cllrs should be held to review the draft to date in detail to ensure they are all included.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to:

1. To agree that the Steering Group be authorised to thank the consultants on their work to date and take the document forward to a final document.
2. That an informal meeting of Cllrs takes place to review the document and detail to date ahead of the next Parish Council Meeting.

2102/18

Standing Orders – Item requested by Cllr Crawford

Cllr Crawford explained that he had requested the item for consideration of an amendment to Standing Order 12 "Disorderly Conduct" to cover digital communication as well as conduct at a meeting. The proposal was to amend the wording to read:

12 Disorderly conduct

- a No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly.
 - i) offensive or improper behaviour by members can be during a meeting.
 - ii) offensive remarks can be in a communication to members whether in written form, email, or other digital media.
- b If, in the opinion of the Chairman, there has been a breach of Standing Order 12(a) or 12(a)i) above, the Chairman shall express that opinion and thereafter any Councillor (including the Chairman) may move that the person be silenced or excluded from the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forth with and without discussion.
- c If a resolution made in accordance with Standing Order 12(b) above, is disobeyed, the Chairman may take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce it and/or he may adjourn the meeting.
- d In the case of 12 (a) ii) where the Chairman or a councillor consider that a breach has occurred then a written request will be sent to the perpetrator of the breach requesting withdrawal of the offensive remarks.
- e Where a written request to withdraw an offensive remark as set out in 12(d) above is not forthcoming the matter may be referred to the Monitoring Officer of the District Council.

Members considered the proposal and felt that the wording should include members of staff, other authorities, and members of the public or anybody that a Cllr, in their official capacity, interacts with through digital communication.

Cllr Biederman also felt that the Parish Council should be writing to the Department for communities and Local Government to raise concerns about conduct and provide Monitoring Officers with the power to act.

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

1. To amend Standing Order 12 “Disorderly Conduct” as above but to include members of staff, other authorities, and members of the public or anybody that a Cllr, in their official capacity, interacts with through digital communication
2. To write to the Department for Communities and Local Government to raise concerns about conduct and provide Monitoring Officers with the power to act.

2102/19

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.

72421 Proposal: Erection of a garden room

Location: Westaway Cottage, Old School Lane, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr M Riley

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties or detrimental impact on the Conservation Area and the replacement of any trees removed on a two for one basis.

72554 Proposal: Extensions to dwelling

Location: 4 Combrew Cottages, Combrew Lane, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mr M Hawkins

Cllr Scott left the meeting.

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

72637 Proposal: extension and alterations to dwelling to include replacement of new windows and doors

Location: Rooks Nest, Beards Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr J Brumfitt

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties or detrimental impact on the Conservation Area and the replacement of any trees removed on a two for one basis.

72720 Proposal: Application for consent to works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of selective branch removal from 1 Ash Tree (T1) and 1 Oak (T4) and removal of 1 Oak (T5)

Location: 80 Lagoon View, West Yelland

Applicant/Agent: Mr G Hendry

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the works being in the interest of good tree management and any trees removed being replaced on a two for one basis.

Cllr Rennles declared a personal interest in the following application.

72721 Proposal: Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of 4 Ash Trees (T021 & G022)
Location: Anchor Woods (rear and to the right of Oaklands Residential Home), Westfield Avenue, Sticklepath
Applicant/Agent: Mr Michael Jones

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the works being in the interest of good tree management and any trees removed being replaced on a two for one basis.

72722 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of 1 Ash Trees (T023)
Location: rear of 5 Brynsworthy Park, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: Mr Michael Jones

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the works being in the interest of good tree management and any trees removed being replaced on a two for one basis.

72724 Proposal: Application for consent to works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of 3 Ash trees (T18, T19 & T22)
Location: Red Lane Open Space, Broadway, Fremington
Applicant/agent: Mr Michael Jones

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to the works being in the interest of good tree management and any trees removed being replaced on a two for one basis.

Cllrs Cann, Biederman and Walker raised concerns that the applicant “Mr Michael Jones” appears to be submitting applications for works to trees on behalf of the North Devon Council and once they realised, they declared a Personal Interest in these applications as District Cllrs.

72788 Proposal: Extension to dwelling
Location: 22 Bramble Walk, Roundswell
Applicant/Agent: Mr S Berry

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

2102/20

North Devon Council – Planning Decisions

Members were informed that the weekly list of decision notices will be included on the weekly information sheet sent to Cllrs going forward.

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

2102/21

Councillors Questions

Cllr Biederman asked for a thank you to be passed onto the Maintenance and Amenities Operative, he had received several positive comments about the work he had been undertaking and had noticed a difference throughout the areas in the parish where he has been working.

Cllr Cann asked for an update on the situation with anti-social behaviour at Beechfield since the CCTV has been installed. The Executive Officer reported that there had not been any significant issues since the CCTV has been installed.

Cllr Walker asked if an update on the proposed bus shelter for West Yelland could be placed on the next Agenda. The Executive Officer explained that the Parish Council did not support the alternative location identified by DCC at Welches Lane and had pursued the original location outside of 43. DCC had said that it would not approve the location outside of 43 due to the utility cables running underneath. Cllr Biederman had confirmed, as County Cllr, that he would revisit with DCC. Cllr Biederman informed members that he has met with officers to identify an alternative location and has asked the Highway Officer for a site meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed

Dated