

**Minutes of the Virtual Fremington Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell, L Goodger, B Sherborne, T Steer and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer  
Cllr Jayne Mackie, North Devon Council  
Mrs S Haywood – Co-option Candidate  
Mr T Watkins, Airband

15 Members of the public

2103/01

**Apologies**

Cllrs A Rennles and M Scott.

2103/02

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Kingdom declared a Personal Interest in Item 2103/12 and 2103/15 application no 72879.

Cllr Adams declared a Personal Interest in Item 2103/15 application no 72896.

2103/03

**Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman informed members that Cllr Crawford had resigned due to personal reasons.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move item 13, Riverside Park, on the Agenda forward to be dealt with following Public Participation.

2103/04

**Public Participation Period**

A member of the public asked for clarity on what will happen with the MUGA, the Section 106 agreement confirms that there has to be public access so is there an opportunity to rent the facility and is there anything the residents can do as an estate to ensure the facility is adopted and in use, what pressures can they put on the developer.

2103/05

**Riverside Park**

It was noted that this item had been agreed at the previous Full Council meeting to consider liaising with the Fremington Riverside Park and Water's Edge Residents' Association on how the Parish Council can support the residents in finding a way forward for the MUGA and not the intention for the Parish Council to reconsider adoption.

Cllr Walker explained that she had spent a significant amount of time reading the Section 106 agreement and that this question would be better placed to NDC as the authority that negotiated and signed the legal agreement with the developer and felt this should be pursued with NDC to see if there is a way forward with NDC.

Cllr Walker felt that the developer has a case to answer after what they allowed to happen to the facility prior to adoption and would suggest that the Residents' Association seeks legal advice.

Cllr Biederman felt this issue had been outstanding for some time and needed to reach a resolution, he explained that everyone had been given false information in relation to the MUGA and agreed that the developer had not acted responsibly. Cllr Biederman explained that there was some dialog from the developer with the Resident's Association and the developer had written to some, but not all, residents. It was noted that the Executive Officer had arrange to photocopy copies of the letter from the Developer and Residents' Association to ensure that all residents have a copy. Cllr Biederman proposed that the Parish Council arranges a meeting with the Residents' Association and NDC's Section 106 Officer and the Parks, Leisure and Culture Officer to investigate options for the facility. Cllr Biederman felt that the action the Parish Council had taken in refusing the adoption had forced the developer to act.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to arrange a meeting with the Residents' Association and NDC's Section 106 Officer and the Parks, Leisure and Culture Officer to investigate options for the facility.

2103/06

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

Cllr Walker reported that there had been some issues with assisted refuse collections which were being investigated. The Appeal for 39 John Smale Road had been refused and Bickington District Cllrs had been supporting Cllr Steer in setting up litter picking groups in Bickington. Cllr Walker reported that there had been some graffiti on the new equipment in Babbages which one of the volunteers had washed off and Cllr Walker thanked the volunteer.

Cllr Mackie reported that she had been in dialog with planning enforcement about the Sunhouses at Allenstyle – the development is yet to be completed, and Tarka Ridge with reference to some boundary issues and the screening that should be provided for Yelland Road. Cllr Mackie confirmed that she had received emails in relation to the MUGA and would be happy to attend a meeting. Cllr Mackie confirmed that the dog fouling strategy that had been taken to NDC with Cllr Biederman had been unanimously supported and it will include extra funding for enforcement equipment and training. Cllr Mackie reported that some adults had broken down the Gaia Trust fencing and had been walking their dogs, the Public Space Protection Order had been introduced and includes fines for walking dogs in areas covered by the PSPO, including all sports pitches and finally Plastic Free North Devon is looking for a Parish Cllr to assist with litter picking campaigns and if any member is interested please contact Cllr Mackie.

Cllr Biederman asked if there was any Eco Warriors equipment left, it was noted that over the years equipment had not been returned and/or broken. Cllr Biederman reported that part of the strategy for tackling dog fouling is to provide training for other people within the community and council staff such as parking officers to be able to issue fixed penalty notices.

Two motions were put to DCC in relation to the budget the first was to reinstate the Lengthsman and the second was for low cost/affordable public transport for families on a low income. Cllr Biederman has funded some fruit trees along the Tarka Trail and 50 tablets for Fremington Primary School. Cllr Biederman is also re-visiting the proposed double yellow lines in Bickington.

Cllr Bell asked if there would be signage to keep the dogs off of the roosting points along the estuary, it was thought that this area would be covered in the PSPO and therefore signage would be provided.

2103/07

**Police**

It was noted that a report had not been received.

Cllr Biederman reported that he had contacted the Police again about speeding traffic and had been assured a meeting would be arranged to discuss. Cllr Cann confirmed that speeding through Bickington is an issue and felt that it was important for the Parish Council to receive monthly report. It was noted that there is a link where Cllrs can check incidents and agreed to circulate.

2103/08

**To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a correct record.

2103/09

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

- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

2103/10

**Co-Option – Bickington Ward**

One application for Co-option had been received from Mrs Suzanne Haywood. Mrs Haywood gave a short presentation in support of her application and Cllrs had the opportunity to ask questions.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to Co-opt Mrs Suzanne Haywood to the Parish Council for the Bickington Ward.

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

2103/11 **Parks and Playing Fields Committee**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Haywood to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee.

Cllr Kingdom declared a Personal Interest in the following item.

2103/12 **Airband**

The Chairman welcomed Mr T Watkins on behalf of Airband who explained that he would be providing a short presentation on the roll out of superfast broadband in Fremington as part of central government's initiative to get high speed fibre into rural areas. Mr Watkins explained that the voucher scheme is part of it and encouraged everyone to register their interest via the website, the more that register the more likely a scheme becomes viable, and they need to understand the interest within the community. It was noted that the full presentation to be circulated to members.

Cllr Connell asked if speed was still dependant on how far you are from the exchange? Mr Watkins explained that it does, some people are still on copper for the last mile or so and therefore share a speed with others whilst fibre to the house enables a unique connection.

Cllr Biederman asked how the Council should proceed and Mr Watkins explained that usually there is a champion within the community who identifies interest, you require around 80% to make it viable. Cllr Biederman asked if the Parish Council could work with other Councils in the area, Mr Watkins explained that providers are contracted by the government to cover different areas and it would not be possible to pursue under different providers.

After discussion about how to pursue it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Administration and Projects Manager to take the lead and progress this project and to appoint a Working Party to take forward.

2103/13 **Neighbourhood Plan**

A briefing note was circulated prior to the meeting, which is appended to these minutes as Appendix One, following the informal meeting of Cllrs.

Members considered the briefing note and recommendations contained within and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and three abstentions, to accept the recommendations contained within the briefing note and once the draft has been amended accordingly for the Steering Group to proceed with opening a consultation with developers, landowners, and agents to identify possible development sites to provide the deliverables identified within chapter 9 for consideration by the Parish Council.

It was noted that members would not wish for the formal public consultation of the draft Neighbourhood Plan to take place until restrictions are lifted and physical consultation events can take place.

2103/14

**North Devon Council – Planning Appeal**

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has been advised that the following Appeal has been ALLOWED by The Planning Inspectorate

Appeal Ref: APP/X1118/W/21/3266450

Appeal by: Mr Parsons

Application Ref: 71877

Location: 57 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple

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

2103/15

**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.*

70818 Proposal: Retro application for extension to and conversion of garage to form ancillary living accommodation

Location: 11 Mead Park, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mrs S Parkin

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design, no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and adequate off-street parking facilities.

72561 Proposal: Demolition of outhouse/utility space together with extension to dwelling

Location: 15 Westaway, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr Bullivant

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design, no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and adequate off-street parking facilities.

72675 Proposal: Hybrid application for: Outline application for erection of garden centre to include car parking and associated ancillary infrastructure (with some matters reserved); and Full Planning for petrol filling station and associated shop with drive-thru coffee shop

Location: St Johns garden Centre, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: St Johns Garden Centre

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL, the proposal is a departure from the Local Plan, there are concerns about the safety of access from and onto the A39 and B3232.

The Parish Council would question the sustainability of a petrol station on site given the two established in the immediate vicinity and how this will fit with the Government's plans to be fully electric and also the sustainability and over intensification of coffee shops in the area.

The Parish Council fully supports the original concept of a garden centre on the site.

72838 Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and creation of extension to dwelling

Location: 117 Yelland Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr and Mrs Jarman

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design, no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and adequate off-street parking facilities.

72855 Proposal: Conversion of garage & coffin store to one bungalow with associated works and relocated access

Location: Lauderdale, Hopperstyle, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: W S Gayton and Sons

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to make no comment as W.S Gaytons is the Parish Council's Burial Superintendent.

72863 Proposal: Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in respect of Re-pollarding of 1 Willow and crown reduction of 1 Pine tree

Location: 97 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mrs M Glass

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

72879 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order in respect of Crown reduction of 2 Ash Trees

Location: 32 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Mrs N Willmott

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

72896 Proposal: Erection of dormer to front elevation

Location: Lindfield, Bickington Road, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mr P Strutt

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend APPROVAL subject to an appropriate design and no adverse impact on neighbouring properties.

72972 Proposal: variation to condition 2 (Approved Plans) & 3 (materials) attached to planning permission 70486 Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing & erection of new extension to dwelling to allow for amended design

Location: Rookabear Cottage, Lydacott, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Dr & Mrs McKenna

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to reiterate the Parish Council's previous comments and subject to the comments from the Conservation Officer.

72966 Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 (Approved Plans) & 3 (materials) attached to planning permission 70753 Extension to dwelling to allow for amended design

Location: Rookabear Cottage, Lydacott, Barnstaple

Applicant/Agent: Dr & Mrs McKenna

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to reiterate the Parish Council's previous comments and subject to the comments from the Conservation Officer.

72978 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order in respect of Selective branch removal from Oak (T1) and Horse Chestnut (T2)

Location: 25 Lyddicleave, Bickington

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.

2103/16

### **Councillors Questions**

Cllr Bell asked if there was an update on the proposed bus shelter for Yelland. Cllr Biederman confirmed that he was still waiting for a site meeting with the Highways Officer and would chase.

Cllr Adams asked if any drainage was proposed as part of the pathway works at Griggs Field. It was noted that drainage works did not form part of the proposal, however, the Maintenance and Amenities Operative had been asked to ensure channels are dug on the eastern side to ensure water runs away from the pathways.

Cllr Connell asked if NDC's legal team should be involved in the MUGA meeting. It was noted that it had been agreed to invite the Section 106 officer.

Cllr Steer asked if permission could be given for a member of the public to cut back the ivy off the base of trees along the stream in Tews Lane. It was noted that this was private land and permission could only be given/work undertaken by the landowner.

Cllr Biederman asked if the format of Annual Parish Meeting and Grants

Presentation could be revamped and move a community event with refreshments to provide a thank you to those within the community. Cllr Biederman also asked if the litter picking equipment could be replaced if the Executive Officer can find some money within the budgets and explained that there will be funding opening from Devon County Council to which the Parish Council can bid to improve street furniture.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....