

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting Held on
Monday 7th February 2022 at 7pm in The Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

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

Mrs Eileen Badcock, Executive Officer (Maternity Cover)
Mrs Jude Wood, Administration & Projects manager
Mrs Liz Steer, Administration Officer
Miss Nieve Wuttke-Keary, Apprentice Administration Assistant

Mr David Jury
Mr John Gulliver
3 members of the public (2 via Zoom)

2202/01 **Apologies**
Cllrs Adams, Dixon, Scott and Rennles

2202/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None

2202/03 **Chairman Announcements**
The Chairman advised that the train service on the Tarka Line between
Barnstaple and Exeter will be closed from the 19th to the 27th February 2022
for maintenance works. She asked that the information be placed on the
Parish Council Facebook page.

2202/04 **Public Participation Period**
A resident was extremely concerned regarding the ongoing problem of
speeding and parking in Old School Lane, Fremington and felt that this was
a dangerous situation for pedestrians and has still to be dealt with by Devon
County Council. He stated that he would like to see a 20mph speed limit in
Old School Lane. Cllr Kingdom advised that she will visit the area.

A member of the public spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish
Council is working on and that it has clear and specific objectives to enhance
biodiversity in the parish, that the Full Council has a quarterly agenda item
to consider environmental initiatives and to have oversight of the Climate
Action Plan adopted by the Parks & Open Spaces Committee in March 2021.
He also asked that consideration is given to re-wilding of Griggs Field to
create areas of wildflowers to support pollinators such as bumble bees and
butterflies and stated that an example of how this would look and work can
be found at Riverside Park.



2202/05

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 10th January 2022 as a correct record.

2202/06

Committee Minutes

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

- Finance & Personnel Committee held on Thursday 27th January 2022
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2022
- Environment & Community Committee held on Thursday 27th January 2022
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2022
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- Fremington Quay Management Committee held on Thursday 27th January 2022
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Fremington Quay Management Committee held on Thursday 27th January 2022

2202/07

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Cann reported on behalf of herself and Cllr Walker for the Bickington Ward. The District Council is at the moment pre-planning and budget setting which will be a proposal at the next Full Council regarding Council Tax. At the last Council meeting Cllr Walker put a question to the Council regarding the up and coming fuel increase and since then NDC has put on its website guidance on home improvements, with contact numbers, for people who may struggle with their homes, especially in older properties, not being efficient enough and can go to the website for information. The Government has also now stated that anybody with a property on Band A-D will get a reduction of £150.00 off their Council Tax.

The Leisure Centre is progressing well and running on time and hopefully it will not be long before it is finished and we can look forward to the opening. On a local issue we have a planning meeting coming up on Wednesday which we will be attending. We have called in a planning application for 80 properties proposed at Mead Park and Cllr Walker has put a presentation together.

We had a little bit of an issue at North Lane development one Sunday morning. I would like to thank Cllr Biederman, as we all worked together at 8.30-9.00am because they had gone in there with machinery and were digging out. I think that probably by 11.00am we managed to get them out. Since then, the Planning Officer has followed it up with a site visit and we hope that this will not happen again. Another problem which has been brought to our attention is that lorries entering the new development at Oakland Park South are speeding through roads leading into the development so we will be in the process of taking that up. There seem to be a lot of issues now around the developments in our ward.



We are pleased to say that the first stage of the Tomlin Hall kitchen has been completed.

We are concerned that there are many complaints regarding dog fouling especially in Babbages Play Area. I have spoken to the NDC Environmental Warden and because North Devon itself has got a Public Space Protection Order in place, I am working with the Warden to put signage up in the Babbages Play Area to try and prevent the dog fouling. If that is not successful then we might be able to do something else under that Order.

Thanks to the Administration & Projects Manager and to the Maintenance & Amenities Operative for swiftly restoring a gate that was put up very badly at the bottom of Tews Lane and was not fit for purpose. Following an email sent by the Administration & Projects Manager, this was rectified by Vistry within a couple of days.

Cllr Biederman

The St Andrews Road application will be re-submitted under the same planning application number and the Parish Council will have 21 days in which to respond. It has not actually been submitted as yet, but this should be any day now. We as a Council will have the opportunity to comment when that happens.

The hedge along the Yelland Road has finally been done, like a lot of these hedges that grow into the highway, very often it is the landowner's responsibility and it is difficult for the County Council to get that done.

As with North Devon Council, the County Council is also looking at budgets and all the draft budgets have been put together. The Government is only allowing DCC to put it up by 2%, with 1.99% council tax element for social care. This is going to cause major problems for services and will affect all councils and all people. The reality is that there is to be in the region of £50m worth of cuts and just to remind you that I think people forget about 76% of our budget is spent on children's and adults' social services. There is a huge gap in the high needs block for children's services and this really is covered by every council the same. Devon is particularly high compared to other councils at £88m which really relates back to when the Government changed the age at which children remain children and the responsibility of local authorities from 18 to 25, this is a huge problem for DCC. Another interesting stat is that whether the Government will reimburse councils, the suspicion is that they will give us all something. Another interesting stat is that in 2011 60% of your Council Budget was made up of Council Tax, now it is 81%, so it is not a pretty picture plus we have the extra National Insurance which will also have an impact on those that supply services for the County Council particularly for social care. The plus point is that parishioners will only have 3% rise this year which is probably the lowest in many years. The reality of that is Highways for instance which everybody moans about is probably why we struggle to get 20mph zones.



District Cllr Mackie

The Chairman read out District Cllr Mackie's report which is attached as Appendix one.

- 2202/08 **Police**
A Police Report was not received and no apologies were given for non-attendance.
- 2202/09 **To appoint one Councillor to the Environment & Community Committee**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Kingdom following the resignation of Cllr Goodger from the Committee.
- 2202/10 **To consider Cemetery Charges for 2022/23**
Cllrs considered Cemetery Charges for 2022/23 and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to approve an increase of 2% in Cemetery charges.
- 2202/11 **To receive Messrs Gayton, W S Gayton & Son**
Apologies were received from Mr David Gayton for non-attendance at the meeting.
- 2202/12 **Housing Crisis Declaration**
Cllr Walker confirmed that together with Cllr Cann they are working on the completion of the draft Housing Declaration. However, the key figures they require had only been received the day before the meeting. This item will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.
- 2202/13 **Neighbourhood Plan**
The Chairman welcomed Mr Jury and Mr Gulliver to the meeting. She referred to the list of seven requirements requiring identification and evidencing to be undertaken by Cllrs in order to take the Neighbourhood Plan forward. She stated that it would be good if all Cllrs could get involved in some way. We need to provide evidence, so Mr David Jury has been invited to this meeting to highlight the essential steps needed and also Mr John Gulliver, who will talk about transport.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mr Jury stated that he did not wish to say very much but the Chairman has hit the nail on the head by saying that after a long period of time we have now come to a point where we can start to move forward towards the end game. He stated that he was not speaking as any sort of expert at all, the experts have gone, but we are left with myself basically with two others as a working group who have facilitated and brought this together. You have seen all this before but where we are now is that the 30 or so policy statements that came out of the consultation, your views, the declarations of support for housing needs, conservation etc, we ended up with these policy statements which were not tenable for various reasons.



The expert brought on board advised that Cllrs have to look at this again and accept what he said. The list of 30 or so policy statements has been reduced to around 23, 24, 25 and of those we are weak with evidence clarification on probably 10, those 10 seem a lot but actually 5 of them can all be sorted with just one piece of work and 3 of them are quite easy, so it leaves 2 that are pretty difficult. The reason that Parish Cllrs need to get on board with this is that Cllrs need to own this plan, so it is no good me going out and doing something, coming back and saying there it is because actually I am not involved in it that way, so it needs to be Parish Cllrs getting involved in this. In any case Cllrs have got the skills and knowledge across the whole parish to bring this together and so we came up with a list of seven items. What we ask tonight are for volunteers to take on board these tasks, gather the evidence and bring it back to the group so that we can facilitate the plans into a draft for Cllrs to then agree and hopefully go to consultation and eventually go to the Inspector.

We are short of a travel plan and are hoping that Mr Gulliver will be able to provide this. The travel plan itself will not be a policy but the Neighbourhood Plan needs to make reference to a transport plan. Cllr Kingdom stated that there is evidence required for allotments and this something that can be provided by the Administration Staff with reference to the waiting list. As well as the meetings you have had you have asked to include the view along the Yelland straight and we all understand why we want to keep that view but that it is insufficient. To go past the Inspector it needs to be photographed from various angles and exactly located and we need to come up with reasons why it should be preserved. With regard to the various strategic green gaps, we all understand why we want them to keep the villages separate but they also need to be photographed, almost measured, so that we know exactly where they are because just by saying a green wedge between Bickington and Fremington on the right hand side of the road, or wherever it is, is insufficient, we need to have proper detail as to what that green wedge is and we need proper identity.

Cllr Kingdom stated that we need to get all this done by the 31st March 2022 and proposed that a meeting be held at 12.15pm on the day of all the individual meetings, that Cllrs meet again at that time to see how far we have got. Cllr Biederman was not against this but could not help thinking it was a waste of time. He thanked Mr Jury and Mr Gulliver who have worked for many years on this plan with unbelievable commitment and, he believed, other Cllrs. He thought that there was a sub-committee with Cllrs on it. Cllr Kingdom stated that this was herself and Cllr Walker.

Mr Gulliver briefly outlined what he will be able to do regarding the provision of a transport plan and Cllr Steer has agreed to assist him.

Cllr Biederman felt that the exercise to carry out the seven requirements could be carried out by the Administration Staff and not Cllrs. It was pointed out there is not sufficient administration resource to carry out the list of requirements, however, the staff will assist in any way they can.

Standing Orders were reinstated



The Chairman thanked Mr Jury and Mr Gulliver for their input and for their attendance at the meeting. It was agreed to arrange an informal meeting on Wednesday 16th February to discuss this matter further.

2202/14

North Devon Council – Planning Applications

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Council on the following applications:

74253 Proposal: Erection of 2 detached dwellings (amended description) (amended plans)

Location: Land at Woolmers Farm, North Lane, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Tucker

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties, no over-intensification of the site, no adverse impact on the wider landscape and subject to an agricultural tie to Woolmers Farm.

74503 Proposal: Rear double-storey extension with associated windows and doors

Location: Sunshine Cottage, Bickington Road, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mr M Richardson

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

74641 Proposal: Extension to dwelling together with installation of external cladding

Location: 28A Southfork, Brynsworthy Park, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Mr White and Ms Woodhouse

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

74642 Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey extension

Location: 21 Oakland Avenue, Sticklepath

Applicant/Agent: Mr and Mrs Bater & Quinn

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

74709 Proposal: Listed building consent for replacement of 2 windows in the kitchen & replacement of back door

Location: Sunnymead, North Lane, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mrs L Broughton

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

74732 Proposal: Extension & alterations to dwelling

Location: 24 Oakland Avenue, Sticklepath

Applicant/Agent: Domoney

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




2202/15

Councillors Questions

Cllr Connell was concerned about dog fouling in Beechfield Road.

Cllr Kingdom advised Cllrs that there is a consultation being carried out by the District Council regarding an upgrade to Barnstaple Town Centre. The consultation ends on the 6th March 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.......... Dated 7. March 2022