

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community
Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 10.30am in the
Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs H Walker (Chairman), J Bell, J Cann, D Dixon, S Haywood,
S Kingdom and A Rennles

Mrs E Badcock, Executive Officer (Maternity Cover)
Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager
Mrs E Steer, Administration Officer (from Min 2202/30)

2202/24 **Apologies**

None.

2202/25 **Declarations of Interests**

None.

2202/26 **Public Participation**

None.

2202/27 **Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2202/28 **To consider a request from the Scout Group to site a solar light on the Community Building at Riverside Park**

Members discussed the request from the Scouts. Cllr Rennles advised that the building was under a Conservation Order and therefore NDC Planning should be consulted before any decision is made.

2202/29 **Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

- To note completion of the Footpaths/Bridleway Surveys for 2021/2022

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note completion. Members thanked Mrs Steer for carrying out this task in her own time.

- To confirm the appointment of Mrs Steer to carry out surveys for 2022/2023

Members were advised that Mrs Steer has again agreed to carry out the Footpaths/Bridleways Surveys on behalf of the P3 scheme subject to the Committee's agreement.

It was therefore **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the sum of £90.00 be paid to Mrs Steer, subject to Devon County Council funding, to carry out all Footpath/Bridleways Surveys for 2022/2023 in her own time.

RPH

2202/30

Climate Emergency Update

Members had received a copy of the report prepared by Cllr Dixon regarding Energy Consumption.

Members considered the report and the requirement to reduce energy consumption by 50% by 2030. He advised that the Parish Council has the opportunity to set an example and also with the economic benefits of reducing energy consumption and would ask that the Full Council adopts this proposal.

Cllr Kingdom asked how we can do this in reality on a daily basis. Cllr Dixon stated that he has listed five possible actions as follows:

- To introduce control measures, for example turning down the thermostats at Tews Lane Pavilion.
- Investigating more energy efficient appliances and replacing existing units at Tews Lane.
- Looking at renewable energy resources, particularly at the pumping station at Fremington Quay, it is costing around £200 per month at the moment in electricity.
- He would like to continue to monitor energy bills on a regular basis and asked for these to be forwarded to him when received.
- Change our existing energy suppliers that would guarantee energy by renewable sources. He thinks this should be a last resort as there is not sufficient renewable energy resources in the country to meet needs.

Cllr Kingdom asked whether it was possible to have a solar panel fitted at the pumping station, is this something that the Parish Council should be looking at as well as solar panels for Parish Council buildings. Cllr Dixon advised that he believed so but was not an expert regarding this. However, he felt that it should be investigated. Cllr Walker stated that a solar panel would have to be free-standing. The provision of solar panels at Tews Lane was not a problem. It was pointed out that the new extension to the building would have solar panels fitted. Cllr Walker felt that the pumping station would be far more difficult as Fremington Quay is in a Conservation area and therefore subject to planning restraints. Cllr Kingdom advised that the District Council has commented on its link-up with solar panels, so that means they are being more pro-active and maybe NDC would consider this. Cllr Walker stated that it was worth asking the question and the proposal is that we ask the Planning Officer and Conservation Officer about the potential of putting free-standing solar panels at the Quay pumping station and the second proposal is that we try to put solar panels on the Tews Lane changing rooms.

The Administration Officer supplied information to Members regarding the Andrews Water Heater at Tews Lane, it is on continually, it has to



be and is never turned off as the minute it goes cold there are problems regarding Legionella. She confirmed that the Maintenance & Amenities Operative does visit the building every day to check on the Baxi Combi Boiler, thermostats and radiators. With regard to the Fremington Quay pumping station, if considering renewable energy and solar panels, there would be a need for batteries to take the energy back to the pumping station. It would require double the amount of solar panels for something like 30-40 batteries to keep the pumping station running. The other side is that we will have to have fail safe should any issues occur it would mean going back to the mains because if the bacteria dies there would be a problem. We also discharge under licence from the Environment Agency into the river. The EA would have to be consulted if we were trying to put renewables onto a pumping station.

Cllr Kingdom felt that it seems like there is a big barrier to whatever we want to do and did not think this to be good. Cllr Walker stated that the only advantage is that if the right batteries were used they will keep going during a power cut.

Cllr Dixon felt that this was worth further research as things move on every year so maybe there are improvements we are not aware of. Cllr Walker felt it would be worth having a conversation with a consultant to see if they have any ideas. Cllr Dixon asked if we could seek advice from South West Water regarding the pumping station. Cllr Walker will look into getting solar panels for the Tews Lane building which will help with the electricity costs. Members thought the use of solar thermal would be worth looking into.

Cllr Rennles left the meeting.

With regard to budgets and monies available for enhancements at Tews Lane, Cllr Walker reported that there is £160,000 S106 money from Mead Park and the suggestion Cllr Walker and Cllr Cann came up with was to sort out drainage at Tews Lane which will be a large proportion of the money gone. Should Members want to deal with renewables at Tews Lane then that is a very good use of some of the money. If this Committee would like to go that way then Cllr Walker will contact NDC. It was proposed by Cllr Kingdom and seconded by Cllr Dixon that Cllr Walker contacts NDC again.

Meeting ended at 11.09am

Signed: *L.P. Walker* Dated: *31/3/2022*