

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell (from Minute 2203/14), D Dixon (from Minute 2203/11), L Goodger, S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole (from Minute 2203/17), B Sherborne, M Scott, 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

29 Members of the public

2203/07

Apologies

Cllrs Adams and Rennles

2203/08

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in Minute 2203/17, Planning Applications 74750 and 74754 as the applicant is known to him. Cllr Scott declared a Personal Interest in Minute 2203/17, Planning Applications 74750 and 74754 as the applicant is known to her.

2203/09

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move item 10, Planning Application 73875, on the Agenda forward to be dealt with following Public Participation.

2203/10

Public Participation Period

A member of the public asked why emails she has written three times to North Devon Council Planning Department have not received an answer. The Chairman advised that this will be passed to North Devon Council.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to suspend Standing Orders for the following item.

2203/11

North Devon Council – Planning Application

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 application until they were in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against. Cllrs Biederman and Walker specifically wanted this minuted



73875 Proposal: Outline application for the erection of up to 161 residential dwellings, involving the demolition of an existing dwelling (no.18 St Andrews Road) to create a new access onto St Andrews Road, and associated landscaping and open space with some matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout & scale) (amended plans)
Location: Land north of St Andrews Road, Fremington
Applicant/Agent: Vistry Homes Ltd

Cllr Dixon entered the meeting

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL. It is a departure from the Local Plan and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The access arrangements are unsafe and would have a severe impact on the adjoining properties, especially with headlights on the opposite side of the road, and the concerns regarding the number of traffic movements per hour. There would also be a severe impact on the B3233, the general infrastructure and health services.

Cllr Biederman stated that it was good to see members of the public attending these meetings and advised that the Parish Council is only a Consultee regarding planning applications and the decisions are made by the District Council. He added that it has been suggested that the application is expected to be discussed at the meeting of the District Council Planning Committee, which will be held at Barnstaple Rugby Club, early in May and members of the public will be able to attend. However, there would only be 6 speakers for the proposal and 6 speakers against.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to reinstate Standing Orders.

2203/12

Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th February 2022

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th February 2022 as a correct record.

2203/13

Committee Minutes

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

- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022

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 24th February 2022

- Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to receive and ratify the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022



- Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022
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 24th February 2022

Cllr Connell entered the meeting.

2203/14

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Walker/Cllr Cann reported that the £150 rebate will be paid in April. There is a household support fund via the CAB for people on a prepayment meter, this closes on the 31st March 2022. The NDC budget was passed, including increases in Council Tax, green waste and coastal car parking in summer.

The planning application for Mead Park unfortunately was approved, Cllr Cann, Cllr Biederman and Cllr Knight attended the meeting and all spoke very strongly against the proposal. The vote was down to the Chair's decision, Cllr Walker put in an amendment to refuse but this was overturned with the Chair's vote.

The damaged tree next to Mead Park Close has been cut down, luckily the day before Storm Eunice arrived. The storm caused trees to come down and caused widespread loss of electricity and thanks have to be given to Western Power and the Highways department for their hard work in sorting out the aftermath of all three storms.

There is a District wide litter bin audit about to happen and the parish will be contacted for help.

The future High Street funding survey has closed. We had a progress update from staff last week. After the consultation is analysed, full plans will be produced for members of the public before anything happens.

Cllr Biederman spoke on behalf of **District Cllr Mackie** who was unable to attend the meeting and read out her report as follows. North Devon Council has set up a dedicated webpage for details on how to support Ukrainian Refugee Crisis and has listed ways you can donate supplies and financial support. The Market Quarter High Street improvements are carrying on at a fast and exciting pace and we attended an update last week, the consensus of which was that it is going to be very positive for the people of this area to have a revamped town centre. The St Andrews Road application is at draft report stage and being prepared for Committee, which Cllr Mackie does not see happening before May. We have been told that any communication from residents about this application should now be directed to the North Devon Council Planning Department as both Cllr Biederman and myself are Committee members.

Cllr Biederman echoed Cllr Walker's comments regarding her report on the financial support for the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis. The news regarding the Market Quarter improvements is very positive. The St Andrews Road draft report is expected to be heard at the NDC Planning Meeting sometime in May.

He reiterated the report by Cllr Walker regarding thanks for the very hard work carried out by Western Power and Highways over the hurricane period, some personnel working a 20 hour day.



The District Council has given £20,000 in funding to North Devon Homes to build two affordable homes in Fremington.

Next week a £1m scheme will go before Cabinet with a recommendation to ease traffic movement at the Cedars Inn Roundabout, with traffic lights on part-time for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

You will recall that my report on a HATOC meeting held in November 2021 when there was a proposal on the bus gate on Old Torrington Road and all traffic would have to go along Gratton Way past Sainsbury's and potentially go up to the Cedars Roundabout. Cllr Cann put up quite a fight against it and eventually we got half a win with them agreeing that anyone going to the Crematorium will be allowed to come down Old Torrington Road. It has been a challenge to get that decision because what we have done as Councillors we have been consulted on the scheme and now what we are saying is that fundamentally we have changed that scheme, so now they will have to re-consult. There is also an issue over whether we can enforce using tariffs and we will have to get it past that. Until this is all sorted out people can choose which way to go. There will be a re-consultation on this scheme.

2203/15

Police

Apologies were received from the Police for non-attendance at the meeting. It was noted that a report has not been received.

2203/16

Housing Crisis Declaration

Cllr Walker/Cllr Cann advised that a final draft of the Housing Crisis Declaration has been completed and has been distributed to Cllrs. Cllr Scott was concerned about the hurdles being met by the under 25 year olds purchasing or renting properties and the need for a guarantor and stated that she personally had to provide a great deal of information in order for an adult member of her family to rent a flat. Cllr Walker stated that over the last few weeks she has been looking at Rightmove about once a week to see what properties are available and at the moment there is only one property in Fremington and with that property you have to show that you have an income of over £20,000. Two amendments were agreed and Cllr Biederman proposed wording was changed to read "many luxury homes being built" and Cllr Walker will add "many obstacles to go through". It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the Declaration subject to the minor amendments to be completed by Cllr Walker.

2203/17

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.

73159 Proposal: Erection of 10 industrial units

Location: Land at Liberty Road, Roundswell Business Park, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Clyst Haven Ltd

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject an appropriate design in keeping with the local area and no adverse impact on the amenity of the wider landscape.

Cllr McCormack-Hole entered the meeting.

74439 Proposal: Extension over existing garage, rear extension and erection of a Pergola (amended plans)

Location: 32 Seaking Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Watson

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

74479 Proposal: Creation of vehicular hardstanding to allow parking of a wheelchair accessible vehicle

Location: 38 Beechfield Road, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr T Dorey

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

74750 Proposal: Removal & replacement of right-hand chimney stack and installation of a fire wall within the loft space, separating number 3 and 4 Church Hill

Location: 3 Church Hill, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr I Smith

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

74753 Proposal: Application for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order in respect of Felling of Ash Trees (Phase One G001, G003 T10, T12, Phase two G001, T001, T002 & A2) and Oak tree (SG1,) monolithing of Beech trees (T003 & T005) and crown reduction of Oak trees (T13, T15 and A1)

Location: Land at Glenwood Drive, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Mr F Lamb

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL in the interests of good tree management and the replanting of 2 new trees for each tree felled.

74754 Proposal: Listed building consent for removal & replacement of right-hand chimney stack and installation of a fire wall within the loft space, separating number 3 and number 4 Church Hill

Location: 3 Church Hill, Fremington

Applicant/Agent: Mr I Smith

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

74771 Proposal: Notice of an application to modify planning obligation under regulation 3 of the T & C P (modification & discharge of planning obligations) Regulations 1992 in respect of the Mortgagee Exclusion Clause provisions and bring it in line with current funding and lending requirements (31278)

Location: Brook Court (formerly known as land off Old Bideford Road), Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Livewest Homes Ltd

Cllrs noted the application and had no comments to make.

74852 Proposal: Erection of garage and associated works

Location: 9 Dewberry Drive, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Mr Vandembrouckh

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

2103/18

Councillors Questions

Cllr Cann asked if it was possible to link minutes to an agenda.

Cllr Walker asked that members of the public are not referred to her to deal with issues that do not concern her.

Cllr Bell is concerned about the attenuation pond at the Sunhouses development in Yelland. At the moment there is a large hole with no fence around it which could prove dangerous should a member of the public fall into the hole.

Cllr McCormack-Hole reported that there is no funding for special needs people. She also asked about the Queen's Jubilee and was advised that letters have been sent to schools and churches but nothing seems to have happened. Cllr Biederman felt that unfortunately, there appears to be little appetite regarding this event in view of what has happened and is still happening.

Cllr Bell was concerned at the lack of a speed limit in Pottery Lane. Although this was probably a 30mph area, there is no signage indicating this and also there is a lack of street lighting.

Cllr Scott is concerned about a street light between Fremington and Bickington on the B3233, which has been out of use for some time and which she feels is dangerous.

Cllr Scott wanted to know if a meeting could be arranged between a Youth Worker, the Police and Parish Council regarding the youths that are finding it difficult to find appropriate activities to join. Cllr Biederman suggested a PSPO No Drinking sign at the Beechfield Centre.

Cllr Steer advised that street lights at Roundswell have been fitted with LED lights and the street signage has been removed and not replaced.

Cllr Biederman advised that any problems such as lights and signage should be reported to DCC or NDC as this is not a Parish Council matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.17pm

Signed 

Dated 4-4-22