

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00pm at the Beechfield Centre,  
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

- Present:** Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell, D Dixon, S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole, M Scott and T Steer
- Mrs E Badcock, Executive Officer (Maternity Cover)  
Mrs L Steer, Administration Officer
- 2207/01     **Apologies**  
Cllrs Bell, Goodger, Rennles, Sherborne and Walker.
- 2207/02     **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Steer declared an interest in Minute 2207/06 as he is a member of the Tarka Rail Association.
- 2207/03     **Chairman's Announcements**  
The Chairman reported that the Yelland Quay planning application has now been approved. She welcomed Mr Nigel Trounson, the Maintenance & Amenities Operative, to the meeting to meet with Cllrs who have previously not met with him. Mr Trounson outlined what he has achieved since joining the Parish Council and is happy working for the Council. The Chairman and Cllr Biederman thanked Mr Trounson for all his efforts in the parish and felt he had made a noticeable difference since joining the Parish Council.
- 2207/04     **Public Participation Period**  
None.
- 2207/05     **Minutes**  
**To approve and sign the minutes of Fremington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as a correct record.
- 2207/06     **Bideford to Barnstaple Railway**  
Cllr Steer gave a Presentation on the proposals for the Atlantic Coast Exeter Railway, details of which are attached as Appendix One. He stated that the present travel choices are limited to roads with unpredictable journey times, and we need to be in line with Government carbon-reduction targets. We will eventually be unable to cope with the travel demands arising from the increase in population in the area and the railway will help to boost the travel and employment opportunities. Cllrs were in general support of the overall project but would like to know the outcome of the Consultant's report when it is available prior to making any firm decision. The Chairman thanked Cllr Steer for his interesting and informative Presentation.

2207/07

**County and District Councillors' Reports****Cllr Biederman**

Reported that the St Andrews Road planning application has been deferred while Officers investigate noise levels.

The Yelland Quay application has now been granted. Although it is a brownfield site it went against the policy of providing affordable homes.

The new Leisure Centre in Barnstaple is an amazing facility when you consider that one in three leisure centres have closed.

He has received several complaints about parking in Beechfield Road.

He advised that Dr Phil Lorrey, Chief Executive at Devon County Council is retiring from the Council after 18 years in the post and will be missed.

He gave a report on the 2021 Census which he believes shows a cliff edge coming here in North Devon. As again, while it is understandable people want and choose to retire in North Devon, the cost of housing is forcing people out, particularly young people. Many businesses have wanted to expand but cannot get the staff due to them not being able to find accommodation, let alone afford what accommodation is on offer. Our population continues to age, who is going to care for us? Where are we going to get the staff to service industries we rely on? I think this is a particular worry for those in their 50/60s now as our children will most probably have to leave North Devon to seek well paid work in a more affordable area of the country, so will not be here to look after us in our old age. The Census does show that we are not hit as hard as other areas for population growth, but it shows why we need affordable homes on every development or at least a contribution to it. We need government to tighten legislation on second homes and Air BnB – we have over 3,000 of these in our district! In North Devon, the population size has increased by 5.3%, from around 93,700 in 2011 to 98,600 in 2021. This is lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%) where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800. Nearby areas like Somerset West and Taunton and Torridge have seen their populations increase by around 8.7% and 6.7% respectively while others such as West Devon saw an increase 6.6% and Mid Devon saw smaller growth (6.5%). The largest population increases in the South West have been seen in Tewkesbury and East Devon where the populations have grown by 15.8% and 13.8% respectively. There were more people than ever aged 65 years and over in England. The population has continued to age. Across England, more than one in six people (18.4%) were aged 65 years and over on Census Day in 2021. This is a higher percentage than ever before.

This is how North Devon compares. There has been an increase of 22.1% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 0.1% in people aged 15 to 64 years and an increase of 1.3% in children aged under 15 years. This to me along makes the government's inspectors' decision to overturn our decision to turn down Yelland Power Station on the grounds it was not offering any affordable housing when our policy states it should offer 30% of the homes to be affordable, remarkable. This will now be 250 homes for the wealthy, with no contribution to or supply of any affordable homes, who will need access to our already bulging healthcare services. He felt that this government is simply out of touch with the reality of what faces communities like ours.

**Cllr Cann/Cllr Walker**

Cllr Cann reported that the Leisure Centre is now open.

Cllr Walker and Cllr Cann, together with the Chairman, went along to a site meeting to look at the Claypits planning application at Tews Lane, which was interesting but as yet not been resolved. This will obviously go to a full Planning Committee meeting which will be held in August.

NDC has declared a Cost-of-Living Emergency and we think we are all experiencing this and are quite aware of it.

With regard to support locally for Ukrainian families, NDC has helped 50 families with accommodation to date, so we think that is very positive. NDC has also arranged the same process with a little bit of funding that goes to support the hosts and also for the Ukrainians coming across. There are two actual payments set up by the Government, but goes through the District Council, one is a "Thank You" payment and the other is a "Welcome" payment which our team has been sorting out and putting it into bank accounts which makes the entire process very safe. Also, we would like to say that although this is going on and we are trying to help as much as possible with the Ukrainian situation our residents should be rest assured that NDC is still working very hard to sort out its own housing crisis. NDC has issued a Housing Services Newsletter which gives up to date details on issues regarding housing.

2207/08

**Police**

Cllrs were advised that a Police Report had not been received.

2207/09

**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.*

75412 Proposal: Extension to existing ancillary accommodation

Location: Willowgate House, North Lane, Bickington

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Thayammal

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

Cllrs raised concerns that it has a kitchen.

75440 Proposal: Single storey extensions to dwelling

Location: 10 Oakhill Rise, Roundswell

Applicant/Agent: Mr & Mrs Prideaux

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

75457 Proposal: Single storey rear extension and replacement/rebuild of the existing single storey side extension  
Location: 57 Yelland Road, Fremington  
Applicant/Agent: Mrs A Booker  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties.

75500 Proposal: Application for consent for works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order in respect of removal of 1 Holm Oak (T9) and selective crown lifting and branch reduction of 1 Copper Beech (T11)  
Location: 2 Magdala House, Bickington Road, Bickington  
Applicant/Agent: Mr P Taylor  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL subject to being in the interests of good tree management and replacement with two trees.

2207/10

**Councillors Questions**

Cllr Cole is concerned about speeding at Riverside Park as animals have been injured or killed.

Cllr Scott advised that there is no speed limit sign in the area she lives in.

Cllr Steer is concerned that the Yelland Power Station development could have created a precedent for more building to take place along the Tarka Trail.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed .....

Dated .....