

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.00pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell (from Minute No.2211/07), D Dixon, S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, B Sherborne, T Steer and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2211/01

Apologies

Cllrs S Adams, L Goodger and M Scott.
Cllr J Mackie, North Devon Council

2211/02

Declarations of Interest

None.

2211/03

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed members of the arrangements for this year's Remembrance Service.

2211/04

Public Participation Period

None.

2211/05

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2022 as a correct record.

2211/06

Committees

To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:

- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th October 2022

Cllr Biederman informed members that regretfully the Maintenance and Amenities Operative has now left the Parish Council, Cllr Biederman thanked the Executive Officer and Finance and Personnel Committee for all their efforts in reviewing the financial situation in light of the cost-of-living crisis and attempting to retain staff. Cllr Biederman further reported that the recruitment process is underway to appoint a replacement Maintenance and Amenities Operative and the Council's contractor is picking up the essential work in the interim.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and not the decisions therein of the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th October 2022.

- Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2022

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and not the decisions therein of the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2022.

- Fremington Quay Committee meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2022

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and not the decisions therein of the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2022.

2211/07

County and District Councillors' Reports

A report was received from Cllr Mackie she has been dealing with a report from Allenstyle residents regarding the signage for the Public Right of Way which she hoped had been resolved. Customer Services at NDC have alerted Cllr Mackie to the confusion of residents over the dog waste bins on Tarka Ridge. NDC did not order or request them, it was the estate management company who acted on behalf of the residents requesting them. NDC only empty the bins on a sub-contract basis. Any inquiries need to be directed back to the management company. District Councils are facing huge funding challenges caused by increased demand on temporary accommodation, increased costs on all service areas and uncertainty of long-term funding for projects.

Cllr Connell entered the meeting at 7.10pm.

Cllr Biederman confirmed that Cllrs had been sent a copy of the County Council's budget statement and he urged members to read the information.

Cllr Walker/Cann

Cllr Cann reported on the refugees in the Ilfracombe hotel and explained that they hoped that the racial comments seen on social media would stop and the District Council was trying to support the refugees. The demand for temporary accommodation is high and there are around 50 households per night in need, 130 Ukrainian households are currently being housed in North Devon at the moment. Avian Bird Flu – there is a national lockdown. Cllr Cann had attended a sub-committee meeting for crime and disorder, and it was reported that anti-social behaviour along with other crimes has increased. The community safety partnership, which is a multi-agency approach, has a report available on the Police website. There is an initiative to support violence against women on the street and there will be a night march in Barnstaple. As Police Advocate Cllr Cann has booked to attend the seminar on the vision zero partnership program. Cllr Walker has met with the Roundswell Residents' Association and will report back following the meeting she is also chasing the S106 money from Anchorwood View which has been allocated towards the enhancement of the Ellerslie Road Play Area. Cllr Cann asked if any Cllrs who see Estate Agent signs where they should not be placed can let ward Cllrs know they will follow up and have them removed. It was hoped that the Pannier Market would be open by the 9th November 2022.

2211/08

Police

No report.

2211/09

Headstone and Kerb set – Fremington Cemetery

A request had been received to place a Headstone and Kerb set in Fremington Cemetery that was outside of the adopted Terms and Conditions and it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the request.

2211/10

Warm Space Initiative

Members considered the project proposal for the Warm Space Initiative as discussed at the Environment and Community Committee meeting. With the cost-of-living crisis many people are facing a winter with increased energy bills and tough decisions such as whether to heat or eat.

A “Warm Space” is designed to provide anyone in need of warmth with a warm space to share with others. Every space can offer something different such as free food and drinks, somewhere to charge your phone or free Wi-Fi, the aim is to provide a warm space with free or offer low-cost options.

It was stressed to members that to run the initiative two Cllrs would need to be available to supervise each session.

Concerns were raised about the size of the parish and residents from other areas within the parish being able to get to the Beechfield Centre, other possible locations were discussed along with details of the project. Cllrs agreed to speak to local supermarkets about the contribution/discount of/on tinned foods. Members would like to see the project take place on Wednesdays at the earlier time of 4pm – 6pm but it was agreed that this could be kept under review and altered as necessary.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary:

1. For the Parish Council to proceed with the Warm Space Initiative at the Beechfield Centre - to offer a warm space with refreshments and tinned foods such as soup along with some activities if required.
2. To encourage other venues throughout the parish to consider the project and offering a warm space during the colder months.
3. To vire funds from the COVID-19 and Community event budget towards the project and to investigate further funding options.
4. The Executive Officer to produce guidelines and a Rota for Cllrs to supervise the sessions.
5. The installation of a key safe on the Beechfield Centre if possible.
6. To put forward a policy that if Cllrs are elected to the Parish Council a basic DBS check should be undertaken.

2211/11

Prohibition of Chinese Lanterns and Disposable BBQs

Cllr Walker explained that these products are quite often responsible for wildfires, are not environmentally friendly and should not be used on Parish Council land. Cllr Dixon agreed and explained that the devastating fire at Baggy Point was the result of a disposable BBQ.

Members agreed and felt that notices should be placed at Fremington Quay, and a clause included in Parish Council Hire Agreements.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to ban the use of Chinese Lanterns and Disposable BBQs on Parish Council owned/managed land. It was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to write to the North Devon Council and ask why the use of disposable BBQs cannot be included in a Public Space Protection Order and to write to the supermarkets to inform them of the Council's decision.

2211/12

Councillors Questions

Cllr Biederman asked if there was an update on the MUGA. It was noted that no further correspondence had been received, District Cllr Ward members will chase.

Cllr McCormack-Hole informed members that she has been elected to the board for the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital to represent North Devon following the merger.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed Dated

