

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2022 at 10.30am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs J Bell (Chairman), J Cann, D Dixon, S Haywood

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

As the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had both submitted their apologies it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Bell as Chairman for the meeting.

2210/26 **Apologies**
Cllrs H Walker and S Kingdom.

2210/27 **Declarations of Interests**
None

2210/28 **Public Participation**
None

2210/29 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2210/30 **Climate Emergency - Update**
Members briefly discussed the Parish Council's energy contracts it was noted that the Parish Council is in contract and several of the energy contracts are with British Gas, Cllr Dixon reported that British Gas have excellent environmental credentials with 100% renewable on electric supplies it was asked that the Executive Officer aim to strike the best balance between price and environmental credentials when renewing the contracts.

Cllr Dixon noted that there was a budget for Climate/Environment which had not yet been spent and asked if a tree planting scheme could be investigated. Members were concerned about a lack of land owned by the PC for planting especially given the amount of tree planting the PC had undertaken in the past few years. It was suggested that the budget could be used to sponsor organisations such as the National Trust to plant trees and it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to provisionally ear mark the funds and seek advice from conservation organisations.

The Committee asked about the warm space initiative and the possibility of the Parish Council implementing the scheme in Fremington. Members were informed that the idea of the initiative is to

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provide members of the community with a warm space during the winter period to help those struggling to heat their homes, the space is completely free to use and can provide facilities such as a place to charge a phone, a warm drink and free Wi-Fi. It was stressed to members that if the Committee would like to pursue an initiative Cllrs would need to commit to volunteer to open, supervise and close the warm space, the Committee was keen to commit to volunteering and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree to the project in principle and to draft a project proposal to put to the next Full Council meeting to endorse the project and secure volunteers from Cllrs to run the project. The Council will also be asked to consider viring funds from the Covid and Community Event budgets to pay for the project and to investigate grant funding. The project will:

- Provide the Beechfield Centre as a warm space one night a week on a Thursday from 5pm – 8pm from the end of November until March (a trial basis was discussed and also the possibility of opening on a Wednesday evening as well should there be demand and Cllrs to volunteer).
- A minimum of two Cllrs will open, supervise, and close the centre for safeguarding reasons.
- Refreshments will be available each week including tea, coffee, squash, and something light to eat such as tinned/cuppa soup and a roll (it was noted that storage would be limited, and tinned items would also be better to comply with Natasha's Law).
- Provide some toys for babies/younger children who may accompany their parents/family members.
- Access to electricity to charge devices and free wi-fi.

2210/31

Draft budgets for 2023/2024

Members considered the draft budgets for 2023/2024. Members were informed of the following:

The Beechfield Centre

Electric and gas budgets have been increased slightly this is a combination of rises in energy costs and increased usage of the centre.

Riverside Park

£1,000 for MUGA to be placed in an ear marked reserve for future maintenance, the rest of the funds from the maintenance package will be carried forward.

Environmental/Climate Change

No expenditure to date.

Dog Bins

It is likely that there will be an increase in emptying costs, but we have not had any notification to date (we have requested info from NDC).

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Parish Enhancements
No expenditure to date.

Parish Paths
Expenditure will match income from DCC but won't have notification until February.

Allotments – Babbages
No change.

Allotments – Muddlebridge
Increase in rent payable to agent as per lease agreement.

Grass Cutting
DCC – increase in expenditure of £540

Let's Talk Fremington
Budget of £3,850

Members also reviewed the Ear Marked Reserves relating to the Committee's remit.

Ear Marked Reserves as of 1st April 2022

Muddlebridge Allotments	£289.31
Babbages Allotments	£868.48
Bus Shelters	£8,000
Beechfield Centre	£7,000
War Memorial	£3,500
Beechfield Pitch Maintenance	£1,900
Dog Bin Maintenance	£500
Defibrillators	£1,000

The Committee would like to resurrect the working party to undertake an audit of the Parish Council's bus shelters and it was agreed to place this on the next Agenda, members also requested that an item be placed on the next Agenda to consider cutting back on grass cutting.

Meeting ended at 11.30am

Signed... *R.P. Walker* Dated... *10.11.22*