

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

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

Cllr A Rennles

2211/48 **Apologies**
Cllr S Kingdom.

2211/49 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2211/50 **Public Participation**
None

2211/51 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th November 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2211/52 **Climate Emergency – Update**
Cllr Dixon reported that he had spoken to the National Trust which would be planting 27,000 trees this winter an offer had been made to address the Committee on tree planting, if the Committee identified areas to plant they would be happy to advise on the appropriate trees for the area. It was noted that the Committee had raised concerns about a lack of land owned by the PC for planting and agreed to investigate sponsoring tree planting, some areas within the parish were identified, however, these were not within the Parish Council's ownership, after discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to invite the National Trust to address a Committee Meeting.

Cllr Dixon asked if an advert should be placed in the Parish Council Newsletter to ask for volunteers to help plant trees, it was felt that this might be better after the meeting with the National Trust.

2211/53 **DCC Urban Grass Cutting**
Cllr Dixon explained that he had taken inspiration from No Mow May. Members were made aware of the contract with DCC and the minimum requirements to cut the visibility splays at least 4 times a year and informed that the PC pays for the contract to cut all of the DCC verges 9 times a year, the Contractor had advised that if the verges were not cut regularly there could be an extra cost to remove the grass once cut which would need to be considered. Cllr Walker explained that not cutting the grass would make little difference as grass is dominant and the only wildflower that could compete is Yellow Rattle, you would have to remove the grass and sow wildflowers, it would be time consuming

and costly, but members felt that it would be beneficial to investigate a grass verge a year and it might be a project the Maintenance and Amenities Operative could lead on with community involvement. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to place wildflower verges on the next Agenda.

2211/54

Flag Poles

The Committee were informed that the Finance and Personnel Committee had asked that some works are undertaken to the War Memorial – a Stone Mason had been to inspect and would be providing a quotation to clean and repaint the writing, and the replacement of the flag poles with higher poles be investigated. It was noted that anything higher than the current poles (which are 4.6m high) would require planning permission, 5.4m high poles would cost approximately £1,360.80 to purchase there is currently £3,500 in a EMR for the War Memorial. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to replace the flag poles with 5.4m high poles subject to planning permission.

Meeting ended at 11.03am

Signed..... Dated.....