

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.00pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell, D Dixon, L Goodger S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole, A Rennles, B Sherborne, M Scott, T Steer and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Cllr J Mackie, North Devon Council

2212/07 **Apologies**

None.

2212/08 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2212/09 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported that the first Warm Space had taken place in the Beechfield Centre and asked members to encourage residents to come along.

2212/10 **Public Participation Period**

None.

2212/11 **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 7th November 2022 as a correct record.

2212/12 **Committees**

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

- Parks and Open Spaces meeting held on Monday 6th June 2022
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and not the decisions therein of the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 6th June 2022.
- Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11th 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 Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2022.
- Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 10th November 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 and Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2022.

- Fremington Quay meeting held Thursday 17th November 2022
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and not the decisions therein of the minutes of the Fremington Quay Committee meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2022.
- Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2022
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and not the decisions therein of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022.
- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th November 2022
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 Thursday 24th November 2022.
- Environment & Community Committee held on Thursday 24th November 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 and Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th November 2022.
- Tews Lane Committee held on Thursday 24th November 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 24th November 2022.

2212/13

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Mackie reported that the proposed development of 80 new homes in Yelland will go before the planning committee on 14th December following the site visit. NDC is currently preparing its budgets and there will be an increase in parking charges, the cost of maintaining the car parks has increased by £400,000 in the last few years. Further temporary accommodation in the area is required there is an appeal to landlords or potential landlords to contact the council if they can assist. There is a community sparks fund for projects in Barnstaple town centre which help tackle anti-social behaviour and grants of up to £500 can be secured. The review of the joint local plan will look at bolt on policies rather than an overhaul of the whole document. The number of complaints about dog fouling have increased due to the dark nights and mornings.

Cllr Walker/Cann

With the car parking fees going up Cllr Walker has asked for the Bickington car park to be resurfaced. The pods for homeless people in Barnstaple are doing well, Encompass is asking for donations to buy tents. There are competitive loans available to owners of empty houses that require work to bring them back into use. The overhaul of the Heritage Centre at Fremington Quay is underway.

Cllr Biederman reported that DCC has been recognised for climate change. Cllr Biederman is campaigning to make people aware of free school meals and their eligibility and asked that it be posted on the Parish Council's social media. Construction of the solar farm is underway, and Cllr Biederman is following up the agreement for the funding to support environmental projects for the four parishes impacted by the development.

2212/14

Police

No report.

2212/15

Fremington Cemetery Regulations

Members were informed that the Finance and Personnel Committee felt that regulation 2.2 of the Cemetery regulations should be reviewed. The regulation currently states:

“Residents who live within Fremington Parish qualify for the reduced parishioner rate shown on the schedule of fees compared to non-residents of the parish. A resident is defined as somebody who, immediately prior to their death, was a resident of Fremington Parish, or who lived in the Parish for over ten years and moved out of the area less than one year before their death.”

The Committee felt that people could have moved out of the parish for care reasons which might be a longer period than one year. After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to alter the regulations as follows and review if necessary:

Residents who live within Fremington Parish qualify for the reduced parishioner rate shown on the schedule of fees compared to non-residents of the parish. A resident is defined as somebody who, immediately prior to their death, was a resident of Fremington Parish, or who lived in the Parish for over ten years.

2212/16

Budgets and Precept

Members considered the draft budgets and precept for 2023-2024, members noted the increase in costs, expected increase in costs and contracts and the balance to keep the increase in precept to accommodate the expenditure as low as possible. Members considered the impact of the proposed increase in precept which, based on last year's tax base, would be an annual increase of £1.22 based on a Band D property.

Cllr Biederman commended the Parish Council staff and thanked the Executive Officer for producing the budget on such a low increase and the way in which she has managed the council over the last nine years.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the draft budgets for 2023-2024 and set the precept at £282,018.70 for 2023-2024.

2212/17

Councillors Questions

Cllr Biederman asked about the replacement of the flag poles, it was noted this was being progressed, Cllr Biederman offered some of his locality funding towards the project.

Cllr Dixon asked if the times of the Warm Space initiative should be reviewed. Cllr Biederman suggested a change of name.

Cllr Scott asked why schemes such as the free school meals an "opt-in" service and not already in place.

Cllr McCormack-Hole felt that society needs to communicate better with those who do not use technology.

Cllr Steer asked about the donation of the Fremington Quay sign and suggestion it could be placed on the Village Green.

Cllr Connell asked if any further information had been received about the transfer of the MUGA on Riverside Park and noted that Barratts were meeting with their solicitors next week.

Cllr Walker thanked the Executive Officer for making a low budget work and explained that she had visited the Landkey MUGA and felt the similar facility at Tews Lane will be a real asset to the community.

Cllr Cann asked if the bus stops in Bickington could be cleaned, it was noted that these are DCC bus stops, the Parish Council does not have a Maintenance and Amenities Operative in position at the moment. Cllr Biederman offered to assist Cllr Cann in cleaning the bus stops.

Cllr Kingdom wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed 

Dated 9.1.23