

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 6th February 2023 at 7.00pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, C Connell, D Dixon, S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole (from Minute No. 2302/12), B Sherborne, M Scott, H Walker, A Rennles and S Adams.

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

1 Member of the public

- 2302/06 **Apologies**
 Cllrs T Steer and L Goodger.
- 2302/07 **Declarations of Interest**
 None.
- 2302/08 **Chairman's Announcements**
 The Chairman announced that two members of the public had attended the Catch up over Coffee and Cake.
- 2302/09 **Public Participation Period**
 None.
- 2302/10 **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 9th January 2023 as a correct record.
- 2302/11 **Committees**
 To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:
- Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th January 2023
 It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th January 2023.
 - Environment and Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 26th January 2023
 It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Environment and Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 26th January 2023.
- 2302/12 **County and District Councillors' Reports**
 Cllr Mackie thanked the Parish Council's Maintenance and Amenities Operative for cleaning the graffiti off of the bus shelters in Yelland, which was the worst she had seen. Cllr Mackie reported that NDC would be holding a low key carbon reduction week in March which the PC is supporting through advertising information via Facebook and leaflets, there

will then be activities following on from this week in June.

Cllr McCormack-Hole entered the meeting at 7.04pm.

As ward Cllrs they had undertaken a site visit to Allenstyle following complaints of mud on the road which has been addressed. A proposal to charge extra council tax for empty homes on a sliding scale is going to policy, the aim is to provide an incentive to bring them back into use rather than leaving empty. An application was submitted to round 2 of the levelling up funding, which was not successful, however, Torridge had a successful application. The Government has allocated funds towards a housing scheme specifically for Ukrainians and discussions are taking place reference Section 106 funds from the Yelland Quay development.

Cllr Cann/Walker Cllr Cann reported that NDC has allocated £2 million towards housing services which will hopefully make 7/8 units available for housing. The toilets in the Cattle Market will remain closed whilst ways to tackle the anti-social behaviour are investigated and there will be an update for Cllrs on market quarters soon. North Devon Council and Torridge have jointly changed the fees for residents for direct cremation. The MUGA at Tews Lane is almost completed and is looking fantastic and Ellerslie Road Play Area now has £42,000 banked for the upgrades which the ward Cllrs are working with members of the school with a special thanks to Amelia and Gracie who have been the driving force. There have been two incidents of vandalism in Roundswell one at Tews Lane to the skate ramp and one to the trees in the community orchard between Tews Lane and Sainsburys.

Cllr Biederman clarified the funding the Government has made available for Ukrainians that find themselves homeless and the allocation of funding NDC has made towards the purchase of units, however, there are many more that need help. To vote in the May elections you will need voter ID. The plan for Severn Brethren are progressing with plans for up to 180 homes and a developer now on board and £2.2m from the land release grant towards the project. The work has started on the Pannier Market and the stall traders have temporarily been relocated to Green Lanes. DCC is opening 3 consultations for draft strategies and would suggest that the Environment and Community Committee make a response on behalf of the Council. You will now need a permit to use the recycling centres with a van and permits will only be issued to personal vans and not those registered to a business. Devon Children Services has been re-visited and not enough progress has been made. Cllr Biederman has received a request for a salt bin at Riverside Park by the MUGA/storage building as the path is slippery, Cllr Biederman would be happy to fund but PC would need to give permission for siting.

2302/13

Police

No report received.

2302/14

To consider Cemetery Charges for 2023/24

The proposed charges for 2023/24 were circulated prior to the meeting showing an increase in line with inflation at 9.2% and rounded up to the nearest pound. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve

the charges, it was noted that there remains no charge for children under the age of 18.

2302/15

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)

Cllr Bell had requested the inclusion of the item on the Agenda to raise concerns about the lack of Parish Council representatives on the panel for the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). He felt that it is important for the Parish Council to have a representative on the panel or at least be included when land within the parish is being considered.

Cllr Biederman explained that the HELAA is the new SHLAA and looks at the viability of land for development that is put forward it does not allocate any land and there will be public consultation prior to land being included in the local plan. It has to be drawn up by the lead Planning Authority, there are over 100 parish councils in the area and not practical to include a representative from each on the panel.

It was noted that between North Devon and Torridge 1000 houses a year need to be built to keep up with a five year land supply.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to write to NDC to raise concerns about the lack of Parish Council representatives on the panel for the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). The Parish Council feels it is important for the Parish Council to have a representative on the panel or at least be included when land within the parish is being considered.

2302/16

To Review the Planning Committee

a) To review the inclusion of a North Devon District Cllr as a non-voting member (item requested by Cllr Kingdom).

Cllr Kingdom felt it would be useful to have a District Cllr on the Planning Committee as a co-opted non-voting member to provide advice/information that the PC is unaware of relating to a planning application.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to co-opt Cllr Walker as a non-voting member to the Planning Committee.

b) To review the Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers (item requested by Cllr Biederman).

Cllr Biederman felt the Planning Committee is working well, however, he wondered if more strategic applications likely to have a large public interest should be dealt with by the Full Council as the parishioners have elected members to represent the parish. There was discussion on the level of delegated powers to the Committee to deal with planning consultation responses some members believed that the Planning Committee should continue to have full delegated powers whilst others agreed that strategic developments should be dealt with by Full Council, the question was asked of who would decide which applications are dealt with by Full Council and it was confirmed that this should be a decision for the Planning Committee.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with two votes to the contrary, to keep the Planning Committee's level of delegated powers as is except for Planning Applications which are outside of the local development boundary and contrary to the Local Plan which will automatically revert to the Full Council.

2302/17

Councillors Questions

Cllr Biederman asked if there was an update on the progress of the transfer of the MUGA on Riverside Park, he noted that contact had been made with the MP. It was noted that no update had been received, however, a copy of the latest letter to residents had been received and would be circulated.

Cllr Cann asked if the Maintenance and Amenities Operative could clean/tidy the Bickington bus shelters or at least assist Cllrs.

Cllr McCormack-Hole stated that there was a large pothole at the entrance to the car park in Bickington. Cllr Biederman agreed he would have a look and follow up as necessary.

Cllr Scott thanked Cllr Biederman for his assistance with the state of the mud on the road for the solar farm development.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 6.3.23