

**Minutes of the Annual Fremington Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,  
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

**Present:** Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, D Dixon, D Harris, R Jones, C McCormack-Hole, B Sherborne and H Walker.

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer  
Mrs J Wood, Administration and Projects Manager  
Mrs E Steer, Administration Officer

Mr M Thomas, Co-option Candidate  
Mr J Bridgeman, Co-option Candidate  
Mrs S Haywood, Co-option Candidate

3 Members of the public

- 2305/01      **Election of Chairman**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to elect Cllr Kingdom as Chairman for 2023/2024.
- 2305/02      **Declaration of Office – Chairman**  
The Chairman read and signed the prescribed 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 2305/03      **Election of Vice-Chairman**  
Cllr McCormack-Hole proposed, seconded by Cllr Adams, Cllr Bell for Vice-Chairman.  
  
Cllr Walker proposed, seconded by Cllr Jones, Cllr Cann for Vice-Chairman.  
  
When put to the vote it was **resolved**, with 6 votes to 5, to elect Cllr Cann as Vice-Chairman for 2023/2024.
- 2305/04      **Declarations of Office**  
It was noted that all Declarations of Acceptance of Office had been signed and received prior to the meeting.
- 2305/05      **Apologies**  
None.
- 2305/06      **Declarations of Interest**  
None.
- 2305/07      **Co-Option**  
It was noted that four applications had been received for co-option and with four vacancies it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to Co-opt Mr Matthew Thomas, Mr Jeff Bridgeman, Mrs Susan Haywood and Mr Neil Denton to the Parish Council.

Cllrs Thomas, Bridgeman and Haywood signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Officer and it was agreed to allow Cllr Denton to sign his prior to the next Council Meeting.

2305/08 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman asked if any member could help with a biodiversity map for the Neighbourhood Plan, it was noted that Cllr Dixon could help but could not lead on the matter.

2305/09 **Public Participation Period**

None.

2305/10 **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 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 as a correct record.

2305/11 **Committees**

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

- Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.

- Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

- Environment and Community Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

- Tews Lane Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

- Extra-Ordinary Fremington Quay Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Fremington Quay Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

2305/12

**County and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Walker/Cann – Cllr Walker welcomed the new Cllrs and congratulated the District Cllrs on re-election. Cllr Walker reported that they had spoken to the Officer at NDC reference the grass at Babbages and it is due to be cut.

Cllr Biederman confirmed that he looked forward to working with the Parish Council and congratulated fellow district cllrs. Cllr Biederman had meet with the Local Nature Reserve group to look at the rake on the Tarka Trail just after the tunnel from Fremington Quay towards Barnstaple. Cllr Biederman reported that there is currently a consultation on the mobile libraries on DCC website.

2305/13

**Police**

An email was received from the Police Officer explaining that there has been an issue with anti-social behaviour especially in the retail areas. It was noted that there had been an issue with motor vehicles on the pitches at Tews Lane.

Following discussion, it was agreed to relay to the Police Crime Commissioner the impact of the lack of resources within the Police force and how stretched the resources are.

2305/14

**Annual Report**

To receive Annual Report which includes the following reports from outgoing Committee Chairmen

- a) Chairman's Report
- b) Finance and Personnel Committee
- c) Fremington Quay Management Committee
- d) Environment & Community Committee
- e) Tews Lane Committee
- f) Parks and Open Spaces Committee
- g) Planning Committee
- h) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Annual report containing the above reports was circulated at the meeting.

2305/15

**Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation**

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to include the provision for a substitute member for the Finance and Personnel Committee which would count towards the quorum but not have a voting right.

2305/16 **Membership of Committees**

- a) To appoint five Councillors to serve on the Finance and Personnel Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllrs Biederman, Bridgeman, Kingdom, Haywood and Walker to the Finance and Personnel Committee and appoint Cllr Thomas as the substitute member.

- b) To appoint seven Councillors to serve on the Environment and Community Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllrs Bell, Bridgeman, Cann, Dixon, Jones, Kingdom and Walker to the Environment and Community Committee.

- b) To appoint seven Councillors to serve on the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllrs Adams, Bell, Dixon, Harris, Jones, McCormack-Hole and Thomas to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

- c) To appoint seven Councillors to serve on the Fremington Quay Management Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllrs Cann, Dixon, Harris, Jones, Kingdom, Sherborne and Walker to the Fremington Quay Management Committee.

- d) To appoint five Councillors to serve on the Tews Lane Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllrs Cann, Jones, Kingdom, Sherborne and Walker to the Tews Lane Committee.

- e) To appoint five Councillors and one co-opted District Councillor to serve on the Planning Committee.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllrs Adams, Bell, Haywood, Jones and Thomas to the Planning Committee.

2305/17 **Review of Standing Orders**

Members reviewed the Council's Standing Orders and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to include the provision for a substitute member for the Finance and Personnel Committee which would count towards the quorum but not have a voting right.

2305/18 **Review of Financial Regulations**

Members reviewed the Council's Financial Regulations and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, not to make any amendments.

2305/19

**Parish Council Representatives**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to appoint the following representatives:

Fremington Parish Hall Management Committee	Cllr Adams
Tomlin Hall Management Committee	Cllr Walker
Devon Association of Local Councils Committee/AGM	Cllr Walker
Fremington Quay Environment Group	Cllr Walker
Muddlebridge & Babbages Allotment Association	Cllr Jones
Taw & Torridge Estuary Forum	Cllr Bell
Fremington Local Nature Reserve Management Committee	Cllr Harris
Police & Crime Commissioner	Cllr Bridgeman
Snow Warden Co-ordinator	Cllr Walker
Plastic Free North Devon	Cllr Bell
Healthwatch Assist Network	Cllr McCormack-Hole

**Tree Wardens**

Cllr Thomas - Fremington/Yelland      Cllr Jones - Bickington/Roundswell

2305/20

**The General Power of Competence**

Members were advised that the Council was eligible to hold and exercise 'The General Power of Competence as part of The Localism Act 2011.

1. 11 out of 15 Councillors were elected at the last election on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
2. The Clerk (Proper Officer) is a qualified Clerk and holds the BA Honours Degree in Community Governance and has passed the CiLCA Section 7 on the General Power of Competence.

It was therefore **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to reconfirm that Fremington Parish Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, qualifies for The General Power of Competence until the next relevant Meeting following ordinary elections.

2305/21

**Members' Code of Conduct**

Members reviewed the Members' Code of Conduct and no amendments proposed.

2305/22

**Assets and Lease Arrangements**

A copy of the Council's Asset and Lease Arrangements had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the Council's Assets and Lease Arrangements. Cllr Walker thanked the Executive Officer for the ease in which the information could be read.

2305/23

**Councillors Questions**


Cllr Bell asked if District Cllrs could look at planning application 76924, Cllr Biederman agreed to pursue.

Cllr Biederman asked if there was an update on the transfer of the MUGA at Riverside Park, it was noted that the matter had not progressed and felt that the MP needs to put more pressure on the developers to complete the transfer. It was agreed to explore mechanisms within the S106 agreement to speed up the completion.

Cllr Walker explained that with more services going online NDC has confirmed that there will be a telephone facility available.

Cllr McCormack-Hole confirmed that she has sand bags if anyone needs them.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed  Dated 5 6. 23