

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,  
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

- 2312/01     **Apologies**  
None.
- 2312/02     **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in Item 2312/12 as a member of Devon County Council.
- 2312/03     **Chairman's Announcements**  
The Chairman reported that she had attend John Hart from DCC's presentation and has asked DALC for a copy to circulate to all Cllrs.
- 2312/04     **Public Participation Period**  
None.
- 2312/05     **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as a correct record.
- 2312/06     **Committees**  
To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:
- Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 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 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.
  - Environment and Community held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 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 meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.
  - Tews Lane Committee held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 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 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.
  - Finance & Personnel Committee held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

2312/07

### **County and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Walker - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker reported that the Pannier Market in Barnstaple re-opened on Friday. The new Public Space Protection Order in relation to dogs has been approved at Strategy and Resources this morning. The position on Houses in Multi-Occupancy and letting rooms as holiday lets has been clarified and it is not allowed and the former Wilkinsons store in Green Lanes has been occupied again.

Cllr Cann – Bickington Ward

Cllr Cann reported that there had been a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership which is a multi-agency meeting. Toby Davis appreciated the letter from the Parish Council; however, he is now not retiring just yet. The crime rate is down, and Barnstaple Town Centre feels safer as a result of the street marshals Cllr Cann hoped the funding would continue.

Cllr Denton – Fremington Ward

Cllr Denton that there has also been extra lighting installed as part of the partnership, we are statistically the safest place in the country.

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward

Cllr Biederman reported NDC is providing advice on the new legislation that will come in for Bulley dogs. Cllr Biederman congratulated everyone on the Pannier Market and reported that NDC still has a five-year housing land supply, however, it has fallen from 5.8 to 5.14 due to the economic situation. Cllr Biederman felt the safety partnership had created a different atmosphere in the town centre and it would be nice to see similar partnerships in coastal areas in the summer. The link centre consultation ends soon and will go to DCC cabinet either in December or January, the link centres are not seen as value for money and they feel they can deliver the service better through voluntary services. Cllr Biederman has asked several questions about the £5million that DCC has loaned to Woking as it was not a member decision.

2312/08

### **Police**

None.

2312/09

### **Budgets and Precepts**

Cllr Biederman thanked the staff and Committees for all their work on the budgets.

A recommendation was made from the Finance and Personnel Committee to increase the precept by £5 based on a Band D property to allow for significant increases in running costs and the possibility of an increase in services. Members considered the recommendation it was noted that running costs had increased significantly especially insurance costs, It was noted that items such as software and utilities had increased and there was likely to be an increase in contracts for services such as dog bin emptying, Legionella, it was also noted that the lease for the Muddlebridge allotments

is due for renewal at the end of March and although an increase in rent was likely the amount was unknown. The budgets also provided for an increase in the Parish Council's services.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the recommendation and increase the precept for 2024/2025 at £304,888.

2312/10

### **Creation of Panel to Administer Community Benefit Fund for the Solar Energy Park at Litchardon Cross**

Cllr Biederman explained that the development is 80% in Horward Lovacott and Newton Tracey Parish and 20% in Fremington but does impact on Westleigh, Tawstock and Instow as well. As part of the planning agreement a set amount of funds will be made available each year for the benefits of these communities and the Community Benefit Fund will meet to review applications for the funding. At the initial meeting with Aurora it was agreed that there would be one representative from each of the five parishes, Cllr Biederman was not aware of any subsequent meetings, however, the request was now for three representatives from Horward Lovacott and Newton Tracey Parish and two from Fremington Parish.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to request that the original agreement is implemented with one representative from the 5 parishes and to appoint Cllr Biederman as representative for Fremington Parish Council. It was further agreed that if the original agreement cannot be met Cllr Bell would be appointed as a substitute representative if two are required from Fremington Parish.

2312/11

### **Devon County Council - Planning Applications**

Devon County Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following applications:

Proposal: Consolidation of existing planning permissions for inert landfill, recycling and waste transfer; lateral extension of the landfill site to provide additional capacity for approximately 575,000 cubic metres of inert waste; and associated/ancillary development including construction of aggregate storage bays

Location: Holmacott Landfill Site, Road from Holmacott Cross to Lovacott Cross, Holmacott, Barnstaple, EX39 4LR

Applicant/Agent: Devon County Council

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Parish Council has concerns about the impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and severe concerns about the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and road users particularly at the junction with Tews Lane. If minded to approve the Parish Council feels the application should be subject to safety measures on the Old Bideford Road along with a pedestrian crossing.

2312/12

### **To discuss the impact of Devon County Council's financial situation on North Devon**

It was noted that the situation is dire and affecting all of the services. The Council is in safety net talks with the Government, however, anything that is

not a statutory service is likely to be lost. It was agreed that the issue of the impact on the parish needs to be raised and agreed to wait until the presentation from John Hart has been received and circulated. After further discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Clerk to draft a letter to circulate to Cllrs Kingdom, Cann and McCormack-Hole.

2312/13 **Councillors Questions**

Cllr Bell asked who a resident from Allenstyle should contact reference the development. It was noted that they should contact Cllr Biederman or Denton.

Cllr Adams explained that on the Devon and Cornwall Police website it shows that crime has gone up but it is still the lowest crime rate.

Cllr Cann asked if the Maintenance and Amenities Operative could have a look at the tree that is overhanging the bus shelter in Bickington. It was noted that he could look, however, DCC is the authority that would need to action.

Cllr McCormack-Hole offered to attend any meetings necessary to highlight the issue of DCC cuts.

Cllr Biederman thanked the staff for the work that had been undertaken on the War Memorial and surrounding area and asked if any Cllrs would be available to volunteer at the light switch on event on Friday.

Cllr Dixon asked about the replacement of a broken bus timetable in the Muddlebridge Layby.

Cllr Haywood asked if the Clerk was aware reference to the purchase of a plot at the Cemetery.

2312/14 It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

2312/15 **Strategic Review**

Members were provided with an update on the review, and it was noted that the group had asked for comments on the current mission statement and SWOT analysis, however no replies had been received. Members were not aware of the emails, and it was agreed for comments to be submitted to be reviewed at the next meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January after Finance and Personnel.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed 

Dated 8.1.24