

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,  
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer  
2 Members of the public

2401/01

**Apologies**

Cllr S Adams and R Jones.

2401/02

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

2401/03

**Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2401/04

**Public Participation Period**

A member of the public raised concerns about the proposed works due to start at the Cedars roundabout and the impact this will have on the traffic and asked if there was a "plan b".

It was noted that a request had been submitted for the bus gate to be opened during the works and the Highway Authority was in discussions with the Police.

A member of the public expressed their fondness of the upgrades to the Beechfield Play Area and expressed concerns about Old School Lane. They explained that it is the oldest part of the village and they feel it has lost its identity and just become a rat-run. Traffic is travelling along a narrow road too fast and concerns were raised about the safety of pedestrians especially children walking to school. Due to the size of the vehicles using the area as a rat-run there has been damage to residential property. The member of the public asked if traffic calming measures for the area could be investigated.

2401/05

**Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 as a correct record.

2401/06

**County and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Denton – Fremington Ward

Cllr Denton reported that as District Cllrs they had asked for the Whitecross planning application to be withdrawn to obtain more information. Cllr Denton clarified that he had not pre-determined the application or made any decisions for or against the application or been part of any vote on the planning application.



Cllr Cann – Bickington Ward

Cllr Cann confirmed that the District Council's next Council meeting would be next Wednesday and that's when the council tax base would be set. Cllr Cann hoped that the parish would see a positive outcome following the works at the Cedars roundabout and explained that a trial was carried out and found that journey times were reduced. Ward Cllrs had confirmed that they would not support the lifting of the traffic restrictions on Ellerslie Road whilst the works are undertaken. North Devon Council's outreach team has been doing a fantastic job and have accommodated 17 rough sleepers. there will be a trial on two roads of netting recycling bins and the Public Space Protection Order in relation to dogs had not seen many changes.

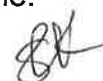
Cllr Walker - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker explained that it had been mentioned in the press with reference to the increase in Cllr allowances. Cllr Walker explained that two schemes were presented to the District Council by an independent body, and it was Cllr Walker that put the motion forward to accept the scheme that has been approved. Cllr Walker felt it was unfair to attack other Cllrs for her motion, Cllr Walker explained that the community requires District Cllrs and the allowance helps to support those that wish to undertake the role.

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward

Cllr Biederman felt that members of the Parish Council have a real commitment of working together and explained that they are never all going to agree but that is democracy, and all Cllrs have the opportunity to put forward motions/amendments to motions for debate and consideration and Cllrs represent the views of their community to the best of their ability. Cllr Biederman reported that he had fought for a 20mph limit on Old School Lane, however, it had failed on one point, he felt that measures would be required to physically slow vehicles down as well. There is an opportunity for the parish to budget for its own traffic regulation via a go fund me or precept increase, any scheme would need to be approved by the Highway Authority. Cllr Biderman confirmed that the trial for the Cedars Roundabout had shown that not only did it reduce travelling time, but it also reduced rat-runs and when completed it will be quickest for people to use the main road. The trial was carried out in 2019 and for a month, along with the traffic lights leading up to the Cedars roundabout there were also cameras placed around the roads, however, when the trial was undertaken the bus gate was not in place. A loop will be installed in the road somewhere between the Cedars and Ellerslie Road and if a vehicle sits on the loop for a certain amount of time it will activate the pedestrian crossing to allow those traveling from Bickington to enter the roundabout. There will be someone operating the traffic lights during the works and if they are not working, and it is safe to do so, they have agreed to remove the lights. The cost of the work has been met by developer contributions and the Police can open the bus gate quickly in an emergency situation. Cllr Biederman reported that early Saturday morning someone had set fire to recycling boxes along the main road. The Police have been proactive in investigating and anyone with information should inform the Police as soon as possible.

Cllr Kingdom asked about the developer contribution for Old School Lane.



Cllr Biederman explained that it will have to be a scheme designed by DCC and undertaken by a DCC approved contractor. It was agreed to place an item on the next Agenda with reference to the feasibility and cost of traffic calming in Old School Lane.

It was noted that children had been cycling down Mill Hill the wrong way. It was noted that this is against the law and Cllr Biederman will pursue.

2401/07

**Police**

It was noted that as of Sunday only three reports had been submitted with reference to the recycling bins being set alight along the main road. Members would remind members of the public that if they have any video evidence not to put on social media as it can not then be used as evidence.

2401/08

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

Members were informed that Horwood Lovacott and Newton Tracey Parish Council had written to the four parish councils (Fremington, Instow, Westleigh and Tawstock), to seek support for a 3/2 split between Horwood Lovacott and Newton Tracey Parish Council and Fremington Parish Council on the Committee. It was understood that two parish councils had confirmed that they did not support the proposal and had requested that the Committee proceeds on the original agreement of one representative from each of the five parish councils. Fremington had agreed at its previous meeting that it would also not support a 3/2 split and would like to proceed on the original agreement and had appointed Cllr Biederman as its representative.

Members were asked to confirm the Parish Council's position and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to confirm that Fremington Parish Council does not support a 3/2 split for the Committee and would request that the Committee does proceed on the original agreement of one representative from each of the five parish councils and confirm that its appointed representative is Cllr Biederman.

2401/09

**Peninsula Transport**

Members considered the consultation on the draft transport strategy, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to extract the relevant information from the draft Neighbourhood Plan and submit as the Parish Council's response.

2401/10

**North Devon Council - Planning Applications**

It was formally noted that participation of the Councillors who are also members of NDC in both the debate and subsequent vote was on the basis that the views expressed made available at the time to the Parish Council. The District Councillors were reserving their final views on the applications until they were in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against

**76293** Proposal: Outline application for up to 450 dwellings including access (appearance, landscape, layout & scale reserved) – EIA development (further information as requested by Regulation 25 of The Town and

Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017)  
Location: Land South of A39 Brynsworthy, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3QQ  
Applicant/Agent: Wessex Strategic Ltd

It was noted that the application had come back for consultation as a request had been submitted for a 30-year flood plan.

Cllr Bridgeman noted that the Parish Council had declared a housing crisis and asked how this was going to be addressed.

It was **resolved**, with four votes to the contrary and two abstentions, to recommend REFUSAL, there is now a five-year housing land supply, the proposal is outside of the development boundary of the local plan and not felt to be sustainable.

2401/11

#### **Councillors Questions**

Cllr Dixon asked about the email from parents of the school about using the car park at Tews Lane, it was noted that the Executive Officer had not had sight of the email, but the Committee had already taken a decision not to allow use of the car park.

Cllr McCormack-Hole asked what the noise and cones were for in the main road in Bickington in the middle of the night. It was thought to be highway works.

Cllr Walker asked if a start date for the Eilerslie Play Area had been given, it was noted that a date had not yet been confirmed.

Cllr Biederman thanked Cllrs Denton, Walker and Bridgeman for their help with the light switch on event.

Cllr Dixon asked about the responsibility of broken items on the Village Green, it was noted that this is the Parish Council's responsibility and will be repaired accordingly.

Cllr Cann invited members to the celebration of Tews Lane becoming the 200<sup>th</sup> Devon Air Night Landing Site on the 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Cllr Bridgeman asked if an item could be placed on the next Agenda to discuss how the Parish Council's Housing Crisis declaration can be addressed.

Cllr Denton thanked Cllrs for all the support, advice and guidance they had given him so far as a new Cllr.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Signed .....  ..... Dated ..... 5.2.24 .....