

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.22pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2403/01

Apologies

Cllr N Denton.

2403/02

Declarations of Interest

None.

2403/03

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman read out an email received from a resident in relation to ongoing damage to their property, it was noted that it was a Police matter and had been reported by the property owner.

2403/04

Public Participation Period

None.

2403/05

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024 as a correct record.

2403/06

Committees

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

- Finance & Personnel Committee held on Tuesday 27th February 2024
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024.
- Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 29th February 2024
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 29th February 2024.
- Environment and Community held on Thursday 29th February 2024
It was agreed to defer the minutes until they have been produced.
- Tews Lane Committee held on Thursday 29th February 2024
It was agreed to defer the minutes until they have been produced.

2403/07

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward

Cllr Biederman reported that the work at the Cedars roundabout is on track, there are now cameras in place on the traffic lights to monitor the queuing and a remote control, the operator can view the video via an app on their phone and the delays have improved. The planning application for Chilpark has been re-submitted. The road up past the Cemetery is in a bad state of repair and it has been confirmed that it will be repaired in the next financial year. The budget amendments at DCC did not go through and it has been agreed to increase the precept by 4.99% which is approximately an increase of £81 based on a Band D property, however, savings of £50 million still need to be identified and there is still a £160million overspend under the bottom line.

Cllr Cann – Bickington Ward

Cllr Cann NDC has confirmed its budgets and increased the precept by 2.99% and the cost of green bin collections has gone up to £60 a year. Further funding for the Street Marshalls is coming from NDC so the service will continue. Two of the open spaces at Roundswell appear to be under NDC's management and NDC is working on the third open space which it has been maintaining.

Cllr Walker - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker reported that she had been to the DALC meeting with reference to the devolution proposals which will create another tier of council above the County Council called a Combined County Association (CCA). Devon County Council and Torbay will have 3 seats each even though Torbay's population is significantly lower. There will be 2 places for District Council although there are 8 District Councils in the combined area and no representation for Town and Parish Councils. The idea of devolution is to give power to local communities it was felt that this would do the opposite, with no democracy and no elections for this tier. It was noted that Plymouth had already pulled out.

The consultation closes on the 24th March 2024, it was agreed for Cllr Walker and the Executive Officer to respond to the consultation and to actively encourage all Cllrs to respond as individuals.

2403/08

Police

No report received.

2403/09

Councillors Questions

Cllr McCormack-Hole stated that the traffic lights at Cedars keep not working and will people be prosecuted if they go through a red light. It was noted that new lights have been brought in, one cycle takes around 4 minutes and when on auto, if someone goes through a red light, all of the traffic lights will go red for safety reasons and will take a while to re-set. If someone does drive through a red light then they will be prosecuted.

Cllr Adams confirmed there will be a Police surgery at Sainsburys on 21st March 2024 between 10am and 12pm.

2403/10 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.

PART B

2403/11 Strategic Review

Members were informed that the working party had been considering amendments to the Mission Statement which currently reads:

“Fremington Parish Council embracing Bickington, Fremington, Roundswell, Woodville and Yelland – to be the focus for the community working collaboratively to achieve better quality of life”.

It was proposed to amend to read:

“Fremington Parish Council representing Bickington, Fremington, Roundswell, Woodville and Yelland – to be the focus for the community working in partnership with community organisations focusing on empowerment and enhancement”.

Members discussed the wording of the Mission Statement at length and felt it was very important that residents understood what it means.

Cllrs Haywood and Biederman left the meeting.

After much discussion it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, for the Mission Statement to read:

“Fremington Parish Council representing Bickington, Fremington, Roundswell, Woodville and Yelland – to be there for the community, working in partnership with community organisations with the aim of empowering and enhancement”.

Members were informed that the working group had discussed the SWOT and were proposing to hold a session with Cllrs prior to the next Full Council meeting where they can identify what they see as the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats of the parish and Parish Council. It was further proposed to identify as many local community groups and organisations as possible and provide the opportunity for them to feed in their views. It was agreed to proceed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Dated