

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

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer  
21 Members of the public

2404/07

**Apologies**

Cllrs J Cann and N Denton.

2404/08

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Walker declared an Interest in Item No. 2404/15 Planning Application 78364 as a member of the North Devon Council's Planning Committee and declared that she would not take part in the vote.

2404/09

**Chairman's Announcements**

None.

2404/10

**Public Participation Period**

The Acting Chairman of the Muddlebridge Allotment Association made representations against the increase in rents for allotment tenants. He raised concerns about the viability of the site and noted that the decision had been taken by the Parish Council without involvement from the Allotment Association. The Chairman disagreed with the council's costings and started that the EMR was not in deficit in 2020, he asked that the Parish Council does not adopt the minutes of the Environment and Community Committee to allow the Association chance to speak to the Allotment representative about the rents.

Members of the public spoke against planning application 78364 the proposed development is outside of the Local Plan, would increase the traffic and add to the congestion issues in the area, there would be a negative impact on the amenity of existing residents and the ecology of the site. The local infrastructure is not in place to cope with the development such as the sewage, roads and local health care. Members of the public did not feel the development was viable and did not agree with the figures shown in the documentation.

2404/11

**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> March 2024 as a correct record.

2404/12

**Committees**

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

- Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Tews Lane Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Extraordinary Environment and Community Committee Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Extraordinary Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 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 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Planning Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 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 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Environment & Community Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Fremington Quay Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Fremington Quay Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

2404/13

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

Cllr Walker - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker reported NDC had its annual meeting last week and Cllr Walker was elected as Chairman of the North Devon Council. Community Cllr grants have now reopened and despite reports each District Cllr has £1,000 each to support multiple projects and Cllr Walker encouraged any constituted groups to speak to their District Cllrs about grants.

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward

Cllr Biederman started by congratulating Cllr Walker on her appointment. Cllr Biederman reported that he had attended the Devon Woman's Cup Final

in which Fremington won and it is the first time ever that a Fremington Woman's team has won a Devon Cup. He suggested that a representative of the team is invited to a future meeting. The traffic at Cedars Roundabout appeared to have been better recently and there will be overnight closures at the end of April. Cllr Biederman has asked for information on the Yelland Road Closures and highways are meeting with South West Water to discuss how it will be managed. The Government has confirmed that it will provide £90 million towards the £163million SEN overspend subject to conditions being met by DCC and the decision to close 6 link centres across North Devon has been approved.

2404/14

**Police**

No report received.

2404/15

**North Devon Council - Planning Applications**

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

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

**78364** Proposal: Residential development comprising of 101 homes & infrastructure including access works and associated open space  
Location: Land off Chilpark, Fremington, EX31 3BZ  
Applicant/Agent: Pearce Construction (Barnstaple) Ltd

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to recommend REFUSAL for the following reasons:

The proposal is outside of the adopted Local Plan.

The proposal is not sustainable, there is not the infrastructure to support the development and in particular a lack of health and social care, education, sewage and road network.

The proposal is within flood zones 2 & 3.

The land is grade 3A best and most versatile agricultural land.

There would be a severe loss of biodiversity.

The proposal would be an encroachment on the estuary and open countryside setting and a loss of enjoyment of the amenity of the area.

The Parish Council has concerns over the safety of people using the permissive footpath.

Amenity considerations - there would be an adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and development of the area would result in the loss of amenity to the whole community retention of such promotes good mental health and wellbeing.

2404/16

**Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance**

Members were informed that the Environment and Community Committee had recently received a presentation on the project and appointed Cllr Dixon as its representative to attend meetings. The Parish Council has been asked to consider a formal motion to join the new Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance. Members considered the request and agreed with the appointment of a representative on the group, however, concerns were raised about agreeing to a formal motion to join at this point especially in relation to maintaining an open mind given that the route is completely unknown and any planning application that might be forthcoming. Cllr Dixon explained that the Alliance has funding from GWR to assess the demand and likely revenue, the route has not been looked at, at this stage but it was noted that the gradient of the A39 is too steep. Members felt that the Tarka Trail is such a success and tourist attraction, and concerns were raised that this is the only flat area of land along the Estuary. Members are looking forward to following the progress but did not feel it would be appropriate to agree a formal motion to join at this stage.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer a decision until the results of the study are available in the summer.

2404/17

**Councillors Questions**

Cllr Adams confirmed that there is another Police Surgery at Sainsburys on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2pm – 4pm.

Cllr Walker asked who was responsible for the end car park at Fremington Quay as the potholes are now quite bad, it was noted that this would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Cllr Harris asked if some traffic calming could be introduced on Beechfield Road due to speeding. Cllr Biederman advised Cllr Harris to report the dangerous and reckless driving on 101. It was also noted that several cars had been traveling down Mill Hill the wrong way.

Cllr McCormack-Hole asked for assistance with the loose drain cover on the Bickington Road. Cllr Biederman explained that South West Water had been served with a section notice to repair and asked if the Parish Council could write direct to SWW expressing its disappointment. It was agreed to write to SWW.

Cllr Biederman again asked members not to wait for Parish Council meetings to report DCC issues and to contact him directly throughout the month. Cllr Biederman asked if the PC would invite the Woman's Football Team to a meeting.

Cllr Bell asked when the Cllrs event was going to be held.

It was agreed to hold a summer BBQ to award the grants and for the community and invite the Woman's Football Team to attend and also arrange an evening for Cllrs to get together.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

DRAFT