

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 25th July 2024 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs H Walker (Chairman), J Bell, J Bridgeman, and S Kingdom
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2407/16 **Apologies**
Cllrs J Cann, D Dixon and R Jones.

2407/17 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2407/18 **Public Participation**
None.

2407/19 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th June 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2407/20 **Climate Emergency – Update**
A email from Cllr Dixon was read out which stated that “rather than gloom and doom there is a way ahead given the will to adapt, as explained in the following paragraphs from the United Nations website page on Climate Change:

While technology has contributed to climate change, new and efficient technologies can help us reduce net emissions and create a cleaner world. Readily-available technological solutions already exist for more than 70 per cent of today’s emissions. In many places renewable energy is now the cheapest energy source and electric cars are poised to become mainstream.

In the meantime, nature-based solutions provide ‘breathing room’ while we tackle the decarbonization of our economy. These solutions allow us to mitigate a portion of our carbon footprint while also supporting vital ecosystem services, biodiversity, access to fresh water, improved livelihoods, healthy diets, and food security. Nature-based solutions include improved agricultural practices, land restoration, conservation, and the greening of food supply chains.

Scalable new technologies and nature-based solutions will enable us all to leapfrog to a cleaner, more resilient world. If governments, businesses, civil society, youth, and academia work together, we can create a green future where suffering is diminished, justice is upheld, and harmony is restored between people and planet.”

Cllr Walker reported on the recent motion considered at the North Devon Council to ban meat products at Council meetings/events. It was noted that this motion had not been supported for several reasons and information had been provided with reference to crop rotation and that

this is necessary to ensure healthy soil, soil with livestock grazing retains around 20% carbon whereas crop fields is around 4%.

Members briefly discussed the likely changes in policy following the recent General Election and inception of a new Government and it was agreed to review the Climate Action Plan at the next Committee Meeting.

2407/21 **Right Bin Right Place**

Cllr Bridgeman confirmed that he had begun mapping the current bin provision and would bring the map, along with a draft policy, to the next Committee meeting.

2407/22 **The Beechfield Centre**

a) To consider options to address the damage and protect the rear of the building.

Members were informed that the rear of the Beechfield Centre has experienced significant damage from vandalism and wear and tear mostly from footballs hitting the rear wall of the building. Staff had previously been asked to investigate options to protect the rear of the building including removal of the cladding from the rear wall and replacing with render and/or fencing. Members were informed that quotations had been received for both options, the rendering would cost in the region of £8,700 - £10,000 + VAT and the fencing in the region of £14,000 both options are likely to require planning permission. Members discussed the pros and cons of both options and after discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the cheapest most appropriate quotation to render the rear wall of the building and use the funds from the Beechfield Centre EMR, concerns were raised that all this would deal with the current damage to the rear of the building, however, the render could crack from balls hitting the wall and it was agreed to review the provision of a length of fencing as added protection if this should happen. Members did note that staff were investigating the replacement of the netting that used to run along the back of the building.

b) To receive update and consider installation of outside water tap for drinking water for the Fremington Football Club.

Members were informed that the Football Club had confirmed that a tap in the changing rooms was not a viable option, the Club would require a tap in each changing room which would be too expensive and not viable for the Club. The Football Club had requested that the Committee reconsiders the provision of an outside tap which can be locked in a box. Members raised concerns about water usage and the likelihood of the outsider tap being left on, therefore it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree to the installation of an outside tap subject to:

- The Fremington Football Club Meeting the cost of installation.
- The tap is a pressure operated tap so it cannot be left on.
- The tap is in a lockable box.

- The Parish Council will monitor the water usage after installation and should this significantly increase will look to add a charge to the licence.
- If at any point the tap is not locked the water will be turned off from inside the building and use will no longer be permitted.

c) To consider the installation of a Trophy Cabinet for the Fremington Football Club.

Members considered a request from the Football Club to install a trophy cabinet in the hall or entrance hall of the Beechfield Centre. Members considered the request, members felt that the Beechfield Centre is a community space, and any cabinet should be for community use after discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to install a community awards cabinet in the foyer of the Beechfield Centre (subject to room) and allow community groups to display their awards for a period of time.

2407/23 **Ellerslie Bus Shelter**

Members were informed that the bus shelter at the end of Ellerslie Road had reached the end of its life, and a replacement was considered along with a quotation from the Parish Council's contractor. It was noted that barrel roofs are no longer used, and it would be a flat roofed shelter similar to the new one at Sticklepath, it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the quotation and replace the bus shelter at the end of Ellerslie Road at a cost of £4,270 + VAT the cost will be met from the bus shelter EMR.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to the Fremington & District Community Group for the work they had carried out to the bus shelter in Bickington.

2407/24 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

2407/25 **Execution and sealing of a legal deed**

a) To receive update on the lease for Muddlebridge Allotment Site
Members were informed that Heads of Terms had been received. Members considered the Heads of Terms, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, not to agree to a backdated lease and to agree that the lease will start once it is signed, the rent cannot be paid in advance as stated, it was noted that the Parish Council has not had a lease and therefore has not been able to issue licences to the Allotment Tenants, therefore the Committee would like to seek an agreement that the rent is paid prior to the lease being signed and then annually.

2407/26

Babbages Allotment Site

Members were informed that NDC had confirmed that they could not see any issue with granting another lease on similar terms and the Parish Council would now await a s25 notice along with a new lease detailing terms.

Meeting ended at 12pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

DRAFT