

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community
Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th April 2025 at 11am in the Beechfield
Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs H Walker (Chairman), D Dixon, S Haywood and J Cann
Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager

2504/23 **Apologies**
Cllr J Bridgeman
Cllr S Kingdom

2504/24 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2504/25 **Public Participation**
None.

2504/26 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th March 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2504/27 **Climate Emergency – Update**
Cllr Dixon reported that the dry weather for the past few weeks has exacerbated wildfire around the UK, pushing some the UK's rarest wildlife closer to extinction. This includes endangered birds like the Hen harrier, and water voles, which are now the UK's fastest declining mammal.

There is no doubt that ongoing global warming is a major factor, and we are suffering the consequences already. We are past the stage when global warming may be reversed in the foreseeable future, so now we must learn to mitigate the effects that we are experiencing. One lesson to be learned is that many of the wildfires stem from human activity, either deliberately or accidentally. For example, the dramatic fire at Baggy Point two years ago was accidentally started when a group of teenagers decided to light a disposable barbeque on the grassy slopes. The resultant fire destroyed many acres of gorse and heather clad hillside and exterminated all the wildlife present.

Fortunately, we have not recently experienced wildfires within the parish boundaries. However, should we experience a hot dry summer then that risk will be greatly increased. We should consider giving publicity to advice which is available on the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service website:

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/safety/outdoors/wildfires>

Bullet points taken from this website are:

- Take your litter home.
- Discard of cigarettes carefully. Never throw cigarettes ends on the ground or out of car windows.
- Glass in direct sunlight can cause a fire – ensure there is none lying around.
- Don't have campfires or barbeques in the countryside. Only have them in safe designated areas.
- Avoid having bonfires in very dry weather.
- Talk to your children about the dangers of playing with fire and matches. Keep matches and lighters stored well away from children & teenagers
- Read on the website about what do to if you are concerned about potential wildfires.

Cllr Walker informed members that there had been reports of teenagers setting fires for 'fun' in Braunton. Members discussed concerns about the use of disposable barbeques during the summer months.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information and to include an article in the newsletter and on Facebook with the advice from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service's website and request that members of the public consider the risks and not using disposable BBQs. It was further agreed for the Administration & Projects Manager to write to large shops within the Parish and ask them to consider not selling disposable barbeques.

2504/28 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

2504/29 Muddlebridge Lease

Members were informed that we had still not been able to sign the lease agreement. It was noted that the lease plan was still not correct, and this would be followed up with the solicitor.

Tarka Ridge Allotments

Members were informed that the Parish Council had still not received the hand over for the allotments and that the Solicitor was still awaiting response from the Developer's Solicitor.

Meeting ended at 11.15am.

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