

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs H Walker (Chairman), J Bridgeman (Vice-Chairman), D Dixon, S Haywood, J Cann & S Kingdom

Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager

**2505/38 Election of Chairman**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Walker as Chairman.

**Election of Vice-Chairman**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Bridgeman as Vice-Chairman.

**2505/39 Apologies**

None

**2505/40 Declarations of Interests**

None.

**2505/41 Public Participation**

None.

**2505/42 Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**2505/43 Climate Emergency – Update**

Cllr Dixon – We have all noticed how little rainfall there has been for the last few weeks, and the following is a summary of the present situation, extracted from the Government website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-national-monthly-reports-for-england-2025/water-situation-april-2025-summary>

“April was another dry month for much of England, with just 51% of long term average (LTA) rainfall being received for the country as a whole. Soil moisture deficits (SMD) continued to increase as would be expected at this time of year, but ongoing dry weather meant soils were drier than expected across most of England at the end of April. Monthly mean river flows decreased at the majority of sites we report on, and two-thirds of sites were classed as below normal or lower for the time of year. Groundwater levels declined at almost all of the sites we report on, although the majority were classed as normal or higher for the time of year. Reservoir stocks decreased at most sites in April, and England as a whole, ended the month with reservoir at storage 84% full.”

Current reservoir levels shown today (22.05.2025) on South West Waters website <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/environment/water-resources>

Colliford 82% (100% this time last year)  
Wimbleball 88% (99% this time last year)

All of this emphasises the need to conserve our water supplies, and small individual savings by all members of the community will in total make a significant contribution towards maintaining continuity of supply.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information. Members also asked if the Administration & Projects Manager could publish a link on Facebook to SWW to advise of water saving ideas and to include a link in the newsletter to SWW website.

2505/44

#### **Bus Shelter Improvements**

The Administration & Projects Manager advised Members that the Parish Council had received an email from Devon County Council, Transport Coordination Service in regard to replacing some of the bus shelters along the 21 route. It was highlighted as a "High Quality" Bus Corridor in preparation for the arrival of the electric buses later this year.

New Inn (SE-Bound)  
Beechfield (SW-Bound)  
Beechfield Road (NE-Bound)  
Yelland Road (E-Bound)  
Allenstyle (E-Bound)  
Welch's Lane (NE-Bound)

The bus shelters would be replaced with living-roof shelters, and some (but not all) would be advertising shelters which help fund the long-term maintenance. They will also look to install real time electronic information in the new shelters where possible. The installation, maintenance and costs of the new shelters would be covered by Fernbank.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree to the replacement of the six bus shelters as listed above.

2505/45

#### **Emergency Planning**

The Administration & Projects Manager advised that there had been a desire at a previous Environment & Committee meeting to set up a working party to review the current Emergency Plan. An email had been sent to all Councillors to see if there was any interest, only one Councillor had responded.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to refer the item to the next Full Council Meeting.

2505/46 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**

### 2505/47 **Muddlebridge Lease**

Members were informed that we had still not been able to sign the lease agreement. The Diocese Solicitor is now saying that they did not agree to amend the lease plan, although the Parish Council have it in writing. The Administration & Projects Manager informed Members that she has contacted the Archdeacon of Barnstaple as she had been helpful with resolving issues involving this particular Solicitors in the past. The Administration & Project Manager received a phone call from the office of the Archdeacon to advise that they had passed the email to the Property Department.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to seek compensation from Savills for the loss of revenue and the costs incurred in maintaining the site.

Meeting ended at 11.24am.

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