



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year started with the Cedars Roundabout improvement which went on longer than anyone would have liked, however, it now enables people to get into and through Barnstaple quicker than before and appears to be working well.



The play area at Ellerslie Road is now open following a significant upgrade using Section 106 funding.

The delay to re-opening was caused by the weather which meant the contractors needed to sort out the ground nearby. The boat play equipment at Fremington Quay had a refurbishment and is a big improvement to the area and the Beechfield Play Area has also seen improvements to play equipment.

The “Fremington” sign at Broady strap has been much improved with volunteers from Perrigo. This is now low maintenance thanks to its new design.

Also volunteers in the parish are carrying out what is called a “60-minute Spruce” organised by the Fremington and District Community Group and supported by the Parish Council in different areas of the parish on the first Saturday of each month, and what an improvement to the area it has made. I would encourage anyone able to volunteer for one hour a month to contact either organisation for more information on how you can take part.

The Parish Council has updated its Grant Aid Policy. Each Councillor will now have an allocation of £150 to support projects for local groups and they can apply through the Councillors, there is also a central fund where community groups can apply for larger grants to support projects (please see page 6 for more information).

We welcomed new Councillors – Dave Harris, Rhys Jones, Matt Thomas, Neil Denton, Jeff Bridgeman and we thank them for giving their time and energy in representing the people of the parish. We also welcome Eman Smlatic who was co-opted following Councillor Jim Bells resignation. We thank Jim Bell for his time on the council and wish him well in the future.

The council decided that it could no longer go on with the Neighbourhood Plan. This was for many reasons. The parish has grown so much over the course of time and surveys done at the early stages became obsolete, however, the findings from the draft Neighbourhood Plan and community consultations will be used to form a business plan for the parish council.

We look forward to the forthcoming year and pursuing further projects and activities to support our community.

Cllr Sue Kingdom
Chairman



FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

It has been a busy year for the Finance and Personnel Committee, the Committee recognised early on in the financial year that the Parish Council's adopted Grant Aid Policy did not support community groups and organisations to its full potential and was not encouraging applications from different groups of those most in need of support. The Parish Council recognises the importance of local voluntary, charitable and community groups and the Committee has worked hard to re-write the Grant Aid Policy to restructure it to support these groups. The Parish now provides two grant options to groups that can demonstrate a need for assistance and where the activities will contribute to, and be of benefit to, the life or community and benefit the people of Fremington Parish.

The aim of the funding is to assist these community and voluntary groups with one-off costs and grants should be used towards project costs rather than running costs (although running costs will be considered if imperative to the group) and can be used as match-funding to attract funding from other external sources.

The two funding streams to which groups can apply, are the Parish Councillor Grant and the Central Fund. Each Parish Councillor will be allocated £150 to fund project led grant applications, subject to the application meeting certain conditions. The remainder of the agreed budget will be placed into a Central Fund which groups can apply to for additional funds or larger grants. Further information and an application form can be found on the Parish Council's website.

The Finance and Personnel Committee has been pleased to support the community as much as possible over the last twelve months and as such also agreed to offer the Executive Officer to administer the Litchardon Solar Community Benefit Fund and at no charge to the group. The Community Benefit Fund will provide another opportunity for local groups, organisations and charities to access grant funding for support.

During the last year we said goodbye to Ian, the Maintenance and Amenities Operative and welcomed Jamie to the position who has continued to grow the role, and the support offered to the community in improving the environment of the Parish. Jamie's focus for the forthcoming year will be continuing to maintain and enhance Parish Council assets, supporting volunteer lead initiatives and maximising

opportunities to increase biodiversity.

I suspect many of you will have heard the word “devolution” recently, the Government is in the process of reorganising local government, whilst proposals are still being considered the Parish Council has been looking at opportunities to request North Devon Council to transfer assets to the Parish Council ahead of devolution.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues at the Parish Council and the staff for their support over the last twelve months and look forward to another challenging year ahead.

Cllr Frank Biederman
Chairman

GRANTS AGREED IN 2024-2025

Bickington Brownies	£100
Citizens Advice, Torrington, North, West & Mid Devon	£100
Elmfield Road Boat Planting Project	£100
Fremington Friendship Club	£100
Fremington Parish Hall Management Committee	£100
1 st Fremington Brownies	£100
1 st Fremington District Rangers	£100
1 st Fremington Guides	£100
1 st Fremington Rainbows	£100
1 st Fremington Scouts (Scout Troup, Beaver Colony, Cup Pack)	£200
Instow, Westleigh, West Yelland Parish News	£100
Lady Linscott Floral Club	£100
Tomlin Hall Management Committee	£100
Record Office	£600
Clarity Lets Talk Fremington	£864.43
Total	£2,864.43

Grants Application

Fremington Parish Council recognises the importance of local voluntary, charitable and community groups and the aim of providing grant funding is to assist these community and voluntary groups with one-off costs, grants should be used towards project costs rather than running costs (although running costs will be considered if imperative to the group) and can be used as match-funding to attract funding from other external sources.

The Parish Council will budget a total figure of £3,000 a year (the figure will be reviewed annually) for grant aid. There will be two funding streams which groups can apply to, the Parish Councillor Grant and the Central Fund. Each Parish Councillor will be allocated £150 to fund project led grant applications. The remainder of the agreed budget will be placed into a Central Fund which groups can apply to for additional funds or larger grants.

Applications to the Parish Councillor Grant Fund will open in March 2025 for the forthcoming financial year, no grant payment will be made before April 2025. Before applying for a Parish Councillor Grant you must speak to a Parish Councillor to gain support for your application, an application cannot be progressed without support. You can ask for support from more than one Parish Councillor, however, an individual Councillor cannot support the same group two years in a row.

Applications to the Central Fund should be submitted to the Parish Council by the 15th January 2026, the Finance and Personnel Committee will consider the allocation of the Central Fund at its January meeting and funds paid in February 2026.

Enclosed in this booklet are the grant applications forms which can also be found on our website together with the Grant Aid Policy - www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Fremington Parish Council

The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, EX31 3DD
Telephone: 01271 321063
E-mail: admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
VAT No: 634 661 730



Councillor Fund Grant Aid Application Form 2025 - 2026

This form must be completed in type or ink, so when it is photocopied
Councillors can read it.

Name of Organisation.....

Secretary's Name.....

Main Address for Correspondence.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone.....Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Have you spoken to a Fremington Parish Councillor about your application **YES/NO**
If the answer is no please speak to a Fremington Parish Councillor prior to submitting your application.

Which Parish Councillor have you spoken to (tick all those which apply)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sam Adams | <input type="checkbox"/> | David Dixon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Carol McCormack-Hole | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Frank Biederman | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dave Harris | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bill Sherborne | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joy Cann | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Haywood | <input type="checkbox"/> | Charlotte Butler | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jeff Bridgeman | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nick Tamlin | <input type="checkbox"/> | Helen Walker | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neil Denton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Kingdom | <input type="checkbox"/> | Eman Smlatic | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Were you successful in applying for a grant from the Councillor fund last year? YES/NO

If so please state which Councillors supported your group

.....

What is the amount of grant funding you are applying for £

What is the project start dateAnticipated end date

Please detail the number of people within your organisation who would benefit from a grant.....

How many of these people live within Fremington Parish?.....

Is your Organisation a Registered Charity? YES/NO

Is your Organisation Affiliated to a National Body? (if so please give name and address below) YES/NO

What are the aims and objectives of the Organisation?.....

Please state how your organisation specifically benefits the people of Fremington Parish.....

What is the project or purpose for which the grant will be used?.....

I declare that the information detailed in this application is true and accurate and that I have not omitted any other information that may be relevant to the application.

Signed..... Name.....

Position Held..... Date.....

PLEASE NOTE:

This form must be returned to admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Fremington Parish Council, Council Offices, The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3DD, no later than the 31st December 2025. Late Applications will not be considered.

Your application must be accompanied by a copy of your most recent published financial accounts.



Fremington Parish Council



The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, EX31 3DD
Telephone: 01271 321063
E-mail: admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
VAT No: 634 661 730

Central Fund Grant Aid Application Form 2025 - 2026

This form must be completed in type or ink, so when it is photocopied
Councillors can read it.

Name of Organisation.....

Secretary's Name.....

Main Address for Correspondence.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone.....Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Where does your Organisation hold its meetings?.....

.....

Please detail the number of people within your organisation who would benefit from a grant.....

How many of these people live within Fremington Parish?.....

Is your Organisation a Registered Charity? YES/NO

Is your Organisation Affiliated to a National Body? (if so please give name and address below) YES/NO

.....

.....

What are the aims and objectives of the Organisation?.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please state how your organisation specifically benefits the people of Fremington Parish.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

Amount of grant requested.....

What is the project or purpose for which the grant will be used?.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

Were you successful in applying for a grant last year? YES/NO

If yes, what was the money spent on?.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

I declare that the information detailed in this application is true and accurate and that I have not omitted any other information that may be relevant to the application.

Signed..... Name.....

Position Held..... Date.....

PLEASE NOTE:

This form must be returned to admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Fremington Parish Council, Council Offices, The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3DD, no later than the 15th January 2026. Late Applications will not be considered.

Your application must be accompanied by a copy of your most recent published financial accounts.

Grant Aid applications for the financial year 2025/2026 will be payable in February 2026.

TEWS LANE COMMITTEE

The Tews Lane Committee have held 5 meetings during the year, and I am pleased to say that I have attended and chaired all of these meetings.

Our focus has been on the completion of the extension of the building at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. The proposals should see the original building doubled in size and provide extra storage, entrance lobby and kitchen.

Many discussions during these meetings have been around resolving the ineffective drainage system and how many actual football matches have been cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch. It was felt that with funding from S106 monies that this should now be rectified after many years of the pitch not always being fit for purpose.

Public Space Protection Order

The committee felt that with the continuation of dog fouling on the pitch this order should be brought into effect. The representative of the youth football teams reported that prior to any match they had to spend time clearing dog poo from the pitch! It was a unanimous decision that this be followed up and actioned. The order to be that NO dogs to be allowed on the pitch. Dogs on leads at all times on the surrounding field area.

The Tews Lane Committee have also discussed the possibility of replacements to some pieces of play equipment. This will come at a cost but we feel that now is the time to look at affordable replacements.

I believe that the Tews Lane Committee are enthusiastic about maintaining and enhancing this very important community open space and are committed to continuing with all projects mentioned.

Cllr Joy Cann
Chairman

N.B. More information and minutes of meetings along with financial details can be found on the Fremington Parish Council Website

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We have had a good start with this new committee. Some of the things we have looked at are, how to make the council work in a more environmentally friendly way, as well as improvements to our community buildings.

Councillor Dixon has started a 12 month audit of energy usage over all the council buildings. We have explored medium term plans of reducing these bills, but they will need financing, probably through S106 money and grants. The current plan is to look at the changing rooms at Tews Lane to see if we can install Solar PV and replace the boiler with one that doesn't require a tank. As technology allows we will be looking at the Beechfield Centre.

We have been pleased to see the 1st Fremington scout group settle into their new HQ.

Helen Walker
Chairman

This Annual Report is available on the Council's website at www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and in a large print version.

If you would like a large print copy please contact the Parish Council Offices on 01271 321063, or email admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Routine maintenance works and checks have been carried out as needed. A review of the current play equipment within each park is being undertaken and life expectancies of equipment is being looked into more closely to better manage financial resources. In an effort to afford time to address the needs of aging pieces of equipment and meet refurbished or replacement needs. Before anymore expansion or expenditure occurs elsewhere.

That being said. All of the parks and spaces the council looks after or has oversight of are generally well used. Some more so than others, with improvements made to enhance them in this financial year.

Lagoon view, is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has been since September 2016 however was amongst one of the first spaces within the parish to be classified as an asset of community value. Land at Littlemoor Green and Allenstyle Green have now been listed as Assets of Community Value also.

Cllr Sam Adams
Chairman

PLANNING COMMITTEE

I took over the chair of this committee in January following the resignation from the Council of the previous incumbent. The Planning Committee continues to support the Full Council by reviewing the smaller, less controversial planning applications, with any schemes that are in conflict with the Parish Council's strategic position, that there should be no further large developments in the area, being referred to the full Council for consideration.

An updated Press Release has been issued to support the position taken by the Parish Council, which seeks Government support to address the lack of affordable housing without either extensive improvements to local infrastructure or dedicated centrally funded housing schemes to meet local demand. A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government outlining the issues faced in Fremington and the wider North Devon.

The Government's increased building targets have put pressure on the North Devon Five Year Land Supply Plan, but options to provide an updated five year plan are underway, which it is hoped will continue to support the Parish Council's position.

Two green power infrastructure projects (White Cross Offshore Wind Farm and the X Links Morocco UK Power) have also been considered and passed to the full Council for wider discussion of all Councillors.

Cllr Jeff Bridgeman
Chairman



Do you want to keep up to date with news from Fremington Parish Council, then like us on Facebook.

**Fremington Parish Council
Income & Expenditure Account (Unaudited)
1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025**

(Current) Year Ended
31st. March 2025

Income

Administration	3,126.75
Parks & Open Spaces	547.00
Precept	304,888.00
Fremington Quay	21,030.26
Dog Bins	41.00
Cemetery	14,716.00
Grants	
Allotments—Babbages	529.30
Allotments—Muddlebridge	142.85
The Beechfield Centre	11,723.21
Salaries & Inland Revenue	
Parish Paths	466.30
Grass Cutting (Parks & Playing Fields)	3,498.00
Tews Lane	3,207.60
Facilities at Riverside Park	900.00
Section 106 Funding	22.00
Insurance	6,480.92
Earmarked Reserves	250.00
	<u>£371,569.19</u>

Expenditure

Grants	3,064.43
Administration	29,291.34
Parks & Open Spaces	12,534.77
Salaries & Inland Revenue	176,366.98
Insurance	10,621.58
Loans	16,708.42
Parish Paths	376.30
Fremington Quay	12,922.47
Dog Bins	7,405.42
Cemetery	7,246.02
Earmarked Reserved	34,872.89
Allotments—Babbages	26.08
Facilities at Riverside Park	1,557.51
Allotments—Muddlebridge	477.00
The Beechfield Centre	16,113.66
Section 106 Funding	
Grass Cutting (Parks and Playing Fields)	17,216.70
Tews Lane	15,359.96
Parish Enhancements	2,252.83
Environment /Climate Emergency	1,745.70
	<u>£366,160.06</u>

Parish Councillors

Fremington/Bickington Ward

Cllr Susan Kingdom 01271 326914
s.kingdom@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Joy Cann 01271 345813
j.cann@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Charlotte Butler 07446879242
c.butler@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr David Dixon 01271 377532
d.dixon@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Carol McCormack-Hole 01271 343176
c.mccormackhole@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Roundswell/Woodville Ward
Jeff Bridgeman 07971648263
j.bridgeman@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fremington/Anchorwood Ward
Cllr Bill Sherborne 01271 344816
b.sherborne@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fremington/Yelland Ward
Cllr Samuel Adams 07930280489
s.adams@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Frank Biederman 07595988704
f.biederman@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Neil Denton 07739807614
n.denton@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Dave Harris 07866110810
d.harris@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Sue Haywood 07980549592
s.haywood@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Eman Smlatic 07467300035
e.smaltic@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Helen Walker 07480702987
h.walker@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fremington/Maple Ward
Cllr Nick Tamlin
n.tamlin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Officers

Mrs Victoria Woodhouse
Executive Officer

Mrs Jude Wood, Administration & Projects Manager
Mrs Liz Steer, Administration Officer
Mrs Maddy Goodyear, Assistant Administration
Mr Jamie Proctor, Maintenance & Amenities Operative

Fremington Parish Council
The Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road
Fremington, Barnstaple,
EX31 3DD

Phone: 01271 321063 / E-mail: admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk