

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 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

2506/35 **Apologies**  
Cllr Tamlin.

2506/36 **Declarations of Interests**  
None.

2506/37 **Public Participation**  
None.

2506/38 **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2506/39 **Climate Emergency – Update**  
Cllr Dixon advised that the UK is on track to meet net zero by 2050. He provided an extract from “Future Earth” published by the BBC News on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June stating that the earth could be set to breach the symbolic 1.5C warming limit in as little as three years at current level of carbon dioxide emissions, this warning is from leading Scientists.

Cllr Dixon’s report provided the following information:

- The 1.5-degree Celsius threshold, established in the Paris Agreement, aims to limit temperature rise above pre-industrial levels.
- Surpassing this limit would lead to irreversible changes to the Earth’s climate system.
- Key consequences include effects on ecosystem, human societies and the global economy.

Environmental Consequences:

- Accelerate loss of biodiversity: Over 90% of coral reefs could be lost; countless species face extinction.
- Melting Ice and Rising Seas: Polar ice caps and glaciers will melt, causing sea level rise and displacing millions.
- Extreme Weather Events: Increase in frequency and intensity of hurricanes, floods, droughts and heatwaves.

Human Health and Survival:

- Food and Water Insecurity: Reduced crop yields and fisheries, water scarcity due to erratic rainfall and shrinking glaciers.

- Heat-Related Illnesses: More frequent heatwaves, increased risk of heatstroke and dehydration, especially for vulnerable populations.
- Spread of Diseases: Expanded range of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

Economic and Social Impacts:

- Displacement and Migration: Millions displaced by rising sea levels and extreme weather. Leading to more climate refugees.
- Economic Losses: Damage to infrastructure, reduced agricultural productivity and increased healthcare costs.
- Geopolitical Tensions: Competition for dwindling resources could exacerbate conflicts.

The Path Forward:

- Immediate action to limit warming through renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable practices.
- International cooperation and robust policies are key to mitigating climate change.

Conclusion:

- Exceeding the 1.5-degree threshold would cause devastating impacts on ecosystems, human societies and economies.
- Collective action is urgent to avoid catastrophic outcomes and secure a sustainable future.

Members discussed what could be done to help alleviate the situation Cllr Walker advised that North Devon Council will be taking tetra packs and soft plastics with kerbside collections within the next 6 months. Members discussed fly-tipping and that residents may not be aware that putting out additional waste with their black bin, by not recycling, could be considered fly-tipping and potentially receive a fine of £1,000.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information contained within Cllr Dixon's report. Members agreed to ask the Office to provide information in the newsletter promoting the recycling services and the recycling box nets that can be obtained from North Devon Council and to ask the Office to provide a definition of fly tipping within the newsletter. The Administration & Projects Manager will also, write to the MP lobbying for him to push recycling and address the climate crises.

2506/40

**North Devon Council Consultation**

The Administration & Projects Manager advised Members that the Parish Council had received an email from North Devon Council seeking the views of stakeholders and residents on the draft Air Quality Strategy. The Air Quality Strategy has considered six themes, where the Council can have influence.

- Domestic Burning
- Industrial Emissions
- Transport

- Agriculture
- Indoor Air Quality
- Communicating Air Quality Information

The consultation starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and finishes on the 21<sup>st</sup> July. The results will be published on North Devon Council's Website and be presented to the Policy Development Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and to the Strategy and Resources Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> October for 2025 adoption. Paper copies are available from North Devon Council.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree for the Administration & Projects Manager to publicise the Consultation providing a link to the video of Cllr Knight on Facebook and information placed on the weekly list.

2506/41

### **Emergency Planning**

The Administration & Projects Manager advised the formation of a Working Party had been discussed at the Full Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> June with Cllr Tamlin, Dixon, Kingdom agreeing to be part of the Working Party with the support of NDC Members. Cllr Haywood agreed to be part of the Working Party.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to agree to the formation of the Working Party and for the Administration & Projects Manager to email out to arrange a first meeting.

2506/42

### **Pop-Event**

Members were advised by Cllr Walker that Cllr Biederman was aware of at least one resident within the community who had been defrauded and lost a substantial amount of money. There has been an increase in rogue traders. Cllr Biederman asked if the Parish Council could arrange a pop-up event to bring awareness to the residents. Members discussed holding several events to try and cover the whole Parish. Areas discussed were Coop in Fremington, Bickington Stores, Sainsbury's in Roundswell and Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. Cllr Walker also suggested Lagoon View Community Orchard.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to arrange the events towards the end of September possibly evenings & weekends, to take place at The Beechfield Centre, Bickington Stores, Sainsbury's/Tews Lane and one at Lagoon View Community Orchard. Cllr Walker will talk to North Devon Council to see if they are agreeable to allowing some leaflets in the new hub in Green Lanes and she will contact the banks to see if have any information that they can provide. The Administration & Projects Manager to look at purchasing a gazebo with 'Fremington Parish Council' on the front. Cllr Walker & Cann will contact owner of Bickington Stores. The Administration & Projects Manager will look at obtaining leaflets/advisory material to hand out and create an Action Plan moving forward.

- 2506/43 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

2506/44 **Muddlebridge Lease**

Members were informed that the Diocese will not agree to removing the parcel of land adjacent the allotments and that the Executive Officer and Administration & Projects Manager to move forward with the signing of the Lease. Members also discussed invoicing the Diocese for works to the hedge, it was not under lease and although the Parish Council cut the hedge it should have been the responsibility of the Diocese.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to agree to the to instruct the Parish Councils Solicitor to move forward with the lease and to seek compensation from Savills for the costs incurred in maintaining the site.

2506/45 **1<sup>st</sup> Fremington Scout Group**

Members received a request from the Scouts to sublet areas of the storage building in line with their Licence.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the Scouts request.

Meeting ended at 11.52am.

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