

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 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, N Tamlin & S Kingdom

Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager

2507/15 **Apologies**  
Cllr Dixon.

2507/16 **Declarations of Interests**  
None.

2507/17 **Public Participation**  
None.

2507/18 **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2507/19 **Climate Emergency – Update**  
Cllr Cann spoke about the Full Council meeting at North Devon Council. Two speakers from the public who attended the meeting spoke about Geo Engineering and Weather Modification, they were disputing that Climate Change was an issue and that the main issues were caused by Geo Engineering. They stated that the use of Geo Engineering reduces seed germination and slow growth and involves cloud seeding. Members who attended the North Devon Council meeting thanked the members of public for attending and providing this information but Members of North Devon Council would not support their theories.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the items discussed at North Devon's Full Council Meeting.

2507/20 **Beechfield Centre – Changing Rooms**  
The Administration & Projects Manager informed Members that the Beechfield Changing rooms are continuously being left in a mess with rubbish, equipment and personal items being left behind and toilets/sinks left in an unhygienic way, they are not being cleaned to an acceptable standard. Members were advised that this had been an ongoing issue for many years. The office has tried to resolve the situation and issues with the hirer, it was noted that when approached the condition of the changing rooms would be addressed temporarily but in time would return to the same unacceptable condition.

Members asked who was using the changing rooms on a regular basis and they were advised that, although it is Licenced for use by Fremington Football Club, it is primarily used by the men's teams. Cllr Bridgeman advised most clubs will remove any leftover items given 24 hours for collection. Cllr Kingdom suggested adding a deposit for cleaning. Cllr

Tamlin asked what items were being left in the changing rooms, the Administration Manager advised that it was kit, rubbish, personal items and that the WC's & showers were not being left clean. Cllr Walker was concerned that these issues were a Health & Safety concern and items left in the changing rooms also pose a fire risk. Members discussed the condition of the changing rooms and other associated issues at length; it was felt that the current situation was unacceptable and could not be allowed to continue, it was unfair on staff and a strain on resources to continually dispute the same issues. It was noted that the changing rooms are licenced and should be available for other groups to hire and other groups using the Parish Council facilities should not be disadvantaged by groups using the provision outside of their licenced sessions.

After much discussion it was unanimously **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Administration & Projects Manager will write to Fremington Football Club on behalf of the Parish Council. The letter will advise the Club of the following:

- They have **seven (7) days to thoroughly clean the changing rooms** and bring them up to an **acceptable standard**.
- Failure to do so will result in the **suspension of the Club's Licence**.
- During **football season**, any items left in the changing rooms will be **removed**, and if not collected within **24 hours**, they will be **disposed of**.
- Outside of football season, this process will occur **once every three weeks**.
- It will be made clear that the current level of neglect **constitutes a breach** of the **licensed agreement**, which is a **legally binding document**.

The Club will be reminded that:

- They are **not permitted to use the field** outside of their **agreed and licensed hours**.
- The **field and changing rooms are available for hire** by members of the public.

The letter will also confirm that:

- The Club **no longer has access to the water tap**. They were previously advised that **if the tap was left unlocked**, it would be turned off. This has occurred **multiple times in recent months**, resulting in the tap now being turned off.
- The Football Club will be invited to attend the next Committee meeting to find a workable solution.

2507/21 **Local Government Reorganisation Engagement – Survey**  
Members were informed that the engagement survey is now open on the Government's proposal to reorganise Local Government. It was felt by some Members that the survey was too verbose. Cllr Walker encouraged Members to fill in the survey and spoke about the 1-4-5 model and advised that Parish Council would have to support this to ensure that the area is not disadvantaged.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to agree to encourage Members to fill in the questionnaire and for the Administration & Projects Manager to fill out the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

2507/22 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

2507/23 **Muddlebridge Lease**  
Members were informed that the Parish Council had instructed their Solicitor to move forward with finalising the Lease for signing.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to note the Administration & Projects Manager's comments.

Members were informed that the solicitor had advised that costs for ongoing maintenance could not be reclaimed from the landlord the tenant and landlord are still bound by the terms of the original lease until steps are taken to end the tenancy/renew the lease.

Members also **resolved** to attempt to seek costs from the Diocese for loss of rent from the allotments.

Cllr Walker asked that Muddlebridge Allotments and Tarka Ridge Allotments are placed on the agenda for next the meeting.

Meeting ended at 11.52am.

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