

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 16th June 2025 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, F Biederman, J Bridgeman, J Cann, D Dixon, S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole, N Tamlin and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Mrs J Wood, Administration and Projects Manager

2 x Representatives from the Police.

2506/09 **Apologies**

Cllrs C Butler, N Denton, E Smlatic and S Sherborne. It was agreed to accept Cllr Denton's apologies for the foreseeable future.

2506/10 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2506/11 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman informed members that Richard Tossell, who had been heavily involved in the community of Fremington, had recently passed away.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Walker on the opening of NDC's hub in Green Lanes and extended an invitation from the Record Office to two members of the Parish Council. Cllr Bridgeman confirmed he would like to attend.

2506/12 **Public Participation Period**

PC Lloyd reported that it had been a busy period up to Easter which is now back on a downward trend, however, they expect crime to rise again in the summer similar to previous years. Roundswell/Bickington has seen multiple offences linked to a certain address and there have been three arsons in Roundswell.

Members asked if patrols could be carried out at Fremington Quay and Tews Lane playing field if possible, especially when the weather is nice and to see a presence in school holidays.

It was noted that there had been an increase in crime rates, however the seriousness of the crimes had decreased. PC Lloyd asked that if there are any community events to please let them know and they would be happy to attend if available. It was agreed to send the details of the Community Groups 60-minute spruce events.

Cllr Biederman asked if there is anything the Parish Council could do to raise awareness of fraud within the community especially to older people and is there promotional material that the Police could provide to the Parish Council. It was noted there is promotional material which can be passed to the Parish Council, there is also an issue with rogue traders at the moment,



and the Police is working with Trading Standards. Members of the public can also join the Devon and Cornwall Alert system.

Members thanked the Police for attending and were grateful for their time.

Cllr Biederman left the meeting.

2506/13

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 as a correct record.

2506/14

Committees

To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:

- Environment and Community Committee Meeting held on 24th April 2025
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Environment and Community Committee Meeting held on 24th April 2025.
- Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2025
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2025.
- Environment and Community Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2025
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the minutes of the minutes of the Environment and Community Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2025.
- Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting 7th April 2025
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 7th April 2025.

2506/15

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker reported that she had opened the NDC hub in Green Lane.

Cllr Biederman returned to the meeting.

The service replaces the front of house that was in Lynton House it will be the 1st point of contact; there will also be a Police presence in the Hub along with other agencies. NDC is discussing the future of Lynton House, however, 80% of staff that worked at Lynton House are still based there. Cllr Walker reported that she had, had the pleasure of attending the recent Police awards. The missing bridge at Brookside is still under investigation and the Community Governance Review consultation will soon be open, Cllr Walker urged everyone to respond to the consultation as Barnstaple Town



Council is trying to obtain large areas from other parishes which would significantly increase residents Council Tax, publicity of the consultation in Bickington and Roundswell will be important. The PSPO at Tews Lane has had a 50/50 response, most of the feedback has been positive and the conflict between sports pitches and dog fouling is being acknowledged.

Cllr Cann thanked the Community Group for the recent 60-minute spruce in Bickington.

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward and Devon County Council
Cllr Biederman expressed disappointment at the decision on the Chilpark development due to the lack of 5-year housing land supply. Cllr Biederman reported that DCC had held its AGM and the administration is now in place, 80% of DCC are new Cllrs and there is a lot of energy and enthusiasm which is positive, however, there is still the same financial burden on the authority.

2506/16 **Annual Governance Statement 2024/25**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the Annual Governance Statement detailed in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25.

2406/17 **Accounting Statements 2024/2025**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to agree the Accounting Statements contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025 along with the Internal Auditor's Report 2025.

2406/18 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025**

It was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the Annual Governance Accountability Return for 2024/2025.

2406/19 **Emergency Plan**

Members were informed that the Environment and Community Group had requested that a Working Party is formed to review the Emergency Plan. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to form a Working Party with Cllrs Dixon, Tamlin and Kingdom and for NDC members to support the Working Party.

2506/20 **Councillors Questions**

Cllr Cann asked for an update on the uptake of Parish Council grants following the reform. It was noted that no applications had been received. Members felt that they needed to be proactive in making groups aware and it was also agreed for the office to contact previous grant recipients again.

Cllr McCormack-Hole asked how people will respond to the Community Governance Review. It was likely to be online, but the PC could help those that cannot respond online.

Cllr Tamlin asked for clarification on the future use of the tablets, it was felt that the current tablets are not fit for purpose. It was noted that the Finance and Personnel would be reviewing the provision.



Cllr Biederman asked if the Parish Council could organise community pop up awareness events focusing on fraud and scamming, it had been noted that the biggest risk to the public is in their own home and fraud, and scamming is high risk. It was agreed to place on the next Environment and Community Agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed Biederman

Dated 1.9.25