

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

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

Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager

2509/41 **Apologies**
Cllr H Walker (Chairman)

2509/42 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2509/43 **Public Participation**
None.

2509/44 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th July 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2509/45 **Climate Emergency – Update**
Cllr Dixon reported that at the beginning of 2020 scientists estimated that humanity could only emit 500 billion more tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) – the most important planet warming gas – for a 50% chance of global warming to 1.5C. But by the start of 2025 this so-called “carbon budget” shrunk to 130 billion tonnes according to the new study (Priestly Centre for Climate Futures, University of Leeds). That reduction is largely due to continued record emissions of CO₂ and other planet-warming greenhouse gases like methane, but also improvements in the scientific estimates.

If global CO₂ emissions stay at their current high of about 40 billion tonnes a year, 130 billion tonnes gives the world roughly three years until that carbon budget is exhausted. This could commit the world to breaching the target set by the Paris agreement* ([Agreement](#)) the researchers say, though the planet would probably not pass 1.5C of human-caused warming until a few years later.

*The Paris Agreement specifies in Article 4.1 that developed countries will have a proportionally higher reduction in emissions as it states “peaking (in greenhouse gas emissions) will take longer for countries”, and states repeatedly that decisions will be taken according to “the principle of equity”. This principle of equity is usually taken to mean that the residual global carbon budget will be divided between nations as an equal share per person.

So, if a country has CO₂ emissions per person that are double the world average, it has to cut emissions twice as quickly as the average. If it cuts emissions only as fast as the average, it will take double its fair share of the carbon budget.

The UK have CO2 emissions of about 9 tonnes per person per year (which is double the work average of 4.5). The UK's per capita fair share of the carbon budget of 50 tonnes per person run out in about 6 years from the start of 2020, i.e. during 2025.

Most people are either unaware of or in denial about the severity and urgency of the climate emergency.

Cllr Cann advised that a member of public attending North Devon Councils Full Council meeting on the 24th September, again speaking about geoengineering of North Devon skies.

Members discussed Cllr Dixons report and how to mitigate the effects of global warming.

Cllr Bridgeman advised that at the Finance & Personnel Committee it was agreed that any amended or new Parish Council Policy will include a statement in respect of climate change.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note Cllr Dixon's report and the information therein.

2509/46

Pop Up Fraud Event

At the Environment & Community Meeting on the 26th June 2025 members resolved to arrange an event in several areas in order to help advise the community what to be aware of when being contacted by fraudulent companies and scammers.

The Administration & Projects Manager asked if this was something that the Committee would still like to pursue.

Cllr Cann asked if the event was going to be a Full Council event, she felt it should be supported by all of the Councillors, even if only providing a small contribution.

It was **resolved**, for the Environment & Community Committee to respond to the Administration & Projects Manager with any ideas and for the Committee to outline a plan and to take the proposal to Full Council. For the Administration & Projects Manager to contact the Police to see if they are able to provide leaflets and perhaps see if someone from the Fraud department would be able to attend the event and support the Council.

2509/47

Lithium-ion Batteries Campaign

Members received an update regarding the Government's Product Safety & Metrology (PRAM) Act had now been passed – the UK's [Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025](#) now requires the Secretary of State to introduce secondary legislation for lithium-ion batteries, covering safety, performance, labelling, and end-of-life requirements, including responsibilities for online marketplaces to ensure compliance.

North Devon Council do not collect batteries anymore, but they can be recycled at some supermarkets. Cllr Dixon asked about those that do not go to supermarkets – what do they do with their batteries.

Cllr Cann is on the Waste & Recycling Working Party at North Devon Council and has said she will ask if there is any way they can be collected separately by North Devon Council.

Cllrs also discussed other forms of waste and recycling collections and concerns raised from members of the public about the cost of food bags to go in the food caddy.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to advise members of the public of the new law for lithium-ion batteries with a post on Facebook, including a post about food waste caddies. Cllr Cann will ask what provision NDC are making for those that are unable to visit a supermarket.

2509/48

Places to go, Things to Do – New Grant for Young People

Members were made aware of new grant funding for young people – the grant is aimed at supporting and kick-starting activities, projects and schemes that will help enrich lives of Devon's young people.

Cllr Dixon asked if the funding could be used on play equipment.

Cllr Haywood spoke about a day that she has started called Dale's Day which is a special needs day at the fair, it has been going for 24 years, and Rotary would normally pay for the food, the showmen pay for the rides, toys and candy floss and they give a 50% discount on the food. Sadly, Rotary are struggling for funds, and she wondered if perhaps this funding could be used for this event.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to note information on the funding, to place the information on the newsletter and for the Administration & Projects Manager to look at the criteria for funding to see if there is anything that the Parish Council can use it for to support the young people.

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
2509/49

Beechfield Changing Rooms

Members were made aware that the Licence that had been issued to the Fremington Football Club was not being complied with fully. The Chairman of the Football Club was written to formally to which a response was received. The Chairman of the Football Club was invited to the meeting to resolve the issues.

Cllr Bridgeman invited the Chairman of the Football Club to speak.

The Chairman explained that, since the appointment of a cleaner two years ago, he had not been made aware of any concerns regarding the cleanliness of the changing rooms. He advised that the men's team make intensive use of Beechfield during pre-season in July, with training and matches held twice weekly. During the football season, the facility is used on Saturdays and cleaned on Sundays. The Chairman acknowledged that the changing rooms are not always cleaned between weekday sessions (e.g. Tuesday and Thursday use) and noted that the club is unable to employ a cleaner after every use due to financial constraints.

The Chairman also queried the situation regarding the water tap, which had been sealed. The Administration & Projects Manager advised that the tap had been shut off because it had been left running, allowing open access to water by both the club and the public.

The Administration & Projects Manager reminded members that cleanliness of the changing rooms had been a long-standing matter, raised repeatedly with the club prior to the current Chairman's tenure. A folder of correspondence dating back to 2020, together with photographic evidence, had been provided to the Chairman of the Committee to demonstrate the history of the issue.

Members discussed the matter, emphasising that as the football club does not have sole use of the facilities, the changing rooms must be left clean and clear for all users, as required under the terms of the Licence.

Cllr Cann noted that responsibility for ensuring rooms are cleared should lie with whoever is overseeing the training session or match.

Cllr Kingdom added that, in line with practice at Fremington Parish Hall, where hirers are fined for leaving the premises in poor condition, the Parish Council may need to consider a similar approach for Beechfield.

The Chairman of the Football Club confirmed that, following the recent correspondence from the Parish Council, the club had arranged for the cleaner to attend during pre-season and throughout July, in order to minimise the risk of future problems.

Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the cleanliness of the changing rooms be a standing item on the agenda, and that any concerns from either the Football Club or the Parish Council should be submitted by email for inclusion and discussion.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Administration & Projects Manager to inspect the changing rooms on a weekly basis, taking photos of any items left behind and any concerns should be sent to the Chairman of the Football Club copying in the Committee, making them aware of any issues raised. It was also agreed that the water tap

would be turned back on, but should it be left open, even just once, it will be switched off again and removed.

2509/50 **Muddlebridge Lease**

Members were informed that the Parish Council had received a copy of the draft lease with further amendments and that after discussion with the Executive Officer and the Representative of the allotments the amendments were felt to be of no concern. The Administration and Projects Manager had advised the Parish Council's Solicitor.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to note the Administration and Projects Managers Comments and to execute and seal the legal deed in accordance with Standing Order 16 as had been previously agreed by the Committee.

2509/51 **Tarka Ridge Allotments**

The Administration & Projects Manager had escalated the transfer of the allotments and the lack thereof to a complaint with Barrat David Wilson Homes and contacted the Planning Officer at North Devon Council who in turn had passed the information over to the Enforcement team for breach of Section 106, the MP, Ian Roome had also been contacted and he had written to the developer to try and resolve the situation

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to note the Administration and Projects Managers Comments.

Meeting ended at 12.15pm.

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