

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 6th October 2025 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), F Biederman, J Bridgeman, J Cann, D Dixon, S Haywood, D Harris, C McCormack-Hole, E Smlatic (from 2510/02.), N Tamlin and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
1 Member of the public

2510/01

Apologies

Cllrs N Denton, B Sherborne and S Adams.

2510/02

Declarations of Interest

None.

Cllr Smlatic entered the meeting at 7.02pm.

2510/03

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed members that along with the Vice-Chairman she had attended the meet your army exhibition which was interesting.

Five Cllrs had attended the Barnstaple Town Council Meeting and expressed their disdain for the proposals the Town Council had put forward for the boundary review; it was noted that there would be a further consultation of any proposals going forward on the 18th November.

Cllrs Cann and Walker confirmed that they would be at the meeting on the 18th November as District Cllrs, it would be open to the public but there would not be any public participation. Cllr Kingdom confirmed that she was going on holiday on that day.

Members discussed the proposed meeting with Barnstaple Town Council on the 17th October 2025 and agreed that Cllrs Cann, Walker and Biederman would attend, and Cllr McCormack-Hole would attend if available.

2510/04

Public Participation Period

A member of the public who is a resident of Fremington Parish raised concerns about the boundary review consultation process which they felt was a "complete shambles" and "disgraceful". A neighbour had informed them on the 26th September of the consultation; they then collected a form on the 29th with a deadline for submissions of 30th September 2025. The member of the public highlighted that most members of the public were not aware of the consultation, there was no leaflet drop and they felt it was "corrupt and brushed under the carpet" members of the public did not want the boundaries to change.

Members of the Parish Council reassured the member of the public that the Parish Council was as horrified by the proposals that had been put forward by Barnstaple Town Council as the public. The Boundary Commission had

instructed North Devon Council to undertake a community governance review, and all town and parish councils were invited to submit proposals. Ultimately it is the North Devon Council that is the decision maker, and the Parish Council will make strong representations against the proposals.

The member of the public highlighted that the entire consultation was online, including social media and not everyone is online.

Members confirmed that they had produced a leaflet and parish Cllrs had delivered well over 1,000 of these leaflets. NDC had not done anything to advertise the consultation and once this was realised members did as much as they could with the man power available. The results of the current consultation will go back to NDC for consideration and there will be a further consultation on any firm proposals being taken forward.

It was noted that a lot of residents are upset about the proposals put forward by BTC and the lack of publicity of the consultation. Members confirmed that they were aware that the process was being undertaken but not aware of the proposals put forward by Barnstaple Town Council.

Cllr Walker confirmed that she sits on the Governance Committee at NDC and her property would be affected if the proposal went ahead. Cllr Walker further confirmed that she had requested an extension to the deadline for the consultation from NDC, however, the online consultation could not be extended any further, paper submissions could be included. NDC had confirmed that the normal response rate to an NDC consultation is around 20 responses, and they have received over 500 responses. The next meeting of the NDC Governance Committee will be on 18th November, following the meeting there will be another full consultation on proposals being taken forward and those effected will be written to by NDC. Members felt it was out of order to call Town and Parish Council's corrupt when they are volunteers trying to do their best for the community which they represent, and members felt they had been proactive in trying to get the information out in the public domain.

The member of the public left the meeting.

2510/05

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025 as a correct record.

2510/06

Committees

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

- Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Parks & Open Space Committee Meeting held on 16th June 2025.

- Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Parks & Open Space Committee Meeting held on 1st September 2025.

- Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2025.

- Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025

It was noted that the minutes were not yet available online and agreed to defer to the next meeting.

- Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025

It was noted that the minutes were not yet available online and agreed to defer to the next meeting.

2510/07

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Biederman - Fremington Ward and Devon County Council

Cllr Biederman reported that the Bickington Road should re-open at 10pm tonight and thanked the contractors for the way in which they had worked to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible.

The road to Fremington Quay had been closed to complete fibre works, it was originally scheduled for the summer, however it had been delayed.

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker thanked Cllr Biederman for all his work on the road closures and had received a brilliant service from DCC when seeking clarification on road closures, Cllr Walker and Cann are planning to request a defibrillator for the outside of the new Tesco store. Strategy and Resources has agreed to another twelve months of street marshals which are 7 hours a day 7 days a week, the times can be variable and can be moved if there are hot spots.

2510/08

Co-option

It was noted that no applications had been received, members were disappointed with the lack of interest and agreed to re-advertise.

2510/09 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024 - 2025**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024-2025 and External Auditor's Report.

2510/10 **Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation**
Members were informed that the Finance & Personnel Committee had reviewed the Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation as agreed at the last Full Council Meeting and with the aim of reducing the number of Committees and providing a larger remit for the remaining Committees. A copy of the amended draft Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation was circulated ahead of the meeting which provided a Committee responsible for Assets and Facilities, an Environment and Community Committee alongside the Planning and Finance & Personnel Committees.

Members agreed the Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation, and it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to implement the new structure from 1st January 2026.

2510/11 **Councillors Questions**
Cllr Walker confirmed that there was an article in the paper with reference to the transfer of Ellerslie Playing Field to the Parish Council, it is a statutory notice with legal wording.

Cllr McCormack-Hole asked what the reorganisation of local councils really means. Members confirmed that the Government is looking to reorganise local government.

Cllr Cann asked if staff at DCC were being informed that the change in Local Government is cut and dry and I will be a unitary authority. Cllr Biederman confirmed it will be a unitary authority, but the configuration is still unknown.

Cllr Bridgeman asked if an item could be placed on the next agenda in relation to the community governance and boundary review to formulate a strategy.

Cllr Biederman asked if the Executive Officer could write to the North Devon Council to ask that everyone in the parish receives notification of any proposals being taken forward that effect Fremington Parish, it was noted that all parishioners would be affected not just those living within a possible boundary change. Members agreed this should be expressed to NDC.

Cllr Smlatic asked if anyone was aware of what had happened at the Morrisons in Sticklepath. Members were not aware.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Signed Dated