

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th October 2025 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs H Walker (Chairman), D Dixon, J Cann, N Tamlin & S Kingdom
Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager

2510/19 **Apologies**

Cllr J Bridgeman (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr S Haywood.

2510/20 **Declarations of Interests**

None.

2510/21 **Public Participation**

None.

2510/22 **Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th September 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2510/23 **Climate Emergency – Update**

Cllr Dixon provided two extracts on the Climate Emergency.

Global Situation - The intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasis that deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are essential in all sectors, beginning now and continuing throughout this decade. To limit global warming to 1.5% above pre-industrial levels, emissions must already be decreasing and need to be cut by almost half by 2030.

Urgent and transformative action is crucial, going beyond mere plans and promises. It requires raising ambition, covering entire economies and moving towards climate-resilient development, while outlining a clear path to achieve net-zero emissions. Time is running out, and immediate measures are necessary to avoid catastrophic consequences and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

UK Situation – We assess that 61% of the required reduction in emissions to hit the 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution is covered by either credible plans or has some associated risks, mostly in the electricity supply and surface transport sectors. For the remaining 39%, there are either significant risks or insufficient of unqualified plans. The biggest risks are around ensuring the required scale-up in a roll-out of heat pumps and the support for industrial electrification. These issues need to be addressed urgently in the Governments forthcoming Warm Homes Plan and Industrial Strategy, both due this year.

Cllr Tamlin commented on how complicated it all seems and that the statistics and requirements are not that easy for everyone to understand. In his business there are many forms to complete and they are not always clear.

Cllr Walker commented on the expense of installing solar panels and heat pumps, not everyone can afford to install such things. Even with funding that is available it is still a costly installation.

Cllr Cann commented that the new developments are not even required to automatically build with energy savings products. She felt it should be a government initiative.

Cllr Kingdom felt areas should be providing water harvesting facilities on new developments.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note Cllr Dixon's report and the information therein. For the Administration & Projects Manager to write to the MP to ask that he lobby the government to include legislation for developers to make sure that there is some sort of energy saving device on new builds and to ask if the Government can extend the Eco 4 Scheme.

2510/24

Pop Up Fraud Event

The Administration & Projects Manager advised the committee that the gazebo for the events has arrived and is currently in storage. Cllr Dixon had spoken to Sainsbury's and they have asked for a written request with all the details - dates, purpose, numbers of people and structures involved.

The Administration & Projects Manager is still trying to contact the Police to see if they can provide any assistance. Cllr Walker suggested it might be worth contacting Natwest with regards to their involvement in the Take Five Campaign.

Cllr Kingdom said the committee needed to set a date, Cllr Walker suggested that we hold an event in March next year when hopefully the weather will have improved.

Cllr Cann felt that Full Council should be involved in this event to ensure participation from all Cllrs.

Cllr Walker suggested 15th February 2026 for Sainsbury, 28th March 2026 for Co-op and 25th April 2026 for Bickington Stores (Spar) or Tesco.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Environment & Community Committee to take these dates to Full Council to seek support from all members. For the Administration & Projects Manager to continue to seek literature & support from outside organisations for the events.

2510/25

Beechfield

Members considered the hire charges for the Beechfield Centre; it was noted that the charges had not been increased since November 2023. After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to implement the new charges from 1st April 2026.

Regular User – £12.50 per hour (remaining the same)
Commercial - £25 per hour
Parties - £20 per hour

2510/26

Draft Budget

Members considered draft budgets for 2026/2027. Members noted that the initial draft budgets had been prepared on an inflationary rise which would result in an annual increase of £1.36 based on a Band D property and last year's tax base. Members of the Finance & Personnel Committee had agreed that the Parish Council should be looking to increase all hires and rents on the same inflationary rise. Cllr Walker advised that the Finance & Personnel Committee discussed the grant allocation for Clarity; it was noted that Let's Talk Fremington was no longer running and agreed to put the fund into the capital purchase EMR and rename enhancement of community buildings.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree to the Draft Budget and to the suggestion made by Finance & Personnel to put funds from Clarity into the capital purchase EMR.

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

2510/27

Beechfield Changing Rooms

Members were provided with an update on the cleanliness of the changing rooms, the Administration & Projects Manager advised that they are being left in a much better state and that she hoped it would continue, she did advise that there were a few items left behind of which she had advised the Football Club. It was suggested that at the end of each month items were collected and placed in a box and the football club would be asked to collect by the following Monday, if not they would be discarded.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Administration & Projects Manager to continue 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 to provide the 'lost property' box and advise the Football Club of the agreement.

2510/28

Licences

Members considered the current Licence fee for the Football Club for the use of Beechfield changing rooms and Playing Field. Cllr Walker suggested a 3.2% increase in line with September's inflation figure.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to increase the Licence fee by 3.2% for Fremington Football Club and advise that it will be an

annual increase linked to September's inflation, to take effect from 1st March 2026.

2510/29

Muddlebridge & Tarka Ridge Allotments

Item A - Members were informed that the Parish Council had now received the signed lease agreement for Muddlebridge, dated the 22nd of October 2025. The Administration & Projects Manager advised that the Parish Council was awaiting the Diocese to sign, once this is done the Parish Council could in turn advise the allotments holders of the outcome and now be able to offer empty plots to those on the waiting list. Cllrs were pleased that the Lease had now been signed.

Item B – Members were provided with an update on the licences and financial position at Muddlebridge. It was noted that the financial position was currently in deficit as the Parish Council has received no income for the past 18 months from the allotments. Cllr Cann asked if this was likely to resolve and come out of deficit, the Administration & Projects Manager advised that the first years rent for allotment plots should help to balance the account.

Item C – Members were informed that the transfer of Tarka Ridge was still outstanding and that the Parish Council's Solicitor and the Administration & Projects Manager are still chasing on a regular basis and that the MP, Ian Room had been made aware.

Cllr Walker asked that Babbages Allotments be placed on the next Agenda.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the Administration and Projects Managers Comments in relation to Items A & B. Members also asked that Administration & Projects Manager contact Planning Enforcement again to see if they had any further information and to provide them with an update on the lack of transfer.

Cllr Tamlin asked about the Emergency Plan – Cllr Walker asked for the item to be placed on the next Agenda.

Meeting ended at 12.29pm.

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