

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), F Biederman, J Bridgeman, J Cann, D Dixon, S Haywood, O Kelly, B Sherborne, E Smlatic, N Tamlin and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

The Chairman called for a minute of silence as tribute to Cllr Neil Denton who had recently passed away following an illness.

2601/01 **Apologies**
None.

2601/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

2601/03 **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chairman highlighted the sadness felt by the Parish Council at the loss of Cllr Denton and acknowledged the "beautiful" tribute from Cllr Biederman on his social media. Cllr Biederman expressed how special Cllr Denton was to him personally, and the whole community and the loss which will be felt by many.

2601/04 **Public Participation Period**
None.

2601/05 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025 as a correct record.

2601/06 **Committees**
To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:

- Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 27th November 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 27th November 2025.
- Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2025.

- Tews Lane Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th November 2025
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Tews Lane Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2025.

2601/07

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker explained that the North Devon Council had met last Monday to discuss the local government reorganisation, in November NDC submitted support for the 1-4-5 model. The timetable has been announced and there will be a 7-week consultation process on the proposed structure in February with a decision expected in the summer (June/July/August), the structural change order is expected in September/October along with disposal of assets. A shadow election will take place in May 2027, and the North Devon Council will be dissolved by April 2028.

Cllr Walker announced that the North Devon Council and Pearce Construction are holding a heritage conservation skills boot camp for anyone already working in the construction industry and the RNLI have recently presented its proposals going forward. Not a lot of these changes effect Fremington directly but will around the North Devon coastline, Ilfracombe will only have an inshore lifeboat and Appledore will have a new boat to become the predominant lifeboat.

Cllr Walker informed members that NDC's trade waste service will cease from 31st March 2026. It was noted that this is not a statutory service and was running at a loss, there would need to be around a 20/25% increase in prices with no guarantees.

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward and Devon County Council

Cllr Biederman explained that as a result of years and years of cuts NDC is really having to balance services and trade waste is not statutory and running at a loss it is disappointing but a stark reality. The government has announced a three-year grant settlement for County Councils, however, there will not be any extra money especially when you factor in inflation. There is a library consultation open which is considering the reduction of opening hours what this means is the facility will still be open but the hours when a librarian is in will be reduced.

2601/08

Membership of Committees

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to appoint Councillors Kingdom, Walker, Bridgeman, Cann, Tamlin, Dixon and Kelly to serve to the Assets and Facilities Committee.

2601/09

Councillors Questions

Cllr Biederman asked where the salt is for when the highway is icy. It was noted that it had been moved temporarily whilst the works to the Tews Lane pavilion are completed and agreed to deliver 2 bags to Cllrs Sherborne, Dixon, Kingdom, Oscar and Tamlin.

Cllr Kingdom reminded members that the Parish Councillor Grant Fund is now closed and applications are open until the end of January for the Central Fund. It was noted that Tomlin Hall had thanked members for their grant funding.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year!

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.32pm.

Signed Dated