

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2026 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

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

Mrs J Wood, Administration & Projects Manager
Cllr Kelly

2602/17 **Apologies**

None.

2602/18 **Declarations of Interests**

None.

2602/19 **Public Participation**

None.

2602/20 **Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2602/21 **P3 Footpaths**

The annual P3 footpath inspection has been completed. Despite very wet conditions, most routes remain passable. The only ongoing failure is Footpath 20 (Combrew to Horsacott), previously reported; county officers are considering reinstating the boardwalk. Some infrastructure is nearing end of life, with minor works planned under the grant, including signage replacement at Clay Pits.

The Administration Officer is happy to carry out inspections next year but not beyond that. A member suggested that should a replacement be identified they shadow the process. Length of time to inspect the routes was discussed, the Administration Officer said that it took one hour for longer routes, with 35 footpaths in total. Cllrs Dixon and Tamlin volunteered to assist in the annual P3 Inspections.

Cllr Kingdom queried whether the bridge on Footpath 17 is still missing.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the report from the Administration Officer. For the Administration & Projects officer to write to Devon County Council to seek replacement of the bridge on footpath 17 as soon as possible to copy in the District Councillor and the MP.

2602/22 **Climate Emergency Update – Cllr Dixon
Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security
- A national security assessment.**

Key findings:

1. Global ecosystem degradation and collapse threaten UK national security and prosperity. The world is already experiencing impacts including crop failures, intensified natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. Threats will increase with degradation and intensify with collapse. Without major intervention to reverse the current trend, this is highly likely to continue to 2050 and beyond.
2. Cascading risks of ecosystem degradation are likely to include geopolitical instability, economic insecurity, conflict, migration and increased inter-state competition for resources.
3. Critical ecosystems that support major global food production areas and impact global climate, water and weather cycles are the most important for UK national security. Severe degradation or collapse of these would highly likely result in water insecurity, severely reduced crop yields, a global reduction in arable land, fisheries collapse, changes to global weather patterns, release of trapped carbon exacerbating climate change, novel zoonotic diseases and loss of pharmaceutical resources. The Amazon rainforest, Congo rainforest, boreal forests, the Himalayas and South East Asia's coral reefs and mangroves are particularly significant for the UK.
4. Ecosystem degradation is occurring across all regions. Every critical ecosystem is on a pathway to collapse (irreversible loss of function beyond repair).
5. There is a realistic possibility that some ecosystems (such as coral reefs in South East Asia and boreal forests) start to collapse from 2030, and others (rainforests and mangroves) start to collapse from 2050.
6. All countries are exposed to the risks of ecosystem collapse within and beyond their borders. Some will be exposed sooner than others and are likely to act to secure their interests, particularly water and food security.
7. Without significant increases in UK food system and supply chain resilience, it is unlikely the UK would be able to maintain food security if ecosystem collapse drives geopolitical competition for food. The UK relies on imports for a proportion of both food and fertiliser and cannot currently produce enough food to feed its population based on current diets. **Countries best placed to adapt are those that invest in ecosystem protection and restoration, and resilient and efficient food systems.**

Source: [Government Publications](#)

Cllr Dixon recommended that everyone read the 14-page report.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the report from Cllr Dixon and for the Administration & Projects Manger circulate the link to Committee Members.

2602/23

Draft Emergency Plan

The draft Emergency Plan has been updated to reflect previously agreed changes and is now ready to move from draft to final implementation. A

printed copy will be circulated to relevant parties. Approval has been secured for the use of the school, scouts and Beechfield Centre as emergency community hubs. Confirmation from Instow Parish Council remains outstanding and will be followed up. The status of the Parish Hall will also be checked. It was noted that as the venues are in close proximity, additional space may have limited benefit unless attendance numbers are particularly high.

It was also confirmed that an application has been submitted to the Community Resilience Fund, which offers grants to support emergency planning and community resilience measures. The funding application is specifically to purchase emergency contact radios to strengthen communication during incidents.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to circulate the Emergency Plan to all Councillors and make it publicly available where necessary.

2602/24 **Spring Devon Community Resilience Forum – 26 March**

Members noted the information and was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary for the Administration & Project Manager to circulate the link to all Councillors.

2602/25 **Pop Up Fraud Event**

Members were provided with an update on the event. The local PC and Neighbourhood Sergeant, confirmed that the police are happy to support the initiative. The Neighbourhood Watch Barnstaple liaisons have been informed, and leaflets have been provided. Cllr Dixon has spoken with Sainsbury's, who require confirmation of dates, times and expected numbers.

Councillors discussed possible dates, times and volunteer arrangements. It was suggested that all Councillors, not just those on the Environment & Community Committee, should be involved. A date of 25 April, 10am–4pm, was proposed, with Councillors covering shifts.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to hold the first event on 25 April. For the Administration & Projects Manager to email all Councillors to request support and to notify the police of the confirmed date, and to place the item on the next Full Council Agenda to follow up.

2602/26 **Medical Emergency Bleed Kits**

The Administration & Projects Manager outlined emergency medical kits designed to control severe bleeding before paramedics arrive. The kits can be stored outside for public use or kept indoors.

She reported that, following discussion at a recent First Aid course, it was suggested there may be limited public need, as most serious accidents occur at home or in the workplace.

Members considered the need and usefulness of the kits. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, not to purchase kits for public use due to cost and limited demand. However, one kit will be purchased for the Maintenance & Amenities Operative to keep in the work van for emergencies.

Meeting ended at 11.35am

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

DRAFT