

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.24pm at the Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs J Cann (Chairman), F Biederman, J Bridgeman, D Dixon, S Haywood, O Kelly, C McCormack-Hole, S Haywood, B Sherborne and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2603/01

Apologies

Cllrs S Kingdom, E Smlatic.

2603/02

Declarations of Interest

None.

2603/03

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that the Environment and Community Committee had agreed to host a pop up fraud event at Sainsburys, it was noted that the provisional date is Saturday 25th April 2026 10am – 4pm with Cllrs expected to help set up, take down and throughout the day, a rota will be circulated and the Committee is expecting all Cllrs to help out in some way on the day. It was further noted that the Police and Trading Standards would be asked to attend, and the date would be confirmed accordingly.

The Chairman announced that she had recently attended an event by Torridge District Council and the Crime Commissioner and there is a Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 available if anyone would like to read.

The MP had released a post on Facebook passing on Government advice for British Nationals to register their presence in the middle east and it was agreed to share the post.

2603/04

Public Participation Period

It was noted that a member of the public had raised the following issue at the Annual Parish Meeting:

“A member of the public explained that they lived on the new Tarka Ridge Estate, a management company is looking after the communal areas as David Wilson Homes (the developer) has failed to create a management company, and their annual charge is three times the Parish Council's Band D equivalent and residents do not have a say over the charges. The parishioner asked if anyone was aware if the final planning permission allowed for residents to be involved with the management of the site.

A parishioner confirmed that he would be happy to pursue the matter and provide a definitive answer.

Another parishioner confirmed that there is a management company for the site registered on Companies House but it is dormant, the structure of the management company on their estate is set out within their deeds that they

must appoint resident directors, however, the land will not be transferred to the management company until all of the roads and sewers are adopted and it is a long process.”

2603/05

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026 as a correct record.

2603/06

Committees

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

- Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 29th January 2026
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 29th January 2026.
- Assets and Facilities Committee meeting held on Thursday 29th January 2026
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Assets and Facilities Committee Meeting held on 29th January 2026
- Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th February 2026
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting held on 24th February 2026

2603/07

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Biderman - Fremington Ward and Devon County Council

Cllr Biederman reported that DCC has just set the first budget as a new administration and has cross-party support. There is a 7.7% increase in Children's services with more funding going into early intervention, progressing Education Health Care Plans and foster carers, there is also an increase in budget for adult social care, highways (with funding to check the quality of the repairs made) and the Cllr Locality budgets have increased to the original £10,000. The consultation on the future of the library services had over 22,000 responses and DCC is putting money back into the service and investigating ways in which it can become sustainable going forward, the overall increase to DCC's budget is 4.1%.

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker reported that NDC had now received the forms back from town and parish council requesting the transfer of assets ahead of the Local Government Reorganisation they will now be scored using the RAG (red, amber, green) system and submitted to April's Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration. NDC is in the preparation stage and currently listing out all its systems and the public consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation is open until the end of March.

Cllr Walker informed members that Fremington Quay will no longer be classed as a maritime facility.

2603/08 **Fremington Cemetery**

Members considered the Cemetery Charges for 2026-2027 which were circulated ahead of the meeting.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to increase the charges for parishioners by inflation of 3.4% and the charges for non-parishioners' double inflation, 6.8%, to ensure space is prioritised for parishioners.

2603/09 **North Devon Council - Planning Applications**

North Devon Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following applications:

80058 Proposal: Outline application for erection of up to 450 dwellings, a local centre of community, retail convenience space, and associated development (with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved) – EIA development (amended location plan) (environmental Statement Addendum)

Location: Land at Brynsworthy, Brynsworthy, Barnstaple, EX31 3QQ
Applicant/Agent: Wessex Strategic Ltd

It was noted that this was a technicality and **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to reiterate the previous comments.

2603/10 **Local Government Reorganisation**

Members were informed that the public consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation was now open until the end of March. Members raised concerns that some of the comments were about not wanting LGR to happen it was noted that it is happening and the consultation is about the structure and people need to comment on which model they would support.

Cllr Dixon explained that Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum is concerned that a unitary authority will be taking over the whole of the estuary and will probably be based in Exeter, therefore, they feel we should press for anything we would like done in the area now.

Members felt it was vital that the Parish Council submits a response and encouraged individual Cllrs and members of the public to respond as well, it is important that the structure is an economically viable option so that no area is left economically behind.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to circulate the start of a draft response which members could provide further comments on and delegate the response to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Cllr Biederman left the meeting.

2603/11

Councillors Questions

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed

Dated

DRAFT