



ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the last year the Parish Council has filled two vacancies via co-option and has welcomed Nick Tamlin and Oscar Kelly as Councillors for Fremington Parish.

As some of you may already know the Parish Council has a further vacancy following the tragic loss of Neil Denton who recently passed away following a brave battle with cancer. We were also saddened to learn of the passing of a former Chairman, Chris Turner, and our sincere condolences have been extended to both families.



The Parish Council is pleased to have been able to secure a further lease with the landowner for the Muddlebridge Allotments and is hopeful that the transfer of the new allotment site at Tarka Ridge will take place in the next few months.

I am pleased to report that the extension to the changing facilities in the pavilion at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Tews Lane have been completed and funded using Section 106 money. The Parish Council would like to thank Pearce Construction, the Contractor, for their workmanship and Woodward Smith Chartered Architects for their diligence throughout the project and managing of the contract. The Parish Council is in the process of organising an open day in the near future to showcase the new improved facilities.

The Parish Council is continuing its commitment to the Climate Emergency and increase in biodiversity and has continued to maintain, enhance and introduce ecological opportunities throughout the parish. The wild flower area at the end of Eilerslie Road has had additional seeds scattered so we should see an abundance of flowers later in the year, wild flower areas have also been introduced at Tews Lane and Riverside Park along with habitats for native wildlife such as bug hotels and toad abodes. I would like to thank our Contractor for the reinstatement and maintenance carried out to the pathway around Griggs Field which has helped with some access to the field. The field itself continues to be managed for wildlife.

The Parish Council has continued to work hard over the last year to represent the community. This was evident during North Devon Council's recent Community Governance Review when a neighbouring Town Council submitted proposals to alter the boundaries which would have negatively impacted on Fremington Parish. Thankfully the Parish Council and wider community fought hard to ensure the parish's best interest remained at the core of the review and these proposals did not proceed any further.

Looking to the future I am sure you have heard by now that the Government is in the process of reorganising Local Government. The Parish Council is working hard again to represent the interest of the parish and secure assets that the Parish Council leases and/or manages on behalf of the North Devon Council. The Parish Council has agreed to support the refurbishment/rebuild and/or demolition of the Tomlin Hall to provide an improved community facility with available Section 106 funding and is also in the process of agreeing a Strategic Plan for the Parish Council reviewing its aims and objectives for the next five years.

Cllr Sue Kingdom
Chairman

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Finance and Personnel Committee has continued to drive the strategic vision of the Parish Council, during the year we have reviewed approximately 30 of the Parish Council's current policies and implemented three new policies to support the functions of the Parish Council.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the strategic plan for the next five years with the Parish Council's Aim being:

"To empower the community and support enhancement to enable the growth of a sustainable community within the Parish of Fremington, where residents feel a sense of belonging with strong community spirit and opportunities to access facilities locally which support the health and wellbeing of those living within the parish."

To support the aims of the Parish Council the Terms of Reference, Committee Structure and Scheme of Delegation has also been reviewed during the last year and altered to reduce the number of Committees and provide a larger remit for the remaining Committees with the introduction of the Assets and Facilities Committee and the retention of the Environment and Community Committee.

During 2025-2026 the Committee agreed funding of £2,400 to local community groups and organisations through the new grant funding, with a further £5,050 available to eligible applications. This year the Committee has allocated £7,600 for grant funding with £4,000 ring fenced to support the Street Marshalls Scheme and £600 to support the North Devon Record Office. We would welcome applications for grant funding where the activities will contribute to, and be of benefit to, the life or community and benefit the people of Fremington Parish, further details can be found on the website or through your local Parish Councillor.

You may remember from my report last year that the Finance and Personnel Committee agreed to offer the Executive Officer to administer the Litchardon Solar Community Benefit Fund and at no charge to the group. After providing support to the proposed trustees of the fund and undertaking much work to bring the fund to life we were informed that the owner of the Solar Farm had decided to appoint a central administrator to all of the Community Benefit funds, the Litchardon Solar Community Benefit Fund would not be charged for this service as the agreement was already in place. I would like to thank

the Executive Officer for her support and all the work that was undertaken prior to this announcement.

The Committee is keen to identify opportunities to enhance Parish Council assets and as such agreed to release funds towards the purchase of the store at Fremington Quay, unfortunately the Parish Council was not successful in its purchase.

The Finance and Personnel Committee recently agreed the Parish Council's response to the Consultation on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and submitted the following comments:

“Although the Parish Council believes this is a complete waste of time and money and is taking democracy further away from people it is keen to ensure and feels it is vital that the end model is economically viable so that no area is left economically behind. The Parish Council strongly believes that the only way to achieve this is to include Exeter within the model and it notes that Exeter is not a special case and does not meet any of the criteria to become a special case. The Parish Council believes that the best outcome would be the 451+ model and would stress the importance of area committees and strong local representation to ensure local democracy is strengthened. It needs to be a cost-effective service at a local level, town and parish councils should be able to participate meaningfully in the new model of local government and not overlooked as they have been throughout the current process and proposals.”

I could not undertake the role without the support of my colleagues at the Parish Council and the staff, as always, I would like to thank them for their support over the last twelve months and look forward to another challenging year ahead.

Cllr Frank Biederman
Chairman

GRANTS AGREED IN 2025-2026

Bickington Brownies	£100
2nd Fremington Brownies	£150
Bickington Boat Project	£150
Babbages Allotment Association	£150
Mid Devon Mobility	£150
Age Concern Barnstaple	£250
Instow, Westleigh, West Yelland Parish News	£100
Tomlin Hall Management Committee	£750
Record Office	£600
Total	£2,400

Grants Application

Fremington Parish Council recognises the importance of local voluntary, charitable and community groups and the aim of providing grant funding is to assist these community and voluntary groups with one-off costs, grants should be used towards project costs rather than running costs (although running costs will be considered if imperative to the group) and can be used as match-funding to attract funding from other external sources.

The Parish Council will budget a total figure of £3,000 a year (the figure will be reviewed annually) for grant aid. There will be two funding streams which groups can apply to, the Parish Councillor Grant and the Central Fund. Each Parish Councillor will be allocated £150 to fund project led grant applications. The remainder of the agreed budget will be placed into a Central Fund which groups can apply to for additional funds or larger grants.

Applications to the Parish Councillor Grant Fund will open in March 2026 for the forthcoming financial year, no grant payment will be made before April 2026. Before applying for a Parish Councillor Grant you must speak to a Parish Councillor to gain support for your application, an application cannot be progressed without support. You can ask for support from more than one Parish Councillor, however, an individual Councillor cannot support the same group two years in a row.

Applications to the Central Fund should be submitted to the Parish Council by the 15th January 2027, the Finance and Personnel Committee will consider the allocation of the Central Fund at its January meeting and funds paid in February 2027.

Enclosed in this booklet are the grant applications forms which can also be found on our website together with the Grant Aid Policy - www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Fremington Parish Council



The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, EX31 3DD
Telephone: 01271 321063
E-mail: admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
VAT No: 634 661 730

Councillor Fund Grant Aid Application Form 2026 - 2027

This form must be completed in type or ink, so when it is photocopied
Councillors can read it.

Name of Organisation.....

Secretary's Name.....

Main Address for Correspondence.....

..... Post Code.....

Telephone..... Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Have you spoken to a Fremington Parish Councillor about your application **YES/NO**
If the answer is no please speak to a Fremington Parish Councillor prior to submitting your application.

Which Parish Councillor have you spoken to (tick all those which apply)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sam Adams | <input type="checkbox"/> | David Dixon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Carol McCormack-Hole | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Frank Biederman | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dave Harris | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bill Sherborne | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joy Cann | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Haywood | <input type="checkbox"/> | Helen Walker | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jeff Bridgeman | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nick Tamlin | <input type="checkbox"/> | Eman Smlatic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neil Denton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Kingdom | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Were you successful in applying for a grant from the Councillor fund last year? YES/NO

If so please state which Councillors supported your group

.....

What is the amount of grant funding you are applying for £

What is the project start date Anticipated end date

Please detail the number of people within your organisation who would benefit from a grant.....

How many of these people live within Fremington Parish?.....

Is your Organisation a Registered Charity? YES/NO

Is your Organisation Affiliated to a National Body? (if so please give name and address below) YES/NO

What are the aims and objectives of the Organisation?.....

Please state how your organisation specifically benefits the people of Fremington Parish.....

What is the project or purpose for which the grant will be used?.....

Bank Details

Account Name.....

Sort Code..... Account Number.....

I declare that the information detailed in this application is true and accurate and that I have not omitted any other information that may be relevant to the application.

Signed..... Name.....

Position Held..... Date.....

PLEASE NOTE:

This form must be returned to admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Fremington Parish Council, Council Offices, The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3DD, no later than the 31st December 2026. Late Applications will not be considered.

Your application must be accompanied by a copy of your most recent published financial accounts.



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Telephone: 01271 321063
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Website: www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
VAT No: 634 661 730



Central Fund Grant Aid Application Form 2026 - 2027

This form must be completed in type or ink, so when it is photocopied
Councillors can read it.

Name of Organisation.....

Secretary's Name.....

Main Address for Correspondence.....
.....
..... Post Code.....

Telephone..... Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Where does your Organisation hold its meetings?.....
.....

Please detail the number of people within your organisation who would benefit from a grant.....

How many of these people live within Fremington Parish?.....

Is your Organisation a Registered Charity? YES/NO

Is your Organisation Affiliated to a National Body? (if so please give name and address below) YES/NO
.....
.....

What are the aims and objectives of the Organisation?.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Please state how your organisation specifically benefits the people of Fremington Parish.....
.....
.....

Amount of grant requested.....

What is the project or purpose for which the grant will be used?.....
.....
.....

Were you successful in applying for a grant last year? YES/NO

If yes, what was the money spent on?.....
.....
.....

Bank Details

Account Name.....

Sort Code..... Account Number.....

I declare that the information detailed in this application is true and accurate and that I have not omitted any other information that may be relevant to the application.

Signed..... Name.....

Position Held..... Date.....

PLEASE NOTE:

This form must be returned to admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Fremington Parish Council, Council Offices, The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3DD, no later than the 15th January 2027. Late Applications will not be considered.

Your application must be accompanied by a copy of your most recent published financial accounts.

Grant Aid applications for the financial year 2025/2026 will be payable in February 2027.

ASSETS AND FACILITIES

This committee incorporates Parks and Open Spaces, Fremington Quay and Tews Lane committees. It also has responsibility for any “built form” the council is responsible for.

Fremington Quay

The council was unsuccessful with their bid to purchase the Store next to the Quay cafe. Some clearance work has been done round the building, but we have not been informed of it's proposed use. The council is the lease holder for the Fremington Quay Café, which is a popular destination for diners. Our amenities officer has been working hard to maintain Fremington Quay buildings and grounds.

After a review of the ports in the area, Fremington quay is no longer classified as a working port.

Tews Lane

The sports pavilion has been completed, we would like to thank Pearce Construction for the excellent work.

We are continuing to look into solutions for the drainage of the sports field and are hoping to update the play equipment in the near future.

Tomlin Hall

The committee has decided to support the Tomlin Hall with the plans to replace the hall building. This will be done in stages, so that continuity of use can be maintained, and further S106 funds can be made available for phase 2. Conversations are ongoing regarding the long term management of the hall.

An approach has been made to the Parish Council for tennis sessions on the MUGA at Riverside. We are happy to support such endeavours, but do not have the facilities to store equipment needed for these purposes, so groups would need to make arrangements for this themselves.

We have renewed the grass cutting contract for the next 3 years with the current contractor.

Cllr Walker
Chairman

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Partway through the year the remit of the committee changed with some functions being taken over by Assets and Facilities.

Over the past year, this committee has worked hard to make Fremington Parish a good place to live.

We continue to receive valuable updates on the continuing Climate Crisis, to inform the Council's climate change agenda and aspiration of becoming carbon neutral.

There is now an adopted updated local emergency plan, with identified community hubs available for use in an emergency. A successful 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 communications during incidents. There was also a review of the emergency equipment the parish has and a bleed kit has been purchased to be kept in the amenity operative's van.

Following reports of an increase in fraudulent contact being made to residents, we held an inaugural Pop up fraud event at Sainsburys. Although councillors were not able to speak to many people on the day, it was noted that with some changes this could be a worthwhile event to repeat in the future.

A new lease has been signed for Muddlebridge allotments. I would like to thank Cllr Bridgeman for his hard work in keeping the allotment holders informed about the progress of negotiations involved with renewing the lease.

Helen Walker
Chairman

This Annual Report is available on the Council's website at www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and in a large print version.

If you would like a large print copy please contact the Parish Council Offices on 01271 321063, or email admin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The last year has been a busy one for the Planning Committee with a number of large developments within the area having to be considered by the committee and subsequently passed to the full authority for comment.

The Parish Council's updated Press Release clearly stated that there should be no further developments within the parish, particularly along the B3233 without significant improvements to the infrastructure. However, despite the Parish Council voting unanimously against the development the District Council agreed to 101 houses to be built on land off Chilpark Fremington. There have also been two further large developments proposed and agreed by the District Council, one for 220 homes on land north of the Old Bideford Road and another for 450 homes on land to the south of the A39, Atlantic Highway, at Brynsworthy. The Parish Council supported both of these developments, as they would go a long way to meeting the shortages of affordable housing that are being experienced in the area.

The rationale for the District Council approving all three developments were due to the new Government's increased building targets.

Of the two power infrastructure projects that are within the parish, the X Links Morocco UK Power has been suspended as the current government no longer support the project. However, the White Cross Offshore Wind Farm project has been given the go ahead.

Cllr Jeff Bridgeman
Chairman



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Fremington Parish Council
Income & Expenditure Account (Unaudited)
1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

(Current) Year Ended
31st. March 2026

Income

Administration	2601.59
Parks & Open Spaces	336.11
Precept	317,219.71
Fremington Quay	27,603.21
Dog Bins	
Cemetery	13,885.00
Grants	
Allotments—Babbages	484.36
Allotments—Muddlebridge	2,311.73
The Beechfield Centre	11,009.64
Salaries & Inland Revenue	
Parish Paths	390.00
Grass Cutting (Parks & Playing Fields)	3,603.00
Tews Lane	3,150.00
Facilities at Riverside Park	1,082.29
Section 106 Funding	207,699.99
Insurance	2,179.10
Earmarked Reserves	
	<u>£593,671.04</u>

Expenditure

Grants	2,400.00
Administration	34,162.15
Parks & Open Spaces	9,310.20
Salaries & Inland Revenue	185,711.90
Insurance	12,896.35
Loans	16,708.42
Parish Paths	200.31
Fremington Quay	13,750.38
Dog Bins	5,645.63
Cemetery	6,008.26
Earmarked Reserved	37,921.60
Allotments—Babbages	765.00
Facilities at Riverside Park	2,094.36
Allotments—Muddlebridge	1,978.85
The Beechfield Centre	19,048.87
Section 106 Funding	
Grass Cutting (Parks and Playing Fields)	17,748.74
Tews Lane	20,783.52
Parish Enhancements	1,589.56
Environment /Climate Emergency	1,745.70
	<u>£593,930.36</u>

Parish Councillors

Fremington/Bickington Ward

Cllr Susan Kingdom 01271 326914
s.kingdom@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Joy Cann 01271 345813
j.cann@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr David Dixon 01271 377532
d.dixon@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Oscar Kelly
O.kelly@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Carol McCormack-Hole 01271 343176
c.mccormackhole@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Helen Walker 07480702987
h.walker@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Roundswell/Woodville Ward
Jeff Bridgeman 07971648263
j.bridgeman@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fremington/Anchorwood Ward
Cllr Bill Sherborne 01271 344816
b.sherborne@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fremington/Yelland Ward

Cllr Samuel Adams 07930280489
s.adams@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Frank Biederman 07595988704
f.biederman@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Dave Harris 07866110810
d.harris@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Sue Haywood 07980549592
s.haywood@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Eman Smlatic 07467300035
e.smaltic@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fremington/Maple Ward

Cllr Nick Tamlin
n.tamlin@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Officers

Mrs Victoria Woodhouse
Executive Officer

Mrs Jude Wood, Administration & Projects Manager
Mrs Liz Steer, Administration Officer
Mrs Maddy Goodyear, Assistant Administration
Mr Jamie Proctor, Maintenance & Amenities Operative

Fremington Parish Council
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