

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

Present: Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, F Biederman, J Cann, S Haywood, O Kelly, B Sherborne, E Smlatic and H Walker.

Cllr J Mackie, North Devon Council
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

Mr A Rennles, Co-option Candidate

2 Members of the public

2609/11

Apologies

Cllrs J Bridgeman, D Dixon and N Tamlin.

2609/12

Declarations of Interest

None.

2609/13

Chairman's Announcements

None.

2609/14

Public Participation Period

None.

2609/15

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th June 2026 as a correct record.

2609/16

Committees

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

- Finance and Personnel Committee held on 21st July 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 21st July 2026.

2609/17

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward

Cllr Biederman thanked his District Council colleagues for their support during the road closure for the gas works, they managed to keep everyone supported overall the works went well and the community adapted and coped well.

Phase 2 of the works resulted in gridlock and was pulled quickly, Phase 3 will now commence on 15th October, however, Phase 2 will still need to happen but do not know when early indication suggests next summer, however, given the state of the pipes Cllr Biederman would not be surprised if there are emergency works. Devon County Council's drainage works will

still take place on the 21st September – 9th October the drain is in a footpath, and the works will take place outside of rush-hour.

Cllr Biederman confirmed that maternity services are due to re-open at North Devon District Hospital on 29th September and the link road and A377 will not be closing Exeter bound before that.

The soft plastics trail was a success every council will collect soft plastics by 2030; however, it currently costs £350,000 to collect and there is nowhere to dispose of the soft plastics, therefore, the recommendation is to place the service on hold for now.

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker thanked Cllr Biederman for the updates during the gas mains replacements works and road closure. Cllr Walker confirmed that repair works to the wall at Fremington Quay had begun and the process of asset transfer from NDC had also started.

Cllr Cann also thanked Cllr Biederman for the updates and work he had undertaken to support the community. Cllr Cann explained that the person that had been looking after the Emlfield Road Boat was no longer able to and had returned the paperwork along with £66.50 to the Parish Council via Cllr Cann. It was agreed that Cllrs would try to arrange a photograph with the person to thank them and advertise for volunteers, it was noted that the Maintenance and Amenities Operative would be asked if he could maintain in the meantime.

Cllr Mackie expressed her disappointment on the outcome of the recycling soft plastics and gave a brief overview of the changes in planning law from Central Government which come into effect from 1st November 2026. It was noted that planning committee members would reduce from 15 to 13 and members will not be able to put in call in requests for applications there will be a “referral” and the decision will be made by the Chair and lead officer. The new system is designed to give more power to planning officers and transparency to the public with less applications being considered by committee. There are current consultations available on the North Devon Council website for Homeless Prevention Strategy and Dogs Public Space Protection Order and a Parish Forum scheduled for 1st October 2026.

2609/18

Co-option

One application for co-option had been received and circulated to members prior to the meeting, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to co-opt Alan Rennles to the Parish Council.

2609/19

Local Government Review

Correspondence from North Devon Council confirming the agreed model for the Local Government Reorganisation had been circulated ahead of the meeting, it confirmed that the Secretary of State had decided that the model put forward by Plymouth and Exeter would be implemented, this would have been a 4 unitary model with an expanded Plymouth, expanded Exeter, Expanded Torbay and then the rest of Devon in a Rural/Coastal authority.

However, members were informed the Government had announced today that it has paused or withdrawn several local government reorganisation plans following legal advice and a review of proposals, with elections proceeding in 2027 on existing council boundaries. Devon is a proposal that has been paused.

Cllr Walker had attended a Devon Association of Local Council's (DALC) event on the subject and DALC did not have a lot of information on the proposals, it was noted that some parishes were proposed to be split in half.

Members noted the financial cost and turmoil that has been caused for staff at the North Devon Council and Devon County Council.

2609/20

Councillors Questions

Cllr Biederman asked if picnic benches could be installed on the Village Green, he would be happy to fund and opportunities for memorial benches were mentioned it was agreed to take the item to Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Signed Dated